NYP 19-22: Britten Violin Concerto/Leningrad Symphony

(BILLBOARD)

AB: ...and “this week.”

(MUSIC EXCERPT)

AB: Simone Lamsma makes her New York Philharmonic debut as soloist in the violin concerto by Benjamin Britten. This is Alec Baldwin. Thanks very much for joining me on a program that also features the Symphony No. 7 or “Leningrad” Symphony by Dmitri Shostakoich. Music Director Jaap van Zweden will conduct...the New York Philharmonic This Week.

(SLIGHT PAUSE)

(ACTUALITY)~1:30

AB: Music Director Jaap van Zweden on his decision to feature the music of Shostakovich and Britten on the same program.

(SLIGHT PAUSE)
AB: We begin with a piece that was premiered by The New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall in 1940; The Violin Concerto by Benjamin Britten.

AB: While critical reception was largely favorable, Britten wasn’t especially satisfied with his effort and he went on to revise the work at least three different times over the next three decades. Be that as it may, the piece has become a favorite of several violinists and it has really enjoyed a Renaissance in more recent years.

Our soloist, Simone Lamsma, discussed her deep affection for this piece when she visited with our producer, Mark Travis:

(SL/MT)

(MUSIC SWELL)

AB: ...and Music Director Jaap van Zweden spoke about the special qualities our soloist, Simone Lamsma, will bring to Britten concerto:

(ACTUALITYL JvZ re Simone) ~1:20

AB: ...and we go down to the stage for the Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 15 by Benjamin Britten. Simone Lamsma is the soloist...and Jaap van Zweden conducts ...the New York Philharmonic.
AB: We just heard the Violin Concerto from 1939 by Benjamin Britten. The New York Philharmonic was conducted by its Music Director, Jaap van Zweden...and the soloist was Simone Lamsma in her subscription debut.

(SLIGHT PAUSE)

AB: Ms. Lamsma boasts a repertoire of more than 60 concertos and she is in great demand with many of the world’s leading orchestras. Already a household name in Europe, this season and next mark many important debuts for her in North America, with engagements in Detroit, Houston, San Diego, Pittsburgh, and Milwaukee Symphony, as well as here, in New York.

In the spring of 2018, the award-winning violinist was honored with an invitation to perform for the King and Queen of the Netherlands during their official state visit to Luxembourg. She has also made several recordings for Challenge Classics—including one featuring works by Shostakovich and Gubaidulina.
...and returning to the stage, at David Geffen Hall, for an encore is Simone Lamsma:

(MUSIC: encore)

That was the Finale from the Sonata for Solo Violin Op 11, No. 6 by Paul Hindemith; an encore by Simone Lamsma, who just made her New York Philharmonic debut.

(SLIGHT PAUSE)

Coming up shortly: Jaap van Zweden will lead the orchestra in a performance of the Symphony No. 7 by Dmitri Shostakovich. I’m Alec Baldwin and you’re listening to the New York Philharmonic This Week.

"Shostakovich was introverted like Britten, but in a very different way. Britten suffered for his personal, intimate life, but Shostakovich suffered for his whole country...for his persecuted colleagues, for thousands of people who were hungry."
AB: A quote from the late great cellist and conductor Mstivslav Rostropovich, reflecting on the experience of his friendship with Dmitri Shostakovich. More of that conversation appears in Norman Lebrecht's 1985 Book of Musical Anecdotes.

At the same time that Benjamin Britten was composing the violin concerto that opened our program, Dmitri Shostakovich was writing his Seventh Symphony. Sub-titled, Leningrad, the work was initially dedicated to the life and deeds of Vladimir Lenin. Shostakovich decided instead to dedicate the symphony to the city of Leningrad on its completion in December 1941 and the work remains one of the composer’s best-known compositions.

The symphony soon became very popular in both the Soviet Union and in the West as a symbol of resistance to Nazi totalitarianism. The work is also especially representative of the political responsibilities that Shostakovich felt toward his homeland; this in spite of the many serious allegations and criticisms he faced throughout the course of his life from both censors and Stalin himself.
Music Director Jaap van Zweden discusses the work further here, with our producer, Mark Travis:

And now we hear the Symphony No. 7 by Dmitri Shostakovich. Jaap van Zweden conducts...The New York Philharmonic.

Symphony No. 7 by Dmitri Shostakovich, “Leningrad.” The New York Philharmonic was conducted by Jaap van Zweden.

And, as always, if you have any questions or comments about anything you’ve heard on one of these broadcasts, you may send e-mail to radio@nyphil.org. Once again, that’s radio@nyphil.org. I’m Alec Baldwin and you’re listening to the New York Philharmonic This Week.

And here is Music Director Jaap van Zweden to tell us about next week’s program:
And you can hear that all next week...on the New York Philharmonic THIS week.

Next time, on the New York Philharmonic This Week:

Artist-in-Residence Matthias Goerne performs songs by Schubert and Strauss. This is Alec Baldwin. Please join me for a program that will also feature the Symphony No. 40 by Mozart. Jaap van Zweden will conduct...the New York Philharmonic This Week.