

1 **Script for NYP 10-27: Eschenbach/Zukerman by MT**

2 **(INSERT NATIONAL UNDERWRITING CREDIT #1)**

3 **(AMBIENCE UP AND UNDER)**

4 **(THEME MUSIC UP AND UNDER TO "X")**

5 **AB:** From Avery Fisher Hall in New York City, it's
6 the New York Philharmonic This Week—the weekly
7 program that showcases America's longest-
8 running orchestra. And "this week"...**(X)**

9 **(MUSIC: Excerpt from Berg)**

10 **AB:** Pinchas Zukerman will be the soloist in Alban
11 Berg's Violin Concerto. Hello again,
12 everybody. This is Alec Baldwin. I'm so glad
13 that you've decided to join us for this
14 concert. We'll hear Arnold Schoenberg's
15 orchestration of the Piano Quartet No. 1 by
16 Brahms during the second half of the broadcast.
17 Our curtain-raiser will be the U.S. premiere of
18 "Towards Osiris" by Mattias Pintscher.
19 Christoph Eschenbach will conduct...the New York
20 Philharmonic This Week. **(X)**

21 **(ACTUALITY TBA: Eschenbach 01)**

22 **AB:** Conductor Christoph Eschenbach with a brief
23 overview of the program he'll conduct on this
24 week's broadcast. Mr. Eschenbach will take the
25 stage here at Avery Fisher Hall any minute...and
26 when he does, he'll conduct the U.S. premiere
27 of "Towards Osiris" by Matthias Pintscher.

28 **(SLIGHT PAUSE)**

29 **AB:** Born in 1971, German composer Matthias
30 Pintscher is one of today's most distinctive
31 musical voices. The work which we're about to
32 hear was written in 2005 on a commission from
33 Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic.
34 The piece is one of four so-called "asteroid"
35 pieces that was originally conceived to
36 accompany performances of The Planets by Gustav
37 Holst.

38 Mr. Pintscher's title refers to the Egyptian
39 god who is hacked to death by his jealous
40 brother Seth; but his sister (and consort) Isis
41 searches for and gathers up the pieces of his
42 body and restores him to life. Osiris remains
43 in the underworld, while his sister gives birth
44 to their son Horus, god of light and the
45 living. Here's Mr. Pintscher to tell us more
46 about the piece:

47 **(ACTUALITY TBA)**

48 **ALT:** Here again is Christoph Eschenbach:

49 **AB:** The Chicago Tribune described *Towards Osiris* as
50 "extraordinarily well-made music that reveals
51 real harmonic integrity beneath its glistening,
52 whispering surfaces. Pintscher savors delicate
53 restraint and exults in coloristic subtlety."

54 **(APPLAUSE)**

55 **AB:** ...and we go down to the stage now for the U.S.
56 premiere of *Towards Osiris* by Matthias
57 Pintscher. Christoph Eschenbach conducts the
58 New York Philharmonic.

59 **(MUSIC: Pintscher)**

60 **(APPLAUSE)**

61 **AB:** We just heard the U.S. premiere of *Towards*
62 *Osiris* by Matthias Pintscher. The New York
63 Philharmonic was conducted by Christoph
64 Eschenbach...to lead off this week's broadcast.

65 **(SLIGHT PAUSE)**

66 **AB:** After the orchestra re-sets a bit, they'll be
67 joined by the great violinist Pinchas Zukerman
68 for a performance of the Berg Violin Concerto.

69 Here's Christoph Eschenbach with a brief
70 introduction:

71 **(ACTUALITY: Eschenbach web 01)**

72 **AB:** Alban Berg inscribed his last composition—and
73 the only concerto of his career, "To the memory
74 of an angel." That angel was Manon Gropius,
75 the daughter of architect Walter Gropius and
76 Gustav Mahler's widow Alma. Manon's beauty was
77 such that she was to portray an angel in a
78 Salzburg play. All of that changed when the
79 vivacious young woman was struck by infantile
80 paralysis at age 18 and died one year later.
81 Berg, who had been extremely close to Manon
82 throughout her life, was devastated. Earlier
83 that year he had begun a commission for a
84 violin concerto, but work proceeded slowly.
85 Manon's illness seemed to drive him to complete
86 it. Once again, Christoph Eschenbach:

87 **(ACTUALITY TBA)**

88 **ALT:** Our soloist, Pinchas Zukerman, tells us more:

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91 **AB:** Berg's violin concerto begins meditatively, but
92 there are dance rhythms and folk melodies too.
93 The second half of the work is agitated and
94 features a shattering climax. The final adagio
95 of the concerto incorporates a melody from a
96 Bach chorale and the piece ends on an ethereal,
97 serene high G. Once more, Christoph
98 Eschenbach.

