

Leonard Bernstein: An American Life

LEONARD BERNSTEIN *An American Life*



A monumental 11-part documentary airing on radio stations across the country and around the world.

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ON 98.7WFMT
CHICAGO
REPEATS SUNDAYS
AT 3 PM

NARRATED BY SUSAN
SARANDON

Produced by Steve
Rowland with Larry
Abrams

Distributed
exclusively by the
WFMT Radio Network



WELCOME
LISTEN TO AN AUDIO EXCERPT NOW!
VOICED BY SUSAN SARANDON

LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE is a groundbreaking 11-part documentary series illuminating the life and work of musical titan Leonard Bernstein. The series of 60-minute programs is narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Susan Sarandon.

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) was the last classical musician of our time to be a household name; no one since has achieved the level of fame with the general public as Bernstein. Bernstein became an American icon not only because of his ability to conduct and compose, but also because of the power of his personality and his passion to communicate, through music, about life, love and the human condition. Youngsters (and adults) in the 1960s and beyond were the beneficiaries of Bernstein's intense music making and insightful commentary on his *Young People's Concerts*.

This radio event took six years to produce. It is, says producer Steve Rowland, "a story -- a profound and multi-layered story with many fascinating twists: the number and variety of people, places, ideas and artistic issues that Bernstein worked with, came into contact with, and ultimately affected is stunning. And on top of his extraordinary talents in music, as a composer, a conductor, a performer and educator, there was still



[Listen to an audio overview
of the series](#)

Requires Real Player

more: He occupied a place in American culture as a voice of conscience, a voice for peace, a supporter of democracy in its broadest vision, and a force working to bring the world together through music and art. These 11 hours of radio tell a monumental story."

Virtually every aspect of Bernstein's career and life is explored through the words of Bernstein's own correspondence as well as interviews with more than one hundred people who knew and worked with him. These luminaries include John Adams, Marin Alsop, Betty Comden, John Corigliano, Adolph Green, Bobby McFerrin, Hal Prince, Mary Rodgers, Mstislav Rostropovich, Stephen Sondheim, and many others. Bernstein's family also participates in the production. His brother Burton, son Alexander, and daughters Nina and Jamie all appear through their thought-provoking interviews and readings.

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■ Credits

Production

Produced by Steve Rowland with Larry Abrams, a CultureWorks production.

Distribution

Distributed exclusively by The WFMT Radio Network

Major funding for *Leonard Bernstein: An American Life* provided by:

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting

The National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Arts

The William Penn Foundation

Joan and Irving Harris

Richard and Mary L. Gray

Fay and Daniel Levin

Members of the WFMT Fine Arts Circle

Leonard Bernstein: An American Life is brought to you in part on

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98.7WFMT by Gethsemane Garden Center.

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■ Resources

Follow the links below to learn more about Leonard Bernstein and the world of classical music.

[Leonard Bernstein--Official Website](#)

Explore the life and legacy of one of the 20th century's greatest American composers, Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990). In addition to rich biographical information, this official site includes a link to the Music Division at the Library of Congress where the "Leonard Bernstein Collection" is housed. This extensive collection offers online access to music and literary manuscripts, correspondence, audio and video

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recordings, fan mail and other materials that document the extraordinary life and career of Leonard Bernstein.

In addition, visitors to the general site can access Bernstein's catalogue of musical compositions; personal correspondence including telegrams, notes and letters; and chronological timelines that highlight key events in Bernstein's life. There's also a section devoted to the popular "Young People's Concerts" featuring entire scripts from many of the programs.



Photo: Paul de Heuck

[West Side Story](#)

The official website of Leonard Bernstein's best-known work invites visitors to read about the original concept, view photographs from various productions including the original 1957 Broadway production, read excerpts from Leonard Bernstein's production log and much more.

[Classics from the Silver Screen](#)

An index of classical and opera music (sorted by movie title and composer) used in feature films.

[America's Story from America's Library](#)

Designed with young people in mind, this site offers great stories about amazing Americans, including Leonard Bernstein.

[Classical Composers](#)

This database offers information on over 2,000 classical composers.

[Classical Works](#)

Devoted to the love and knowledge of classical music, this site offers history pages, bios, links and more.

[Essentials of Music](#)

Site features overviews of six main periods of music history, brief biographies of 70 composers, and a glossary of 200 music-related terms and their definitions.

[Songwriters Hall of Fame](#)

Created by the National Academy of Popular Music, this site offers biographies, discographies, recommended recordings and more for over 300 inductees.

[Classical Notes](#)

This tribute to Leonard Bernstein covers the composer's early years, influences and recordings.

[Fan Faire - the Webzine that Celebrates Music](#)

Site offers a chronology of Bernstein's life in music -- from his early years to his tenure with the New York Philharmonic to the last 20 years of his life.

[The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers \(ASCAP\)](#)

Visitors will find information on many of the artists ASCAP represents as well as industry news, profiles, interviews and a searchable catalogue of audio portraits.

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Media

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212/496-9418, or SHEARARTS@AOL.COM

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773/509-5424, or hgilson@networkchicago.com

Station questions and station-related information:



**Friends, family and
colleagues interviewed in
the series**

John Adams, composer

Ellen Adler, longtime family

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TOOLS PAGE TO
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AUDIO AND MORE**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About The WFMT Radio Network

The WFMT Radio Network is the international production and distribution arm of 98.7WFMT, Chicago's classical radio station. The Network was established in 1976 to produce and distribute weekly concerts of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and opening nights from the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Today, the Network serves more than 700 radio outlets around the world with a wide range of fine arts programming such as Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin, Jazz From Lincoln Center, musical retrospectives, American and European documentaries, opera, and full-length concerts by major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Milwaukee Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Jerusalem Symphony and Berlin Philharmonic.

Terry Medina/The WFMT Radio Network

773/279-2114, tmedina@wfmt.com, or bernstein@wfmt.com

NEWS RELEASE 1

**LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE--AN 11-PART
RADIO DOCUMENTARY SERIES
PRODUCED BY STEVE ROWLAND WITH LARRY ABRAMS
EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE WFMT RADIO NETWORK--WILL
AIR NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY IN OCTOBER,
2004**

**SUSAN SARANDON WILL NARRATE THIS MAJOR
CULTURAL AND BROADCASTING EVENT THAT WILL
PRESENT A PERSONAL PORTRAIT OF BERNSTEIN--
COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR, AND ONE OF THE GREAT
PUBLIC FIGURES OF OUR ERA**

**LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE, a
groundbreaking eleven-part documentary series
illuminating the life and work of musical titan Leonard
Bernstein, will air on radio stations across the country
and around the world beginning in October, 2004. The
series of 60-minute programs is narrated by Academy
Award-winning actress Susan Sarandon and is being
produced by Steve Rowland with Larry Abrams of
CultureWorks exclusively for the WFMT Radio Network.
Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) was the last classical**

friend

Marin Alsop, conductor

John Ardoin, critic

Michael Barrett, conductor

Alexander Bernstein, son

Burton Bernstein, brother

Jamie Bernstein, daughter

Nina Bernstein, daughter

Rosamond Bernier, art

historian, longtime family friend

Aaron Blumenfeld, composer

Dave Burrell, jazz pianist

Humphrey Burton, TV

producer, collaborator,

biographer

Zita Carno, pianist

Donald Chan, conductor

Schuyler Chapin, close friend,

Cultural Commissioner of NYC,

former personal manager and

Columbia Records executive

Saul Chaplin, songwriter,

movie producer

Betty Comden, actress,

theater composer, writer,

songwriter, collaborator

John Corigliano, composer

James DePriest, conductor

Stanley Drucker, New York

Philharmonic clarinetist

WFMT Radio Network programs have won every major award and honor in broadcasting. These include the Prix Italia, the George Foster Peabody Award, The Peter Lisagor Award, Major Armstrong Awards, Ohio State Awards, The ASCAP-Deems Taylor Broadcast Award and awards from International Radio Festival of New York.

About Steve Rowland

Steve Rowland is founder of CultureWorks, a non-profit documentary production company. His professional positions include serving as President of the Board of AIR (Association of Independent Radio Producers), and founding ArtistOwned.com, a web business that supports the dissemination of independent music and sound pieces.

His creative work includes audio documentaries about John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Andy Warhol, Carlos Santana, The Neville Brothers, Patti LaBelle, George Clinton, The Roots, and Frank Zappa, as well as *LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE*. These productions are archived at The Library of Congress and the Museum of Television and Radio.

Mr. Rowland has received the Peabody Award, Pew Fellowship in the Arts, Ohio State Award, Prix Italia Award, Corporation for Public Broadcasting Award, NY Festival of International Radio Gold Medal, and grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, National Endowment for the Arts,

musician of our time to be a household name; no one since has achieved the level of fame with the general public as Bernstein. Bernstein became an American icon not only because of his ability to conduct and compose, but also because of the power of his personality and his passion to communicate, through music, about life, love and the human condition. Youngsters (and adults) in the 1960s and beyond were the beneficiaries of Bernstein's intense music making and insightful commentary on his "Young People's Concerts."

