Shostakovich Work Premieres

Boston Symphony Plays Piece On Final Program

By BEE OFFINEER, Radio Editor

MOST IMPORTANT event of the current music season in this country, the long-awaited hearing of Dmitri Shostakovich’s latest symphony, the No. 9, comes to radio listeners on Saturday evening. Dr. Serge Koussevitzky introduces the work during the final broadcast of the season of the Boston Symphony at 8:30 over WAKR.

Score for the symphony left Moscow on May 16 by plane to Batumi. There it was placed aboard a Soviet ship to be transported across the Black sea to Odessa. An American Victory ship finally received the precious manuscript for delivery to New York.

The Ninth Symphony is in five movements and takes 25 minutes to play. It has been described as “simple, unsophisticated and gay.”

In addition to the Shostakovich work, the symphony will play Tchaikovsky’s “1812 Overture.”

GOING FROM THE sublime, to something else again ...... Another mystery story rejoins the network schedules tonight when the “Thin Man”—sophisticated sleuth Nick and his jealous wife, Nora—resume their activities after a summer recess ...... They’ll be heard at 7:30 p. m. over WADC.

“The Case of the Talking Shoe,” the opener, concerns the return of the Charles family from vacation to find their apartment occupied by a girl-crazy inventor ...... Because a few gangsters and their molls have cultivated a grasping interest in science, Nick and Nora are compelled to shoot their way back to a semblance of normal living.

Claudia Morgan and Les Damon, who have played the leading roles since the series started five years ago, are co-starred again.
Shostakovich Symphony to Be Heard Saturday Over KFDM

An important event of the current music season in this country, the long-awaited hearing of Shostakovich’s latest symphony, the No. 8, will be brought to American radio listeners by KFDM and the American Broadcasting company, Saturday, when the Boston Symphony orchestra presents its fifth and final broadcast from the Berkshire Music Festival at 7:30 p.m.

Premiered November 3, 1945, over the Moscow radio as a broadcast from Leningrad, the work attracted world-wide attention and was made a news story in the Soviet press. Dr. Sergei Kussentzov, conductor of the Boston Symphony orchestra, immediately moved to present the score here. The new work, of 25 minutes duration, is in five movements, all exuberant but the fourth section, which is a “largo.” It has been described as “simple, unsophisticated and gay.”

Boys Baseball Game

KFDM has another premier and special events feature to broadcast Saturday, when it brings listeners the east and west teams in the third annual all-American boys baseball game, at 12:30 p.m. The hard-hitting determined east team, composed of the cream of Junior baseball talent east of the Mississippi river, will be led by the Flying Dutchman, Honus Wagner. The 16 slugging youths from west of the Mississippi will be led by the great Ty Cobb.

The 32 men who compose these teams have been selected by sports editors of 32 leading newspapers from coast to coast. This game, called the “Mr. Big of pre-pro baseball,” has been arranged to originate in Wrigley field, Chicago. Harry Wismer, sports commentator of ABC will supply the play-by-play commentary. He will be assisted by Johnnie Neblett. The 32 winners will travel to Chicago and live for a week like big leaguers, eating and sleeping baseball, batting out and sharpening up on fielding before meeting the roaring crowd on the big day.

William Bendix will be starred in "The Lucky Stiff," Craig Rice's fascinating tale of a girl, supposedly electrocuted, who returns to upset a protection racket and cause some killings, when the Hour of Mystery, is heard over KFDM tonight at 6 p.m.

Anniversary Program

Marking the first anniversary of the day the atomic bomb exploded on Hiroshima, KFDM, through ABC, in cooperation with Americans United, will present “Unhappy Birthday,” a special dramatic broadcast featuring Clifton Fadiman, Edna Ferber, Josh White and other outstanding personalities, Tuesday from 8 to 8:30 p.m.

Principal character in the drama is a disillusioned veteran who refuses to believe in “one world” until he is forced to realize that the atomic bomb does not recognize national boundaries.