99 **ALT:** Once again, Pinchas Zukerman.

100 **(ACTUALITY TBA)**

101 **AB:** The Violin Concerto became Berg's own requiem
102 as well. On Christmas Eve, only a few months
103 after completing it, Berg succumbed to blood
104 poisoning as the result of an insect bite.

105 **(APPLAUSE)**

106 **AB:** Now we hear the Violin Concerto from 1935 by
107 Alban Berg. Pinchas Zukerman is the soloist
108 and Christoph Eschenbach conducts the New York
109 Philharmonic.

110 **(MUSIC: Berg Concerto)**

111 **(APPLAUSE)**

112 **AB:** *"It is enough./Lord, if it pleases*
113 *you/Unshackle me./ My Jesus comes;/Good night,*
114 *o world;/I go to heaven's house;/I go there in*
115 *peace. Words from the Bach Chorale, "It is*
116 *Enough."*

117 Heart-wrenching words, indeed, in the context
118 of a life taken too soon...and that is
119 precisely why Berg chose to quote that hymn in
120 the final moments of the piece we just heard.
121 That was the violin concerto from 1935 by Alban
122 Berg-dedicated to the memory of an angel.
123 Pinchas Zukerman was the soloist and Christoph
124 Eschenbach conducted the New York Philharmonic.

125 **(SLIGHT PAUSE)**

126 **AB:** In a moment, Mr. Eschenbach will lead the New
127 York Philharmonic in one more work: the Piano
128 Quartet No. 1 by Brahms...as orchestrated and
129 arranged by Arnold Schoenberg. More about that
130 after this pause for station ID. You're
131 hearing the New York Philharmonic This
132 Week...distributed over the WFMT Radio Network.

133 **(FADE OUT)**

134 **(ACTUALITY: Eschenbach Web 02)**

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136 **AB:** Christoph Eschenbach on the third and final
137 work on this week's program.

138 **(SLIGHT PAUSE)**

139 **AB:** Arnold Schoenberg had a great love and affinity
140 for the music of Brahms. When asked why he
141 would undertake the orchestration of the first
142 piano Quartet by the older composer, Schoenberg
143 replied: *"1. I like the piece. 2. It is seldom*
144 *played. 3. It is always very badly played."*

145 Schoenberg also went on to explain that in his
146 orchestration he wanted *"to remain strictly in*
147 *the style of Brahms and not go any farther than*
148 *he himself would have gone had he lived today."*

149 The idea for this project first appeared in
150 Schoenberg's plans for a book on orchestration,
151 and he makes a note of Brahms's piece. He never
152 did write that book, but the idea of
153 orchestrating the quartet remained. Schoenberg
154 spoke of the myriad challenges of the task:

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158 *"Brahms likes very low basses, of which the*
159 *orchestra possesses only a small number of*
160 *instruments. He likes the full accompaniment*
161 *with broken chord figures, often in different*
162 *rhythms. And most of these figures cannot*
163 *easily be changed, because generally they have*
164 *a structural meaning in his style. I think I*
165 *have resolved these problems..."*

166 **(APPLAUSE)**

167 Though it has been jokingly referred to as
168 Brahms's "Fifth Symphony," the result sounds
169 neither like Brahms nor like typical
170 Schoenberg; rather it is a stunning creation in
171 its own right. Here now to conduct the New
172 York Philharmonic is Christoph Eschenbach:

173 **(MUSIC)**

174 **(APPLAUSE)**

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180 **AB:** Piano Quartet No. 1 by Johannes Brahms...as
181 orchestrated and arranged by Arnold Schoenberg.
182 Christoph Eschenbach conducted the New York
183 Philharmonic, bringing this week's concert to
184 an end. Earlier on the program we heard
185 Pinchas Zukerman as soloist in the Berg Violin
186 Concerto...and our broadcast opened with the U.S.
187 premiere of Towards Osiris by Mattias
188 Pintscher.

189 **(SLIGHT PAUSE)**

190 **AB:** It's "all Mozart, all the time," next week...on
191 The New York Philharmonic THIS week. Please
192 join us then as Jeffrey Kahane [kuh-HAYNE] is
193 the soloist and conductor in three of Mozart's
194 piano concertos. More information is on the
195 Web at nyphil.org.

196 **(INSERT CLOSERS, etc.)**

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202 PROMO for NYP 10-28 :30

203 **(MUSIC TBA)**

204 **AB:** Jeffrey Kahane performs and conducts not one,
205 not two, but THREE of Mozart's piano concerti
206 next time, on the New York Philharmonic This
207 Week. This is Alec Baldwin. Come be immersed
208 in the music of Mozart...right here: