

1 NYP 17-11: #NYPHIL@175

2 (INSERT UNDERWRITING CREDIT #1):

3 (MUSIC: nyp "theme" UP AND UNDER)

4 AB: **...and THIS week...**

5 (MUSIC: Beethoven Five)

6 AB: **We celebrate the 175th anniversary of the New York**
7 **Philharmonic with two works: Beethoven's Fifth**
8 **Symphony and the Symphony No. 9, "*From the New***
9 ***World*," by Antonin Dvorak. Both of these pieces**
10 **figure prominently in the orchestra's history and,**
11 **for this broadcast, they will unfold in an unusual**
12 **way. We have assigned one movement from each work**
13 **to each of six former Music Directors as well as a**
14 ***future* Music Director and a one-time "Music**
15 **Advisor." I'm Alec Baldwin. I hope that you'll**
16 **listen, now, as Arturo Toscanini, Bruno Walter,**
17 **Zubin Mehta, Jaap van Zweden, Leonard Bernstein,**
18 **Kurt Masur, Lorin Maazel, and Alan Gilbert**
19 **conduct...The New York Philharmonic.**

20 (MUSIC UP AND OUT)

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AB: The New York Philharmonic is the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States and it is among the longest-running orchestras in the world.

The origins of the group can be traced back to the American-born Ureli Corelli Hill. Born in 1802, Hill fell from a very musical family tree. His grandfather, Frederick, had been a fifer in the Revolutionary army and his father, Uri Keeler Hill, was a music teacher and composer.

Ureli Corelli Hill alternately served as conductor and violinist with the New York Sacred Music Society between 1828 and 1835. He then spent two years in Germany studying with the composer, conductor, and violinist Louis Spohr. When he returned to New York, Hill became president of the newly-founded Philharmonic Society.

47 On December 7, 1842, Ureli Corelli Hill led the
48 musicians of the Philharmonic Society in its first
49 concert. The program featured a wide variety of
50 repertoire, ranging from vocal works to Weber's
51 Oberon Overture and to chamber music by Hummel.
52 But the first notes the audiences at the Apollo
53 Rooms heard were by Beethoven. The concert opened
54 with a complete performance of Beethoven's "*Grand*
55 *Symphony in c-minor*," which we know better today as
56 "Beethoven's Fifth."

57 After a few years in Ohio, Hill returned to the
58 Philharmonic and became a violinist with the
59 Orchestra as well as an officer of its board. After
60 a series of failed artistic and business ventures,
61 he committed suicide in 1875, but the foundation he
62 laid with the Philharmonic endures 175 years later.

63 Hill was succeeded by many top-tier artists as
64 Music Director of the Philharmonic. Carl Bergman
65 led the orchestra in the U.S. premiere of the
66 *Symphonie-Fantastique* in 1866. Leopold Damrosch
67 took the orchestra on its first tour in 1882. Anton
68 Seidl led the World-Premiere of Dvorak's *New-World*
69 *Symphony* in 1893, and, of course, Gustav Mahler
70 served as Music Director from 1909-1911.

71 There was Joseph Stransky, who led the first Young
72 People's Concert in 1914 and directed some of the
73 orchestra's very first recordings.

74 In January, 1926, one of the orchestra's biggest
75 movers and shakers, Arturo Toscanini, made his
76 Philharmonic debut. Beginning in 1928, he shared
77 the Music Director post with Willem Mengelberg
78 before taking the helm single-handedly two years
79 later. 1928—by the way—saw the merger of the New
80 York Philharmonic and the New York *Symphony*,
81 creating the infrastructure for the Philharmonic we
82 know and love today.

83 Under Toscanini, the New York Philharmonic became
84 the first orchestra to offer regular live coast-to-
85 coast radio broadcasts of its concerts in 1931. He
86 led the Philharmonic in more than 30 world
87 premieres, and over 40 American premieres
88 (including Ravel's *Bolero* in 1929). The Maestro
89 resigned in 1936, citing the physical demands of
90 the job.

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The music of Beethoven was important to Toscanini's residency. He conducted the Fifth Symphony on just his second concert with the orchestra...and his Beethoven cycle from the 1932-33 season was seen as a musical repudiation of tyranny. Here, now, from March 6, 1931, is the first movement to Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. Arturo Toscanini conducts...the New York Philharmonic.

(MUSIC)

AB: Toscanini didn't like the recording process and in 1929 he went so far as to swear that he'd never make another record. The Victor label made two attempts to record Toscanini leading Beethoven's Fifth—once in 1931 and the performance we just heard in 1933. The Maestro rejected both recordings, but fortunately the masters survived his ire.

(SLIGHT PAUSE)

118 AB: Bruno Walter made *his* debut with the New York
119 Philharmonic on February 15, 1922 and was a
120 frequent guest of the orchestra for the better part
121 of 38 years. He was invited to succeed Sir John
122 Barbirolli as the orchestra's chief in 1942, but he
123 declined, stating that he felt 66 was too old for
124 such an undertaking. When Artur Rodzinski resigned
125 from the post in February, 1947, however, Walter
126 agreed to sign on the dotted line. But he did so
127 with one proviso: that the job title be revised to
128 "Music Advisor."