Among the personalities who will join Miss Ferber, Fadiman and White in pointing out the message are Dr. Harrison Brown, Chicago physicist, who was a member of the Oak Ridge staff for three years. Allen Claxton, D. D., pastor of the Broadway Temple church, New York city, Merle Miller, former editor of "Yank," and James B. Carey, secretary-treasurer of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Fadiman will narrate the program.

Town Meeting Debate

Educational facilities available to veterans will be the subject of debate on America’s Town Meeting, Thursday, when the KFDM-ABC broadcast originates in the gymnasium of Rutgers university, New Brunswick, N. J., at 8:30 p.m. Taking the affirmative on the question: “Is the Veteran Getting a Square Deal in Education?” will be Dr. Raymond Walker, president of the University of Cincinnati and chairman of the educational relationships committee of the American council on education; and Donald Kingsley, director of manpower and veterans affairs of the office of war mobilization and reconversion.

Upholding the negative will be Dr. Robert B. Stewart, vice president of Purdue university and chairman of the educational advisory committee of the veterans administration, and Chat Paterson, legislative representative of the American veterans committee.

Beaumont Texas Journal
August 4, 1946
Arrangements were completed last week by the American Broadcasting Company to have the radio premiere in the United States of Shostakovich's No. 9 recorded and sent to the composer at his home in Russia.

The radio premiere, by the Boston Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, August 10, over WJJS-ABC, will mark the first airing of the work outside of Russia. It will be performed for the first time in the United States on July 25 when Dr. Koussevitzky presents it at the opening night of the Berkshire Music Festival's series of three festival concerts.

The new work, of 25 minutes duration, is in five movements. According to an analysis by Danie Zhitomirsky, published in the "Voks Soviet Music Chronical No 9" last year just before the world premiere in Russia, the new score requires an orchestra similar to those used in the classic period, the instruments being paired with piccolo added.

The opening allegro is of Hayden-like simplicity, with a touch of slyness and subtle irony. Shostakovich, he wrote, "revives in its very essence that spirit of unrestrained and bubbling mirth which lived in the classic allegri up to overtures."

The first theme of this movement is "rather a kind of animated motion" while "elements of buffoonery appear in the subordinate theme." In this movement the composer stresses various shades of the comedy aspect.

The second movement, a moderate, is styled as a "world of bright and romantic lyricism" which at the same time is "refined and whimsical in its outline." The third movement, following the romantic mould, is a precipitous scherzo. The fourth section, a largo, was conceived as a "contrasting intermezzo between the scherzo and finale" and is a solo of improvisational character against a background of sustained chords.

In the finale an allegretto, the composer reverts to the spirit of the first section but this has "more of buffoonery than of spontaneous gaiety."

Shostakovich, in this symphony, touched with parody and grotesqueness, recalls his first symphony, the ballet "Golden Age" and his opera "Nose." Although classic in style, even Mozartean at times, his own
Koussevitzky To Introduce New Shostakovich Symphony

John Cleghorn Gets Kick Out Of Being Called Claghorn—More About 'Mike Fever' And Who It Hits

By MIKE McGEE

SERGE KOUSSEVITZKY Saturday night will continue his campaign to make the American people appreciate the music of Shostakovich, when he introduces the latter's new Ninth Symphony on the air.

The Symphony will be played by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and will be heard locally through WMPS at 7:30 p.m.

To the writer, the music of Shostakovich sounds awfully lot like thunder on the left. There are those who profess great enjoyment of it, and like olives, it seems to be an acquired taste.

Koussevitzky has long been a Shostakovich booster. He introduced his Fifth Symphony to America, and when the critics up East turned up their noses, Koussevitzky went into action. He went on tour with an orchestra and everywhere he went he played the Fifth Symphony. Finally the critics agreed that Shostakovich fellow had something.

