

1 Script for NYP 19-43: Beethoven/Shostakovich

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'll hear the Eroica Symphony by Beethoven.**

7       **This is Alec Baldwin. Please join me for a**  
8       **broadcast that will also feature a lesser-known**  
9       **work by Dmitri Shostakovich; his so-called**  
10       **Chamber Symphony. Music Director Jaap van**  
11       **Zweden will conduct...the New York Philharmonic**  
12       **This Week.**

13 (MUSIC UP AND OUT)

14 AB: **We begin with the Chamber Symphony by Dmitri**  
15       **Dmitrivitch Shostakovich.**

16       **This work is actually a very literal**  
17       **transcription of the composer's 8<sup>th</sup> String**  
18       **Quartet by the violist and conductor Rudolf**  
19       **Barshai. As such, it is a work apart from the**  
20       **15 numbered symphonies.**

21       The 8<sup>th</sup> String Quartet on which this chamber  
22       symphony is based was written in just three  
23       days in July, 1960.

24       Shostakovich--whose life was full of tragic  
25       turns--had just been dealt two whoppers: First--  
26       he was muscled into officially joining the  
27       Communist Party. It seems that Nikita  
28       Khrushchev hoped to cash in on Shostakovich's  
29       fame by appointing him General Secretary of the  
30       Composers' Union. He felt such a move might  
31       improve the Party's relationship with its  
32       artists. But to hold the position, Shostakovich  
33       had to be a Party member. According to the  
34       composer's son, Maxim, this event reduced  
35       Shostakovich to tears and his wife, Irina, said  
36       that the composer was blackmailed.

37       It was also around this time that the composer--  
38       who had been a brilliant, world-caliber  
39       pianist--began presenting symptoms of ALS in  
40       his hands.

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45       According to his close friends and family,  
46       Shostakovich considered his 8<sup>th</sup> Quartet to be  
47       his epitaph. Though it was officially dedicated  
48       to, "the victims of fascism and the war," it  
49       doesn't take much imagination to hear how very  
50       autobiographical this piece is:

51       The first movement opens with D, E-flat, C and  
52       B. This is spelling of the composer's monogram  
53       in German notation, "DSCH." It sounds like  
54       this:

55       (PLAY DSCH motif)

56       Listen to it now, as it appears in the first  
57       movement of the symphony:

58       (SAMPLE)

59       You also hear it in the finale:

60       (SAMPLE)

61       The first movement also quotes Shostakovich's  
62       First Symphony:

63       (SAMPLE)

64       ...and his Fifth:

65       (SAMPLE)

66 VO: In the second movement, Shostakovich quotes a  
67 Jewish theme that also appears in the finale of  
68 his Trio for Piano, Violin and Cello, Op. 67.  
69 Here's the original:

70 (SAMPLE)

71 ...and here's how it sounds in the chamber  
72 symphony:

73 (SAMPLE)

74 The third movement quotes the composer's first  
75 cello concerto. Here's the original:

76 (SAMPLE)

77 ...and here's the musical quotation:

78 (SAMPLE)

79 VO: The fourth movement quotes the 19th century  
80 revolutionary song "Tormented by Grievous  
81 Bondage" and an aria from Shostakovich's opera  
82 Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District:

83 (SAMPLE)

84 VO: In addition to the composer's musical monogram,  
85 we also hear another motif from Lady Macbeth in  
86 the fifth and final movement:

87 (SAMPLE)

88 VO: Barshai's orchestration is masterful. It's no  
89 wonder that this chamber symphony is just as  
90 frequently performed as the quartet on which it  
91 is based.

92 (APPLAUSE)

93 VO: ...and we go down to the stage at David Geffen  
94 Hall for the Chamber Symphony by Shostakovich.  
95 Jaap van Zweden conducts...the New York  
96 Philharmonic.

97 (MUSIC)

98 VO: That was Rudolf Barshai's orchestration of the  
99 String Quartet No. 8 by Dmitri Shostakovich.  
100 The piece in this form is often billed as the  
101 "Chamber Symphony." The New York Philharmonic  
102 was conducted by its Music Director, Jaap van  
103 Zweden.

104 (SLIGHT PAUSE)

105 VO: In a moment, we'll turn to music of Beethoven.  
106 The Symphony No. 3 or "Eroica." I'm Alec  
107 Baldwin and you're listening to The New York  
108 Philharmonic This Week.

109 (ID)

110 (ROLL: BERNSTEIN CLIP, with cuts by MT) ~10:00

111 AB: Recorded for Columbia records, that was Leonard  
112 Bernstein as narrator and conductor of the New  
113 York Philharmonic in a piece called, "How A  
114 Great Symphony Was Written." It's essentially a  
115 "preview lecture" for the next work on our  
116 program, Beethoven's Eroica Symphony.

117 (FILL FROM 10-11 as necessary)

118 AB: ...and we return to the stage at David Geffen  
119 Hall for the Symphony No. 3 by Beethoven,  
120 "Eroica." Jaap van Zweden conducts...the New  
121 York Philharmonic.

122 (MUSIC)

123 AB: Symphony No. 3 by Beethoven—"Eroica." The New  
124 York Philharmonic was conducted by its Music  
125 Director, Jaap van Zweden.

126 I'm Alec Baldwin and you're listening to the  
127 New York Philharmonic This Week.

128 (INSERT FILL/CLOSERS)

129

130 PROMO:

131 VO: **Next time, on the New York Philharmonic This**  
132 **Week:**

133 **We hear Beethoven's Eroica Symphony and a**  
134 **transcription of Shostakovich's Eighth String**  
135 **Quartet. I'm Alec Baldwin. Please join me as**  
136 **Music Director Jaap van Zweden conducts The New**  
137 **York Philharmonic This Week.**

138 PROMO B:

139 VO: **We dedicate an entire program to the**  
140 **orchestra's musicians as soloists on our next**  
141 **New York Philharmonic broadcast. This is Alec**  
142 **Baldwin inviting you to listen with me as we**  
143 **hear concertos by Copland, Barber, Mozart and**  
144 **others. That's all next time, on the New York**  
145 **Philharmonic This Week.**