

1 Script for NYP 19-29 "Pots-Pourris for \$500, Alex"

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: **Joseph Alessi is the soloist in the trombone**
7 **concerto by Christopher Rouse. This is Alec**
8 **Baldwin. Thanks very much for joining me on a**
9 **broadcast that also features music from**
10 **Wagner's opera, Tannhauser, a suite from**
11 **Kodaly's opera, Háry János, and a fantasia by**
12 **Tchaikovsky. Leonard Bernstein, Leonard**
13 **Slatkin, Zubin Mehta, and Kurt Masur will all**
14 **conduct...the New York Philharmonic This Week.**

15 (MUSIC UP AND OUT)

16 AB: **Háry János is a Hungarian folk opera in four**
17 **acts by Zoltán Kodály. Premiered in 1926, the**
18 **libretto is based on the comic epic, The**
19 **Veteran by János Garay. Similar to Mozart's The**
20 **Magic Flute (and a lot of American musical**
21 **theater for that matter), the plot unfolds with**
22 **both music and spoken dialogue.**

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25 AB: The story is set in the first half of the 19th
26 century. Háy, a veteran of the Austrian army,
27 sits in the village inn and regales any and all
28 who will listen with his tall tales of
29 fantastic exploits. These include winning the
30 heart of Napoleon's wife and then single-
31 handedly conquering Napoleon and his armies in
32 combat. But fame and riches only go so far.
33 Háy renounces both for the simple village life
34 and the love of his sweetheart.

35 AB: According to Hungarian superstition, if a
36 statement is followed by a sneeze by someone
37 listening, that is regarded as confirmation of
38 its truth. Therefore, both the opera and the
39 popular suite from it that we're about to hear
40 begin with a "musical sneeze."

41 AB: So *Gesundheit* in advance as we now hear the
42 Háy János Suite by Kodaly. Kurt Masur
43 conducts the New York Philharmonic.

44 (MUSIC)

45 AB: We just heard the Háy János suite by Zoltan
46 Kodaly. The New York Philharmonic was
47 conducted by Kurt Masur.

48 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

49 AB: We next turn to the Trombone Concerto by
50 Christopher Rouse.

51 There are several Philharmonic connections to
52 this piece. First—it is dedicated to conductor
53 laureate Leonard Bernstein, who died less than
54 a year before it was completed. Second—it was
55 commissioned by the Philharmonic and premiered
56 by the orchestra's long-time principal
57 trombone, Joseph Alessi. And finally, the
58 composer, Christopher Rouse, would later become
59 the Philharmonic's Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-
60 in-Residence for three seasons.

61 The third movement, in particular, bows its head
62 to Bernstein by quoting a theme from the
63 Kaddish Symphony. Here's the composer to tell
64 us a little more:

65 (ROUSE)

66 AB: Principal trombone Joseph Alessi shared this
67 story too:

68 (JOE)

69 AB: Leonard Slatkin conducted Joseph Alessi and the
70 New York Philharmonic in the premiere of this
71 piece on December 30, 1992, in Avery Fisher
72 Hall. And that's the performance we hear now.
73 Concerto for trombone and orchestra by
74 Christopher Rouse. Joseph Alessi is the soloist
75 and Leonard Slatkin conducts...the New York
76 Philharmonic.

77 (MUSIC)

78 AB: We just heard the Concerto for Trombone &
79 Orchestra by Christopher Rouse. The New York
80 Philharmonic was conducted by Leonard Slatkin.
81 As soloist, we heard principal trombone Joseph
82 Alessi.

83 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

84 AB: Our broadcast will continue shortly with works
85 by Tchaikovsky and Wagner. I'm Alec Baldwin
86 and you're listening to the New York
87 Philharmonic This Week.

88 (ID)

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91 AB: Tchaikovsky's frequent preoccupation with
92 illicit love takes us on a journey into Dante's
93 Inferno with the next work on our program.

94 Described as a "fantasia" for orchestra,
95 Francesca da Rimini recounts the dark tale of
96 the eponymous character's adulterous liaison
97 with her husband's brother. At the beginning of
98 the piece, the music reminds us to "*Abandon all*
99 *hope*" as we enter. This is followed by a
100 plaintive, sighing melody from Francesca, which
101 swells into full-blown passion. That passion is
102 cut short by a double murder. In the end,
103 you'll want to listen for Tchaikovsky's
104 orchestral howling. This graphically depicts
105 the lovers in the afterlife, condemned to quote
106 "*be continually tormented by the cruelest winds*
107 *under a dark and gloomy air*" in the second
108 circle of hell.

109 Here now is Francesca da Rimini by Tchaikovsky.
110 Leonard Bernstein conducts...the New York
111 Philharmonic.

112 (MUSIC)

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116 AB: **We just heard Tchaikovsky's fantasia for**
117 **orchestra, Francesca da Rimini. The New York**
118 **Philharmonic was conducted by Leonard**
119 **Bernstein.**

120 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

121 AB: **We continue with music that straddles both the**
122 **sacred and the profane with the final piece on**
123 **our program. We're going to listen to the**
124 **Prelude and Venusberg Music from Tannhauser by**
125 **Richard Wagner.**

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135 AB: The opera takes its plot from the medieval
136 legend of the troubadour Tannhäuser, who
137 strayed into the kingdom of the goddess Venus
138 and became her lover. Once his base appetites
139 are satisfied, Tannhäuser returns to the mortal
140 realm, but feels such shame that he makes a
141 pilgrimage to Rome to seek absolution from the
142 Pope. The Pontiff tells Tannhäuser that he has
143 no more chance of salvation than the Pope's
144 staff has of blooming flowers. Well...that's just
145 what happens. BUT...because this is opera—it
146 doesn't happen until Tannhäuser makes his exit.
147 So he instead returns to Venus, with whom he
148 will remain—not quite happily ever after, but
149 only until his final damnation.

150 Now while the plot and form of the opera are
151 considered problematic to some, most everyone
152 would agree that the Prelude is nothing short
153 of a masterpiece.

154 Here it is now. Zubin Mehta conducts...the New
155 York Philharmonic.

156 (MUSIC)

157 AB: We just heard the Prelude and Venusberg Music
158 from the opera, Tannhauser by Richard Wagner.
159 The New York Philharmonic was conducted by
160 Zubin Mehta.

161 (INSERT CLOSERS/CREDITS)

162 AB: Music Director Jaap van Zweden conducts works
163 by Beethoven, Debussy, and Stravinsky next
164 time, on the New York Philharmonic This Week.

165 This is Alec Baldwin. Please join me as we
166 hear Debussy's evocative tone poem, La Mer,
167 Stravinsky's savage Rite of Spring, and
168 Beethoven's masterful Seventh Symphony. Jaap
169 van Zweden will conduct...the New York
170 Philharmonic This Week.

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