It was not the first time Koussevitzky had gone direct to the people. He's a great believer in the people, it seems, and when a young man in Russia personally paid for an orchestra and a boat on the Volga, which he took up the river for a series of free concerts for the people in the villages.

So, you might as well tune in Saturday night determined to like the Shostakovich Ninth. Even if you don't, Koussevitzky will keep after you until you do.
Shostakovich Ninth Symphony
Has 1st U.S. Broadcast Tomorrow

Dmitri Shostakovich’s ninth symphony will have its American radio premiere tomorrow evening when the Boston Symphony Orchestra broadcasts it over the ABC network, and CFCF, at 9:30 p.m. The new work, which will be conducted tomorrow by Dr. Serge Koussevitzky, was first presented in Leningrad on November 3, 1943, and created a stir in the musical world.

The 9th Symphony is in five movements, all exuberant but the fourth section, which is a largo. It has been described by Robert Magidoff of the New York Times Magazine staff as “simple, unsophisticated and gay.” Magidoff was one of four who heard the composer play it on the piano a few hours after he had completed it.

Soviet critics style the new work as the closest Shostakovich has come to the classical school in all his writing. It is in direct contrast to much of his previous output and is youthfully exuberant and thoroughly happy in style.

The “new” style of the composer is said to be due to the fact that while he was writing the No. 9, he and a fellow composer, Dimitri Kabalevsky, whose scores have also been heard over ABC under Dr. Koussevitzky’s baton, spent their evenings playing Haydn symphonies on the piano. The work was written in the rest home of the Soviet Composers Union near Ivanovo. The two composers varied their Haydn diet with occasional Mozart and Beethoven works.

Because Shostakovich was occupied with State examinations at the Moscow Conservatory, where he is professor of composition, the first movement took six weeks to complete. He finished the second movement in a week, the third in eight days, while the fourth and fifth movements took five days each.

The score takes 25 minutes to play. In its first performances, E. A. Mravinski was the conductor. The score had not been heard outside of Russia until Dr. Koussevitzky gave it a pre-broadcast performance on the opening night of the festival concerts at Tanglewood on July 25.
The highlight of the current music season in this country, the long awaited hearing of Shostakovich's latest symphony, the No. 9 will be brought to American radio listeners by the American Broadcasting Co. network when the Boston Symphony orchestra presents its fifth and final broadcast from the Berkshire music festival at 8:30 o'clock tomorrow night. WCFLO will carry the event. Premiered Nov. 3, 1945 over the Moscow radio, the work attracted world wide attention. At that time Dr. Serge Koussevitzky, the Boston conductor, made plans to present the score in this country and will direct tomorrow night's radio premiere in this country.

The opening allegro of Shostakovich's new work is of Haydn-like simplicity with a touch of slyness and subtle irony, a description reports. The second movement, a moderato, is styled as a "world of bright and romantic lyricism" which at the same time is "refined and whimsical in its outline." The third movement, following the romantic mould, is a precipitous scherzo and the fourth section, a largo, was conceived as a "contrasting intermezzo between the scherzo and finale" and is a solo of improvisational character against a background of sustained chords. In the finale, an allegretto, the composer reverts to the spirit of the first section but this has "more buffoonery than of spontaneous gaiety." The symphony is in E-Flat Minor.

Tomorrow night's concert by the Boston Symphony will also include Tchaikovsky's familiar "1812 Overture."
Shostakovich's Ninth Symphony To Be Premiered By Koussevitzky

Dr. Serge Koussevitzky will conduct the Boston Symphony Orchestra in the radio premiere of Dimitri Shostakovich's Ninth Symphony during his broadcast from the Berkshire Music Festival at Tanglewood, Mass., over WPOR at 9.30 p.m. Saturday.

Next Saturday's broadcast over ABC will mark the first radio performance of the new symphony outside of Russia. It was performed for the first time in the Western Hemisphere when Dr. Koussevitzky and the Boston Symphony presented it at the first Berkshire concert on July 25.

An audience of 8,000 persons extended a warm reception to the new work at its premiere then. Now it will be offered to the listening public of the entire Nation.

The Associated Press termed the new Shostakovich work as "light and gay throughout with a few pensive but not tragic moments." The Russian composer's latest symphony runs about 20 minutes, something of an innovation as his Seventh and Eighth were nearer an hour long.

Of the Shostakovich Ninth, Daniel Zhitomirsky, Russian reviewer, wrote: "The work revives in its very essence that spirit of unrestrained and bubbling mirth which lived in the classic allegri up to Rossini's overtures."

Arrangements have been completed by ABC to have the radio premiere recorded and sent to the composer at his home in Russia.

The broadcast will offer a study in contrasts in Russian musical expression as Dr. Koussevitzky also has listed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture.
Radio Premiere For Shostakovich Symphony

Boston Symphony Orchestra Will Perform
American Debut Of Eagerly-Awaited No. 9

The most important event of the current music season in this country, the long-awaited hearing of Shostakovich's latest symphony, the No. 9, will be brought to American radio listeners by the American Broadcasting company on Aug. 10, when the Boston Symphony orchestra presents its fifth and final broadcast from the Berkshire Music festival. The program will be aired here over station WSUN at 8:30 p. m.

Premiered Nov. 3, 1945, over the Moscow radio in a broadcast from Leningrad, the work attracted world-wide attention and was made a news story in the Soviet press. Dr. Serge Koussevitzky, conductor of the Boston Symphony orchestra, immediately moved to present the score here. The score takes 25 minutes to play. In its first performance, E. A. Mravinski was conductor. The score has not been heard outside of Russia. Dr. Koussevitzky will conduct it in its American premiere.

Shostakovich's No. 9 Symphony is in five movements, all exhuberant but the fourth section, which is a largo. It has been described as "simple, unsophisticated and gay." Soviet critics style the new work as the closest Shostakovich has come to the classical school in all his writing.

St. Petersburg, Florida Times
August 4, 1946
Shostakovich Work Gets U. S. Premiere As Boston Symphony Closes Series

The most important event of the current music season in this country, the long-awaited hearing of Shostakovich's latest symphony, the No. 9, will be brought to American radio listeners by the American Broadcasting Company today, when the Boston Symphony Orchestra presents its first and final broadcast from the Berkshire Music festival, over Radio Station KWNO from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Premiered November 3, 1945, over the Moscow radio in a broadcast from Leningrad, the work attracted world-wide attention. Dr. George Koussevitzky, conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, immediately moved to present the score here. The American Broadcasting Company received the rights to give the score its American radio premiere.

Ever since the Soviet composer presented his Symphony No. 7, it was reported that he planned a trilogy to commemorate the war and finally victory. The tragic color of the No. 7 and the No. 8 was to be contrasted with the "victory" idea of the No. 9. Shostakovich admitted the original idea, but is said now to regard the No. 9 as a "bridge" toward another work. He has said that it was written after three attempts although the idea came to him in 1943, two years after completion of the No. 8.

Five Movements

The Ninth Symphony is in five movements, all exuberant but the fourth section, which is a "largo." It has been described by Robert Magidof of the New York Times magazine staff as "simple, unadorned and gay." Magidof was one of four who heard the composer play it on the piano a few hours after he had completed it.

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Story of Composing

Because Shostakovich was occupied with state examinations at the Moscow conservatory, where he is professor of composition, the first movement took six weeks to complete. He finished the second movement in a week, the third in eight days, while the fourth and fifth movements took five days each.

The score takes 25 minutes to play. In its first performances, E. A. Ravinski was the conductor. The score has not been heard outside of Russia.

Dr. Serge Koussevitzky, conducting the Boston Symphony orchestra, also has listed Tchaikovsky's familiar "1812 Overture."

Tonight's broadcast will be the final by the Boston Symphony orchestra in the current season.