

1 Script for NYP 17-19

2 (THEME MUSIC UP AND UNDER TO "X")

3 AB: ...and this week.

4 (MUSIC UP)

5 AB: We hear concertos by Berg & Vivaldi and
6 Symphonies by Beethoven & Brahms. I'm Alec
7 Baldwin. Thanks very much for joining us as
8 Alan Gilbert conducts...The New York Philharmonic
9 This Week.

10 AB: Antonio Vivaldi's 1711 concerto collection
11 "Harmonic Inspiration" (or *L'estro armonico*
12 [LAY-stro are-MOAN-ee-koh]in Italian) played a
13 major role in elevating the composer's
14 reputation. Indeed, it was one of the most
15 influential music publications of the day.

16 The collection consisted of 12 works for string
17 instruments in various combinations. The
18 opening work on this broadcast – the Concerto
19 for Four Violins, KV 580, was No. 10 in the
20 series. Composers across Europe were inspired
21 to imitate Vivaldi's many distinctive stylistic
22 traits, including his energetic rhythms, fleet
23 modulations, and playful use of brief motives.

24 Among Vivaldi's many admirers was Johann
25 Sebastian Bach, who made transcriptions of
26 several of his works—including this one. Our
27 soloists are all Philharmonic musicians:
28 Principal Associate Concertmaster Sheryl
29 Staples, Assistant Concertmaster Michelle Kim,
30 Marc Ginsberg, and Lisa Kim. Alan Gilbert
31 conducts...The New York Philharmonic:

32 (MUSIC)

33 (APPLAUSE)

34 AB: Concerto for 4 Violins by Antonio Vivaldi. The
35 soloists were Sheryl Staples, Michelle Kim,
36 Marc Ginsberg, and Lisa Kim. The New York
37 Philharmonic was conducted by Alan Gilbert.

38 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

39 AB: The premiere of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony
40 was one of the greatest successes in the
41 composer's life and it firmly established him
42 as the greatest living composer of his day.
43 Unfortunately, the public enthusiasm over the
44 Seventh largely overwhelmed and overshadowed
45 the premiere of his 8th Symphony a few months
46 later.

47

48 AB: Often referred to as the "little" F-major
49 symphony, the composer was almost completely
50 deaf by the time the 8th was completed.
51 Nevertheless, this is one of Beethoven's most
52 finely crafted and tightly constructed
53 symphonic works.

54 The New York Philharmonic performed the U.S.
55 premiere of the Eighth symphony on November 16,
56 1884, led by George Loder.

57 And now we hear the Symphony No. 8 in F-major,
58 Op. 93 by Beethoven. Alan Gilbert conducts...The
59 New York Philharmonic.

60 (MUSIC: Beethoven 8)

61 (APPLAUSE)

62 AB: Alan Gilbert conducted the New York
63 Philharmonic there, in music of Beethoven.
64 That was the Symphony No. 8 in F-major. I'm
65 Alec Baldwin and you're listening to The New
66 York Philharmonic This Week.

67 (ID)

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70 AB: Alban Berg's violin concerto is dedicated to
71 "an Angel." That "angel" was Manon Gropius-
72 daughter of the famous architect Walter Gropius
73 and Gustav Mahler's widow, Alma. She truly
74 must have been a remarkable young woman as Berg
75 even abandoned finishing the final act of his
76 opera, *Lulu*, in order to concentrate on writing
77 this concerto. The composer normally required
78 a minimum of two years to turn out a large-
79 scale work. The violin concerto, however, was
80 written in a matter of months. This is not an
81 urgent, hand-wringing lament though. No, what
82 Berg delivers instead is something poignant,
83 dignified, ...and even at times, light.

84 While the music of Berg, Webern and Schoenberg
85 is all reasonably well-represented on modern
86 concert programs, many would agree that Berg's
87 music is somehow the easiest entryway into this
88 lush sound world. Perhaps part of the reason
89 for that is the fact that Berg's transition to
90 Expressionism and Serial composition was more
91 subtle than the other two. Rather than
92 Romanticism, we hear more of an Impressionistic
93 quality in his Op. 1 piano sonata:

94 (CD TRACK)

95 AB: SO I think you'll find that the ear doesn't
96 have to stretch much to listen to the last
97 music Berg completed; this violin concerto:

98 (sample)

99 AB: Berg didn't make use of 12-tone materials and
100 other devices so much as an exercise; in his
101 hands they were merely another set of brushes
102 for his musical canvas.

103 Parts of the first movement are downright
104 folksy:

105 (ACTUALITY)

106 AB: ...but like any good story-teller, Berg saves the
107 best for last. For the concluding measures of
108 the score he pays homage to Bach by quoting the
109 Cantata No. 60, "*It is enough.*" Here it is in
110 its original form:

111 (CD TRACK)

112 AB: ...and here it is as Berg treats it in the
113 concerto.

114 (CD TRACK)

115

116 AB: We now hear the concerto for violin and
117 orchestra by Alban Berg. Frank-Peter
118 Zimmermann is the soloist. Alan Gilbert
119 conducts...The New York Philharmonic.

120 (MUSIC)

121 AB: *"It is enough. Lord, if it pleases you,*
122 *unshackle me. My Jesus comes. Good night, oh*
123 *world--I go to Heaven's house. I go there in*
124 *peace."*

125 And with that quotation from Bach, Berg's
126 violin concerto that was *"dedicated to the*
127 *memory of an angel,* comes to an end. Frank-
128 Peter Zimmermann was the soloist and the New
129 York Philharmonic was conducted by Alan
130 Gilbert.

131 Berg never heard this piece. He would follow
132 the young Madam Gropius in death not long after
133 the work was completed. At just 50 years of
134 age, Berg succumbed to complications from an
135 insect bite. As such, this piece serves not
136 only as requiem to the dedicatee, but to the
137 composer as well. And perhaps...to Romanticism.

138 (PAUSE)

139 AB: We conclude our broadcast with music of Brahms.
140 This is the Symphony No. 4 in e-minor. Alan
141 Gilbert conducts...The New York Philharmonic.

142 (MUSIC)

143 AB: Symphony No. 4 in e-minor by Johannes Brahms.
144 The New York Philharmonic was conducted by Alan
145 Gilbert.

146 (INSERT CLOSERS/CREDITS)

147 PROMO for NYP 17-20

148 AB: This is Alec Baldwin. Please join me as we
149 present another in our continuing series of
150 NYPHIL Playlist programs. This time the theme
151 is, "There, in the Night." We'll hear shadowy
152 works by Mahler, Ives, Schoenberg, and more...on
153 The New York Philharmonic This week.