129 Walter was not only a master conductor, but he also
130 provided important conduit to another of the
131 orchestra's greatest Music Directors, Gustav
132 Mahler. Walter knew Mahler well, having served as
133 his assistant. When Mahler passed away, Walter was
134 hand-picked by the composer's widow to lead the
135 premiers of *The Song of the Earth* and the Ninth
136 Symphony. We hear Bruno Walter speak about his
137 relationship with Mahler here:

138 (I REMEMBER MAHLER AUDIO)

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AB: The Music of Beethoven also figured prominently into Walter's career. He programmed Beethoven's music frequently for concerts and he recorded at least two complete cycles—one in stereo with the Columbia Symphony and an earlier set with the New York Philharmonic. We now hear the second movement from Beethoven's Fifth as recorded at Liederkrantz Hall on December 15, 1941. Bruno Walter conducts...The New York Philharmonic.

(MUSIC: Beethoven V:ii)

AB: Zubin Mehta succeeded Pierre Boulez as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic in 1978. He led the orchestra in more than 1000 concerts over the course of a 13-year tenure—the longest in the orchestra's history. Like Bruno Walter, the handsome Bombay native was thoroughly schooled in the European tradition, but he was also firmly committed to new music. As such, Mehta's residency saw the Philharmonic premieres of more than 50 works.

Mehta's celebrity attracted top-level talent to the orchestra. Luciano Pavarotti and Placido Domingo made their Philharmonic debuts with him. The Orchestra's worldwide outreach also flourished. Mehta led two tours to Asia, four to Latin America, and four to Europe, including a 1988 tour of the Soviet Union. (The orchestra also completed six tours around the U.S. and Canada.)

Mehta's discography with the Philharmonic was expansive. In terms of repertoire, they ran the gamut from Verdi's Requiem and the Symphony No. 2 by John Knowles Paine, to the 1978 film score to Woody Allen's film, *Manhattan*. Here, now, from an out-of-print 1978 recording for CBS records is the third movement to Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. Zubin Mehta conducts...The New York Philharmonic.

(MUSIC: BEETHOVEN V: iii)

AB: On October 29, 2015, Jaap van Zweden conducted just his fourth program with the New York Philharmonic. The repertoire comprised Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem*, Mozart's K.488 piano concerto with Inon Barnatán as soloist, and a thrilling interpretation of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

192 Just a few months later, it was announced that Mr.
193 van Zweden would become the Philharmonic's next
194 Music Director in 2018.

195 Born in Amsterdam, Jaap van Zweden was plucked out
196 of Julliard by Bernard Haitink to become
197 concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra
198 at age 19—the youngest person ever appointed to
199 that post. He began his conducting career 20 years
200 later in 1995 and he has been one of the most in-
201 demand Maestros of the last decade. In 2012, he
202 was named as Musical America's *Conductor of the*
203 *Year*.

204 His repertoire is wide and his energy is high. He
205 is connected to the orchestra's legacy through his
206 close ties to Bernstein...but he also stands at the
207 threshold of major changes at the Philharmonic as
208 the orchestra prepares for major hall renovations.
209 Here, with a taste of things to come is the finale
210 to Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. Jaap van Zweden
211 conducts the New York Philharmonic.

212 (MUSIC: BEETHOVEN V:iv)

213 AB: That was the final movement from the Symphony No. 5
214 in c-minor by Beethoven. The New York Philharmonic
215 was led by its next Music Director, Jaap van
216 Zweden.

217 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

218 AB: In a moment, our celebration of the Philharmonic's
219 175th anniversary will continue as we hear Leonard
220 Bernstein, Kurt Masur, Lorin Maazel and Alan
221 Gilbert in the Symphony No. 9 by Antonin Dvorak.
222 I'm Alec Baldwin and you're listening to The New
223 York Philharmonic This Week.

224 (ID)

225 AB: On November 14, 1943, the landscape of music in
226 America changed forever when THIS happened:

227 (SFX: BERNSTEIN DEBUT EXCERPT)

228 AB: It's the stuff of legend, isn't it? A virtually
229 unknown Assistant Conductor replacing a venerable
230 maestro last-minute at Carnegie Hall for a live
231 radio broadcast. And this was just the beginning
232 of a magical association that would continue for 47
233 years with more than 1200 concerts and over 200
234 recordings. Bernstein earned 11 Emmy Awards for
235 his Young People's Concerts with the Philharmonic
236 and helped make the Philharmonic an essential part
237 of life in New York.

238 Bernstein was Music Director of the Philharmonic
239 from 1958-1969 and continued as the orchestra's
240 Laureate conductor until the time of his death in
241 1990.

