

1 Script for NYP 19-05, "Rach and Friends"

2 (INSERT NATIONAL UNDERWRITING CREDIT #1

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

4 AB: **And "this" week....(X)**

5 (MUSIC EXAMPLE)

6 AB: **We hear works by Rachmaninoff and Respighi.**
7 **Hello. This is Alec Baldwin inviting you to**
8 **listen as we feature several recordings from**
9 **the orchestra's archives. Much of our program**
10 **is dedicated to the music of Rachmaninoff and**
11 **we'll hear Vladimir Horowitz as the soloist in**
12 **the third piano concerto. We'll also hear**
13 **excerpts from Respighi's Roman triptych as Kurt**
14 **Masur, Eugene Ormandy, Artur Rodzinski, and**
15 **Giuseppe Sinopoli all conduct...the New York**
16 **Philharmonic This Week.**

17 (MUSIC OUT)

18 AB: **We begin with Rachmaninoff's Op. 29, *The Isle***
19 ***of the Dead.***

20 (MUSIC)

21

22 AB: In 1906, at age 33, Rachmaninoff occupied an
23 important place in Russian musical circles.
24 For the past year he had been conductor of the
25 Imperial Grand Opera in Moscow. He was also
26 very much in demand as a pianist, and he had
27 social obligations aplenty. All of this let him
28 with very little time to pursue his other
29 passion--composition. Consequently, he decided
30 to resign from the Opera, retire from social
31 circles, and devote himself 100% body and soul
32 to composing new music.

33 Taking his wife and baby daughter with him,
34 Rachmaninoff retired to a quiet little house in
35 Dresden, where for two years he lived in
36 virtual seclusion. Oh, he made occasional
37 trips to Leipzig to hear the Gewandhaus
38 Orchestra, but those trips were infrequent.
39 During one of them, however, the composer had
40 his first encounter with Arnold Boecklin's
41 painting, "The Isle of the Dead."

42 (MUSIC)

43

44

45 AB: **The resulting musical work the painting**
46 **inspired is one of Rachmaninoff's most**
47 **evocative scores. There is a somber stillness,**
48 **interrupted only by the constant lapping of**
49 **water against the rocks. The music gradually**
50 **rises in intensity until, in the middle of the**
51 **work, it bursts into a lamentation for the**
52 **dead:**

53 (MUSIC)

54 AB: **Toward the end, there is a reference to the**
55 **Dies Irae or "Day of Wrath" sequence from the**
56 **Mass of the Dead.**

57 (EXAMPLE)

58 AB: **This was a device the composer used often with**
59 **other notable uses of it appearing in his**
60 ***Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* and in his**
61 ***Symphonic Dances:***

62 (SAMPLE)

63 AB: **Finally, there is a return to a rhythm that**
64 **suggests the motion of the water, and the music**
65 **fades away into the peace and calm suggested by**
66 **Boecklin's painting.**

67 (MUSIC)

68 AB: ...and now we hear the *Isle of the Dead* by
69 Rachmaninoff. Kurt Masur conducts...the New York
70 Philharmonic.

71 (MUSIC)

72 AB: *The Isle of the Dead*. Music by Sergei
73 Rachmaninoff. The New York Philharmonic was
74 conducted by Kurt Masur.

75 Not long after the composer's death in Beverly
76 Hills in 1943, Rachmaninoff said quote, "Of all
77 my compositions, *The Isle of the Dead* is
78 dearest to my heart."

79 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

80 AB: Though Rachmaninoff wrote 4 piano concerti, the
81 2nd and 3rd seem to resonate with audiences in
82 a special way. The third, in particular, seems
83 to ask for a certain amount of theatricality
84 from the soloist to be truly effective...and the
85 public tends to eat this up.

86

87

88

89

90 The New York Philharmonic gave the world
91 premiere of Rachmaninoff's third piano concerto
92 with the composer himself as soloist and Walter
93 Damrosch at the podium. Later, Rachmaninoff
94 would go on to perform this work at Carnegie
95 Hall with Gustav Mahler conducting the
96 Philharmonic. Yes, there were giants in those
97 days.

98 (APPLAUSE)

99 Here, now, is the Piano Concerto No. 3 in d-
100 minor, Op. 30 by Rachmaninoff. Vladimir
101 Horowitz is the soloist and Eugene Ormandy
102 conducts the New York Philharmonic.

103 (MUSIC)

104 AB: Piano Concerto no. 3 by Rachmaninoff. Vladimir
105 Horowitz was the soloist and the New York
106 Philharmonic was conducted by Eugene Ormandy.

107 Ormandy didn't conduct the Philharmonic often,
108 but he did have a very special relationship
109 with Rachmaninoff. The composer's last
110 composition, the Symphonic Dances are, in fact,
111 dedicated to both Ormandy...and another fine
112 orchestra about 90 minutes down the pike from
113 David Geffen Hall.

114 AB: We'll have just a little more music by
115 Rachmaninoff in the second half of our
116 broadcast and we'll close things out with the
117 *Roman Festivals* by Ottorino Respighi. I'm Alec
118 Baldwin and you're listening to the New York
119 Philharmonic This week.

120 (ID)

121 AB: As with the *Isle of the Dead* that opened our
122 broadcast, Rachmaninoff's *Second Symphony* was
123 another brilliant result of his pseudo-
124 retirement in Dresden.

125 AB: Clocking in at an average length of about 50
126 minutes, the *Second Symphony* is Rachmaninoff's
127 grandest work and it washes over the listener
128 with lush orchestrations and sweeping melodies.

129 The piece enjoyed immediate acclaim at its
130 premiere in St. Petersburg in 1907. This was
131 in stark contrast to the dismal failure of his
132 *First Symphony*.

133 AB: We don't have time to feature the entire work,
134 but here is the second movement. Artur
135 Rodzinski conducts...the New York Philharmonic.

136 AB: That was the second movement from the Symphony
137 No. 2 by Sergei Rachmaninoff. The New York
138 Philharmonic was conducted by Artur Rodzinski.

139 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

140 AB: We conclude now with music by Ottorini
141 Respighi—his Feste Romane.

142 Though born in Bologna, Respighi settled in
143 Rome and paid homage to his adopted city with
144 his most well-known work, a set of tone poems
145 entitled Roman Triptych: The Fountains of Rome,
146 The Pines of Rome, and Roman Festivals. We're
147 going to hear the last of these. Giuseppe
148 Sinopoli conducts...the New York Philharmonic.

149 (MUSIC)

150 AB: Roman Festivals by Ottorino Respighi. The New
151 York Philharmonic was conducted by Giuseppe
152 Sinopoli.

153 I'm Alec Baldwin and you've been listening to
154 the New York Philharmonic This Week.

155 (INSERT FILLERS)

156

157

158 PROMO

159 AB: We present a program that showcases family
160 connections next time, on the New York
161 Philharmonic This Week. This is Alec Baldwin.
162 Please join me as we hear John Corigliano, Sr.,
163 Charles Rex and Stanley Drucker in concertos by
164 Beethoven, Hindemith, and Corigliano, Jr.
165 That's all next time, on the New York
166 Philharmonic This Week.