This upcoming radio event took six years to produce. It is, says producer Steve Rowland, "a story -- a profound and multi-layered story with many fascinating twists: the number and variety of people, places, ideas and artistic issues that Bernstein worked with, came into contact with, and ultimately affected is stunning. And on top of his extraordinary talents in music, as a composer, a conductor, a performer and educator, there was still more: He occupied a place in American culture as a voice of conscience, a voice for peace, a supporter of democracy in its broadest vision, and a force working to bring the world together through music and art. These 11-hours of radio tell a monumental story."

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Richard Dyer, Boston Globe music critic
Franz Endler, Viennese music critic
Christoph Eschenbach, conductor, Philadelphia Orchestra
Clarence Fanto, music critic
Michael Feinstein, singer, pianist
Leon Fleischer, teacher, pianist
Lukas Foss, composer, conductor, longtime friend
Justus Frantz, conductor
Jerold Frederic, retired concert pianist
Constantin Gebbert, Polish Jewish community Activist
Russell Gloyd, jazz musician
Jack Gottlieb, longtime Bernstein assistant, composer, musicologist
Mark Gould, trumpeter, Metropolitan Opera Company
Adolph Green, actor, theater composer, writer, songwriter, collaborator
Bob Greenberg, composer,

National Endowment for the Humanities, William Penn Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and Pennsylvania Council on the Humanities.

For 25 years, Mr. Rowland has worked in radio, "using music," he says, "as a window to explore issues in American history, society, race relations, human creativity, spirituality, aesthetic beauty, the nature of 'change,' and human possibility." Mr. Rowland states: "Central to my work has been the hope to share music and contemporary ideas in ethnomusicology with large numbers of people through radio broadcasts. I have also been committed to training. I have worked with seasoned academics, urging them to do broadcast quality field recordings, and new producers eager to learn sound techniques for film, video and radio. In addition to my documentary work, I have been involved in a number of other projects over the past ten years."

These include teaching audio production at radio stations, at the Scribe Video center, Columbia University's Oral History Research Center, the United Nations Intellectual History Project, Philadelphia Folklore Project, Atwater Kent Museum (working as consultant and operating a beta-test site in the development of the Dyaxis digital audio workstation by Studer NA); writing articles for several technical journals including Mix and Radio World; working on film sound tracks and editing

Comden, John Corigliano, Adolph Green, Bobby McFerrin, Hal Prince, Mary Rodgers, Mstislav Rostropovich, Stephen Sondheim, and many others. Bernstein's family will also participate in this production. His brother Burton, son Alexander, and daughters Nina and Jamie all appear through their thought-provoking interviews and readings. Alec Baldwin will voice the majority of the correspondence written by men; Broadway star Maria Tucci will read the female letters; daughter Jamie Bernstein will voice Bernstein's own letters; and Schuyler Chapin, NYC's Cultural Commissioner and Bernstein's record producer and longtime friend, will voice the letters of European composers. These excerpts were compiled from some 17,000 pieces of correspondence held by the Library of Congress.

The eleven programs are: (1) *Bernstein: The Early Years (1917-1939)*; (2) *12 Gates to The City: Meeting the Mentors (1939-1943)*; (3) *New York, New York (1944-1951)*; (4) *Tonight (1951-1958)*; (5) *A New Frontier: The Philharmonic Years (1959-1968)*; (6 and 7) *Bernstein: The Conductor*; (8) *Crossroads (1968-1978)*; (9 and 10) *Bernstein: The Composer*; and (11) *A Candle Burned At Both Ends (1979-1990)*.

Few if any American personalities have received this in-depth treatment in the mass media; nothing quite like it has been aired on radio in this country. The series will be heard in virtually every major, medium and small market in America, as well as internationally, through the WFMT

music historian, professor at San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Henry Grunwald, former editor, Time magazine

Dan Gustin, General Manager, Tanglewood Music Festival

Ezra Laderman, composer, former Dean, Yale University school of Music

Oliver Lake, jazz saxophonist and composer

Byard Lancaster, jazz saxophonist

Ruth Leon, British radio and TV producer

Harry Magdoff, historian, activist, co-founder, The Monthly Review magazine

Jeffrey Magee, musicologist, professor of music, Indiana University

John Mauceri, conductor, producer

Bobby McFerrin, singer, conductor

Marian McPartland, jazz pianist, radio host

Mike Mindlin, film producer, family friend

audio books for Random House.

About Steve Robinson

Steve Robinson has been a radio professional specializing in music and public affairs programming, production and syndication for 37 years. He has a degree in music from Boston University.

