

1 Script for NYP 18-16: To Russia with Love

2 (NATIONAL UNDERWRITING CREDIT #1)

3 (THEME MUSIC UP AND UNDER + BILLBOARD)

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

5 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

6 AB: **We hear a pair of works for the theater...by Igor**
7 **Stravinsky. Our program will open shortly with**
8 **the chamber opera, *Renard*. That will be**
9 **followed by a performance of *A Soldier's Tale***
10 **with a cast that features Matt Cavanaugh as the**
11 **eponymous soldier...with Daniel Davis as the**
12 **Devil...and narration by yours truly. Valery**
13 **Gergiev will conduct...The New York Philharmonic**
14 **This Week.**

15 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

16 AB: **In 1915, Igor Stravinsky was commissioned to**
17 **write a work that could be performed in the**
18 **salon of one Princesse Edmond de Polignac.**
19 **Born Winnaretta Singer, the *Princesse* was(among**
20 **other things) heiress to the Singer Sewing**
21 **Machine fortune.**

22

23 Stravinsky responded to the commission by
24 creating a new kind of work that combined
25 singing and acrobatic dance. While the
26 performance for the Princesse ultimately fell
27 through, the work was premiered by the famed
28 *Ballets Russes* in Paris in 1922.

29 The story is based on a Renard the Fox, who is
30 a common character in the folklore of Eastern
31 Europe. Here, the cunning fox begins the story
32 dressed in a nun's outfit. He proceeds to play
33 cruel tricks on three different animals—a
34 rooster, a cat and a ram. But then the tables
35 are turned and the wily fox meets a most
36 violent end.

37 Musically, the score is noteworthy for its
38 constantly shifting time-signatures and a
39 colorful instrumentation that suggests the
40 barnyard denizens of the story.

41 (APPLAUSE)

42 AB: And we go down to the stage now for Renard by
43 Igor Stravinsky. As soloists, we'll hear tenors
44 ALEXANDER TIMCHENKO and DMITRY VOROPAEV, bass
45 ILYA BANNIK, and bass-baritone ANDREI SEROV.
46 Valergy Gergiev conducts...The New York
47 Philharmonic.

48 (MUSIC) (APPLAUSE)

49 AB: Renard. Music by Igor Stravinsky. The New
50 York Philharmonic was conducted by Valery
51 Gergiev. As soloists, we heard tenors
52 ALEXANDER TIMCHENKO and DMITRY VOROPAEV, bass
53 ILYA BANNIK, and bass-baritone ANDREI SEROV.

54 AB: In just a moment, we'll turn our attention to
55 another of Stravinsky's more unusual stage
56 works. This time, we'll hear L'histoire du
57 Soldat or "A Soldier's Tale." I'm Alec Baldwin
58 and you're listening to The New York
59 Philharmonic This Week.

60 (ID)

61 AB: The wartime economy influenced not only the
62 modest instrumental forces of Igor Stravinsky's
63 "A Solider's Tale," but also its subject
64 matter. Written in collaboration with the Swiss
65 author C.F. Ramuz, the work employs a narrated
66 dialogue with music, dance, and drama. Scored
67 for a chamber ensemble, the portability of this
68 piece makes it part of a genre known as "pocket
69 theater."

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72 AB: The score calls for three main characters: the
73 Soldier, the Devil, and the Narrator. The music
74 is organized as a series of brief tableaux.

75 The plot is a Faustian tale in which the
76 Soldier trades his fiddle to the Devil for a
77 magic book which can provide wealth. He later
78 becomes disillusioned, loses his wealth, and
79 meets the Devil again in a card game. He gets
80 the devil drunk, regains his fiddle, and uses
81 it to cure the King's daughter, who has been
82 ill. He then fends off the Devil with his
83 fiddle playing, and marries the Princess. The
84 Soldier lives happily until he decides to leave
85 his new town and visit his old home. Once he
86 leaves the safety of his new environs, he is
87 captured by the Devil, and must accompany him
88 to Hell.

89 AB: Despite *Histoire's* Russian inspiration,
90 Stravinsky made the music as non-Russian as
91 possible by using materials from North and
92 South American, Spain, and Germany. The first
93 performance of "A Soldier's Tale" took place in
94 Lausanne, Switzerland on September 28, 1918.

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97 And now we hear "A Soldier's Tale" by
98 Stravinsky. Matt Cavanaugh is the soldier...with
99 Daniel Davis as the Devil...with narration by
100 Alec Baldwin. (say, that's me!) Valery Gergiev
101 conducts...The New York Philharmonic.

102 (MUSIC)

103 Recorded in May, 2010 at what is now David
104 Geffen Hall in New York City, that was Igor
105 Stravinsky's *Histoire du Soldat* or "A Soldier's
106 Tale" from 1918. In the cast, we heard Matt
107 Cavanaugh as the soldier and Daniel Davis as
108 the Devil. Alec Baldwin was the narrator and
109 the New York Philharmonic was conducted by
110 Valery Gergiev.

111 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

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113 AB: We have time for one more of Stravinsky's stage
114 works. This is the ballet, *Petrushka*. Alan
115 Gilbert conducts...The New York Philharmonic.

116 (MUSIC)

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119 AB: **Petrushka. Music by Igor Stravinsky. The New**
120 **York Philharmonic was conducted by Alan**
121 **Gilbert. That performance, along with ALL of**
122 **the music you heard on this week's broadcast is**
123 **available for purchase. More information is**
124 **available at nyphil.org.**

125 (INSERT CREDITS)

126 PROMO for NYP 18-17:

127 AB: **Next time, on the New York Philharmonic This**
128 **Week:**

129 **We hear the Symphony No. 7 by Anton Bruckner.**
130 **This is Alec Baldwin and I hope you'll join me**
131 **for this encore presentation of a concert from**
132 **2010 that also features Beethoven's FIRST**
133 **symphony. Kurt Masur conducts...The New York**
134 **Philharmonic This Week.**

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