242 Just like Lenny, Dvorak's New World symphony has a
243 long and distinguished history with the New York
244 Philharmonic. Anton Seidl let the Philharmonic in
245 the World Premiere of the piece in December, 1893.
246 This was the first work premiered by the orchestra
247 that was composed in New York and it was a huge
248 success for everyone. Dvorak may not have been an
249 American composer, but he created a thoroughly
250 American work. Indeed the musical themes and air
251 of nostalgia in this piece reflect the diversity
252 and endless possibilities associated with this
253 land. Here's the first movement of the New World
254 Symphony. Leonard Bernstein conducts...the New York
255 Philharmonic.

256 (MUSIC: DVORAK 9: i)

257 AB: Few would have thought Kurt Masur an obvious choice
258 to succeed Zubin Mehta as Music Director of the New
259 York Philharmonic in 1991. He was so identified
260 with the city of Leipzig and the larger European
261 landscape, it was difficult to imagine him at the
262 helm of "America's Orchestra." And yet it proved
263 to be a very fruitful marriage. The Masur years
264 are regarded as a time of high artistic standards
265 and very disciplined playing.

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267 AB: Masur was effective both as a conductor and as an
 268 administrator. He introduced several important
 269 initiatives, including Rush Hour Concerts,
 270 Philharmonic Celebrations, Children's Promenades,
 271 and Philharmonic Forums. A great humanitarian, Mr.
 272 Masur saw that music...and people were treated with
 273 dignity and respect. Let's now listen to the Largo
 274 from Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, which is known for
 275 the tune, "Comin' Home." Kurt Masur conducts...the
 276 New York Philharmonic.

277 (MUSIC: DVORAK 9: ii)

278 AB: Though Lorin Maazel's tenure as Music Director of
 279 the New York Philharmonic only lasted seven years,
 280 his working relationship with the orchestra spanned
 281 seven decades. A gifted violinist and a conducting
 282 prodigy, he first led the Philharmonic in a concert
 283 at Lewisohn Stadium in the summer of 1942. He was
 284 12 years old at the time.

285 Maazel's career was nothing short of extraordinary.
 286 Before his death in 2014, he led no fewer than 150
 287 orchestras in more than 5000 performances. And he
 288 made around 300 recordings to boot. His approach
 289 to music reflected his life experience and he often
 290 succeeded in bringing forth the most subtle and
 291 intricate details in a score.

AB: As Music Director of the Philharmonic, the American composer/conductor presided over 350 subscription concerts and 9 World-Premiere-New York Philharmonic Commissions. One of the most noteworthy of these was the Pulitzer-Prize winning *On the Transmigration of Souls* by John Adams. (The recording Mr. Maazel and the Philharmonic made of this piece also won three Grammys.) But for all of these successes, Mr. Maazel is probably best remembered as the Maestro that took the Philharmonic to North Korea. Here, from the orchestra's historic live broadcast from the East Pyongyang Grand Theater on February 26, 2008, is the third movement to Dvorak's Symphony No. 9. Lorin Maazel conducts...The New York Philharmonic.

(MUSIC: DVORAK 9:iii)

AB: The Philharmonic appointed its first native New-Yorker as Music Director when Alan Gilbert assumed the post in 2009. Mr. Gilbert was a familiar face to many of the musicians in the orchestra, who had played alongside his parents for many years.

317 Alan Gilbert introduced and re-introduced several
318 important initiatives out of the gate. Magnus
319 Lindberg was appointed as the orchestra's first
320 Composer-in-Residence over a decade. Thomas
321 Hampson became the orchestra's first-ever Artist-
322 in-Residence. A few years later, Inon Barnatan
323 would be become the first Artist-in-Association.
324 Oh, and I was brought on as "Announcer-in-
325 Residence."

326 Mr. Gilbert showed his commitment to "*music of our*
327 *time*" with Contact and the NYPHIL BIENNIAL. But
328 while he is certainly to be remembered for his
329 thoughtful and innovative programming, he is also
330 very much at home in the standard repertory. This
331 was demonstrated on Opening Night, 2016, when he
332 led Dvorak's New World Symphony. This concert also
333 represented the first Facebook, Live! stream of a
334 concert by a major American Orchestra. Here's the
335 finale from that occasion. Alan Gilbert
336 conducts...The New York Philharmonic.

337 (DVORAK 9:iv)

338 AB: The finale to the Symphony No. 9 by Antonin Dvorak.
339 The New York Philharmonic was conducted by Alan
340 Gilbert.

December 7, 2016 marks the official 175th anniversary of the New York Philharmonic's first concert, but the celebrations of this milestone are season-long. Inspired by citywide book programs, The New World Initiative has been established to give everyone the opportunity to hear and creatively engage with Dvořák's New World Symphony, understand its significance, and appreciate its role within New York City's cultural history.

Here's Philharmonic Archivist and Historian, Barbara Haws to tell us more:

(NWI sequence)

AB: You can learn more about the New World Initiative when you visit NewWorldInitiative dot com or NYPHIL dot org.

AB: I'm Alec Baldwin. Thanks for joining us on this brief sojourn through 175 years of Philharmonic History. May we all continue to enjoy good health and good music for many years to come.