

1 NYP TBD 2: Mahler 7

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3 (INSERT NATIONAL UNDERWRITERS 01)

4 (NYP THEME MUSIC UP AND UNDER)

5 (ROLL: NYPTW INTRO)

6 AB: **...and "this week..."**

7 (MUSIC EXAMPLE UP AND UNDER)

8 AB: **...We present a single work: Gustav Mahler's**

9 **Symphony No. 7 in e-minor. This is Alec**

10 **Baldwin inviting you to listen, now, as we hear**

11 **Alan Gilbert lead the orchestra in his final**

12 **concert as the orchestra's Music Director. It's**

13 **Mahler 7...on the New York Philharmonic This**

14 **Week.**

15 (INSERT PSA #1)

16 AB: **Mahler began work on his Seventh Symphony**

17 **during the summer of 1904. The orchestration**

18 **was completed two years later and the symphony**

19 **continued to undergo some minor revisions en**

20 **route to its world premiere in Prague on**

21 **September 19, 1908.**

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27 The Seventh Symphony has several motifs in  
28 common with Mahler's Sixth symphony...which is  
29 little surprise since their periods of  
30 composition actually overlapped a bit. Indeed,  
31 the Seventh's juxtaposition of major / minor  
32 chords, the march-like figure of the first  
33 movement and also the use of cowbells within  
34 certain "pastoral" episodes all harken back to  
35 the Sixth. As New York Philharmonic program  
36 annotator James M. Keller writes in Notes on  
37 the Program, however, "*[Mahler's] new symphony*  
38 *would prove a far more optimistic work than its*  
39 *immediate predecessors, essentially tracing a*  
40 *trajectory from darkness into light.*"

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42 Though Mahler was generally opposed to  
43 attaching (or at least revealing) a defined  
44 program to the individual movements of his  
45 symphonies, both the harmonic and stylistic  
46 structure of the "Seventh" undeniably suggest a  
47 progression of dusk towards dawn.

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54 Mahler acolyte (and former Philharmonic Musical  
55 Advisor) Bruno Walter noted quote, *'In the*  
56 *three middle movements of the Seventh,*  
57 *meaningfully and humanly revealing, we hear*  
58 *music embodying a Romanticism that we thought*  
59 *had been overcome."*

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61 Mahler himself conducted the world-premiere of  
62 his seventh symphony in Prague. Both the  
63 audience and the musicians present were  
64 confused by the work, and it was not  
65 particularly well-received during any of its  
66 subsequent performances in Munich or the  
67 Netherlands. When the piece was given in  
68 Vienna in 1909, however, no less a figure than  
69 Arnold Schoenberg took notice, causing him to  
70 write to Mahler quote, *"...I am now really*  
71 *wholly yours. What I felt [after hearing this*  
72 *symphony] was a perfect repose based on*  
73 *artistic harmony."* Indeed, this piece contains  
74 many expressionistic elements, notably harmonic  
75 instability and melodic neuroses, which very  
76 likely influenced Schoenberg's own Five Pieces  
77 for Orchestra, written only a couple of years  
78 later.

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80 Despite the support of such figures as  
81 Schoenberg and Walter, however, the Seventh  
82 Symphony has never received the accolades-  
83 popular or critical-that many of Mahler's other  
84 symphonies achieved and today it continues to  
85 be one of the composer's more neglected works.

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87 To further illustrate just how special  
88 performances of this piece are, consider this:  
89 Willem Mengelberg conducted the New York  
90 Philharmonic premiere of the Mahler Seventh on  
91 March 8, 1923...and then the orchestra didn't  
92 perform it again until June 2, 1990 with Erich  
93 Leinsdorf. Riccardo Chailly and Lorin Maazel  
94 each led four performances of it during the  
95 mid-2000s and this performance is the  
96 orchestra's first in roughly a decade.

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98 Now, since the symphony is well over 80 minutes  
99 in length, we'll pause right now for station  
100 identification. We can then enjoy the complete  
101 work without interruption. I'm Alec Baldwin  
102 and uou're listening to the New York  
103 Philharmonic This Week.

104 (LEGAL ID)

105       And now we hear the Symphony No. 7 in e-minor  
106       by Gustav Mahler. Alan Gilbert conducts...the  
107       New York Philharmonic.

108   (MUSIC)

109   (APPLAUSE)

110       Recorded live, at David Geffen Hall, on June  
111       10, 2017, that was the symphony No. 7 in e-  
112       minor by Gustav Mahler. The New York  
113       Philharmonic was conducted by Alan Gilbert in  
114       his final subscription concert as the  
115       orchestra's Music Director.

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117   AB: You can relive the magic of Alan Gilbert's 8  
118       seasons as Music Director of the New York  
119       Philharmonic through a special celebratory  
120       website that captures highlights of his tenure  
121       with the orchestra through video, audio, and  
122       photos. The address is  
123       nyphil.org/gilbertfarewell. There, you can  
124       watch video of staged productions he led  
125       including Ligeti's Le Grand Macabre, plus  
126       slideshows, complete concert audio, and more.  
127       You can even send a personal message to Alan  
128       and wish him well in his next great adventure.  
129       Once again, the address is  
130       nyphil.org/gilbertfarewell.

131   (MUSIC OUT)