Mr. Robinson was the first development director at Vermont Public Radio and Jazz88/WBGO, and was the first general manager of the statewide Nebraska Public Radio Network. He has worked for WBUR, WGBH and WCRB in Boston; KPFA/Berkeley; Vermont Public Radio; WBGO/Newark; and Nebraska Public Radio. From 1984 to 1999, he was a development consultant for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), and conducted fundraising workshops for CPB throughout the U.S.

Steve Robinson's production credits include the creation of *ShopTalk*, a weekly Saturday morning call-in program about high fidelity for WBUR/Boston, which ran for 10 consecutive years (*CarTalk* was modeled after this program); and *The Sky Report*, for Vermont Public Radio, public radio's first modular program. (The winner of a CPB Special Award in 1978, *The Sky Report* was cited for "innovative approach and superb execution.")

Additional productions of Mr. Robinson's include

Radio Network.

This effort, for award-winning producer Steve Rowland, has been a labor of love. "Leonard Bernstein has been a hero of mine," says Rowland, "since I saw him on television in the early 1960s. He was probably the most influential musician of the 20th century, with contributions that were different from other musical masters of our time like Igor Stravinsky, Duke Ellington, Aaron Copland and John Coltrane. Bernstein, by employing his extraordinary skills as a composer, conductor, pianist and, above all, educator and communicator, was able to refine, and ultimately redefine, the very notion of what American music is. Bernstein taught us that American music must be representative of the American people and of the American idea itself. He demonstrated that the hierarchy holding symphonic music above and apart from jazz, popular and folk music was archaic and, as Duke Ellington taught us, 'if it sounds good, it IS good.' The Bernstein that members of the public did not know – the enlightened, though sometimes tortured, soul – will be revealed on the journey that has become **LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE.**"

This series is produced in cooperation with The Leonard Bernstein Office, Inc., and a formal association with The Library of Congress.

Major funding for **LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE** provided by The Corporation for Public Broadcasting,

Michael Morgan, conductor
Fred Myrow, composer, educator, former Assistant Conductor to Leonard Bernstein at the New York Philharmonic
Kent Nagano, conductor
Kelly Nassief, singer
Phyllis Newman, actress, family friend
Cynthia O'Neal, family friend
David Oppenheim, clarinetist, record producer, longtime friend
Jim Orleans, bassist, Boston Symphony Orchestra
David Pack, record producer
George Perle, composer, music theoretician
Shirley Perle, pianist, longtime friend
Janucz Pietkiewicz, Polish Radio, TV and theater producer
George Plimpton, journalist, editor of Paris Review
Harold Prince, theater producer
Patti Pulliam, personal chef, friend
David Raksin, film composer

Jazzathon for WBGO/Newark (a live, 24-hour fundraising marathon broadcast from Fat Tuesday's in New York City, featuring some of the world's greatest jazz musicians; *Radio Free Rahsaan*, eight one-hour music specials hosted by Rahsaan Roland Kirk; *Memories of Rahsaan*, eight half-hour documentaries produced after Mr. Kirk's passing in 1977; and *Life in Rural America*, a series of four half-hour documentaries funded by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. For Composer's Recordings Inc. (CRI), Mr. Robinson produced in-depth, two-hour audio biographies of William Schuman and Elliott Carter, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts; a series of one-hour specials on composers Charles Dodge and George Perle, the American Composer's Orchestra, and the DaCapo Chamber Players.

For WFMT, Mr. Robinson created and produced *War Letters*, a two-hour program narrated by Studs Terkel which featured professional actors reading letters sent home by Illinois soldiers from America's war fronts, and *The Making of Princess Magogo*, a half-hour documentary taped in Durban, South Africa, about the creation of South Africa's first indigenous opera which was also the first opera written with a libretto in the Zulu language. *War Letters* and *The Making of Princess Magogo* won Chicago's prestigious Lisagor Award for Journalism in 2002 and 2003. For WFMT and the WFMT Radio

the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, The William Penn Foundation, Joan and Irving Harris, Richard and Mary L. Gray, Fay and Daniel Levin and the Members of the WFMT Fine Arts Circle.

Steve Robinson, senior vice president of WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network, stated his enthusiasm for the series: "When Steve Rowland called me five years ago to say that he wanted to do an audio portrait of Leonard Bernstein, I knew he would produce a superb documentary. He's done just that, and more. Steve is one of the most gifted radio producers in the United States, and when his talent is combined with the Bernstein legacy, the result must be the cultural event of the season on radio. The WFMT Radio Network is proud to be working with Steve Rowland on this monumental broadcast."

Please check local listings for station and airtime in your area.

