

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 175<sup>th</sup> 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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24 AB: The New York Philharmonic is the oldest symphony  
25 orchestra in the United States and it is among the  
26 longest-running orchestras in the world.

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

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

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

103 (MUSIC)

104 AB: Toscanini didn't like the recording process and in  
105 1929 he went so far as to swear that he'd never  
106 make another record. The Victor label made two  
107 attempts to record Toscanini leading Beethoven's  
108 Fifth—once in 1931 and the performance we just  
109 heard in 1933. The Maestro rejected both  
110 recordings, but fortunately the masters survived  
111 his ire.

112 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

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

152 (MUSIC: Beethoven V:ii)

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

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

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

183 (MUSIC: BEETHOVEN V: iii)

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

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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 Juilliard 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  
219 175<sup>th</sup> 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 led 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.**

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

307 (MUSIC: DVORAK 9:iii)

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

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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.

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

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

352 (NWI sequence)

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

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

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