NEWS RELEASE 2

**LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE--
AN 11-PART RADIO DOCUMENTARY SERIES TO BEGIN
AIRING IN OCTOBER, 2004--WILL PROVIDE A
REVEALING, IN-DEPTH PORTRAIT OF THE LIFE AND
WORK OF THE GREAT COMPOSER AND CONDUCTOR
PRODUCED BY STEVE ROWLAND WITH LARRY ABRAMS
EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE WFMT RADIO NETWORK, THE**

Sid Ramin, arranger-orchestrator, longtime friend and former piano student of Bernstein's
Steve Robinson, radio producer and documentarian
John Rockwell, NY Times critic and music journalist
Mary Rodgers, writer, collaborator, friend
Ned Rorem, composer, friend
Leonard Rosenman, film composer, friend
Mstislav Rostropovich, cellist, conductor
Hannah Schneider, music enthusiast, longtime denizen of Tanglewood
Harry Shapiro, musician, Boston Symphony Orchestra
Steven Sondheim, theater composer, songwriter, collaborator, friend
Robert Spano, conductor
Jonathon Sternberg, conductor, former professor at Temple University
Peter Tiboris, conductor
Craig Urquhart, former Bernstein personal assistant

Network, Mr. Robinson produced and anchored a broadcast of the world premiere performance of *Princess Magogo* from Durban.

This broadcast was heard live in over 200 U. S. markets and throughout Europe through the facilities of the European Broadcasting Union. It was heard by delayed broadcast in Beijing, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. In total, the broadcast was heard by more than three million listeners.

Steve Robinson was named manager of WFMT in 2000, and of the WFMT Radio Network in 2001. Under his leadership, the station has achieved the highest ratings in its history, and listener support has grown from 17,000 members to 23,000. In 2004, WFMT exceeded its ambitious ad revenue goal by 21%. Under his management, the Network has had a considerable expansion.

Among the new programs he has added are the International Keyboard Institute and Festival from Mannes; *Princess Magogo*; Jazz from Lincoln Center, with Ed Bradley; the Tucson Chamber Music Festival; Seattle Symphony Orchestra; Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra; Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra; Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin; FiddleFest; American Jewish Music from the Milken Archive with Leonard Nimoy; *LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE*, with Susan

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL SERIES WILL BE NARRATED BY SUSAN SARANDON WITH LETTERS VOICED BY ALEC BALDWIN AND OTHERS

LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE, an 11-part documentary series produced by Steve Rowland with Larry Abrams of CultureWorks exclusively for the WFMT Radio Network, will provide a rare, in-depth, multi-layered examination of the life and work of this great musician. The series will air on more than 300 stations across the country (virtually every major, medium and small market in America) and around the world beginning in October, 2004. The 60-minute programs will be narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Susan Sarandon.

Actor Alec Baldwin will voice the majority of the correspondence written by men; actress Maria Tucci will read the female letters; daughter Jamie Bernstein will voice Bernstein's own letters; and Schuyler Chapin, NYC's former Cultural Commissioner and Bernstein's record producer and longtime friend, will read the letters of European composers. These excerpts were compiled from some 17,000 pieces of correspondence held by the Library of Congress.

The radio series involved six years of production time, one hundred interview subjects, and thousands of personal Bernstein documents. It is a serious study of one of the great creative personalities of our time.

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)--who was Music Director

Roger Voison, trumpeter, retired, Boston Symphony Orchestra

Steven Wadsworth, librettist, collaborator

Charles Webb, retired dean, Indiana University School of Music

Bruno Zirato, friend and associate

Sarandon (produced by Steve Rowland and Larry Abrams); Playing for the Fighting 69th; The Global Maestro with Paul Freeman; and others.

Mr. Robinson was awarded ASCAP's Deems Taylor Award for Excellence in Radio Broadcasting in 2003.

Mr. Robinson is married to Beth Schenker, an arts administrator and radio producer. They have one child, Sara, who is entering the ninth grade.

of the New York Philharmonic from 1958 to 1969, and who composed many orchestral, music theater, concert and film works including *West Side Story*, *On the Town*, *Wonderful Town*, *Candide* and *Chichester Psalms*--is an American icon. His name and image have become generic for the role of the symphony orchestra conductor and orchestral/theatre composer.

Bernstein was renowned for his passionate music-making and speaking about music, particularly in the televised New York Philharmonic *Young People's Concerts* (which are being released on DVD on September 28 by Kultur International Films). There will also be a two-CD companion set released by Universal Classics featuring works presented throughout the radio series.

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Terry Medina/The WFMT Radio Network

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VOICED BY SUSAN SARANDON

LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE is a groundbreaking 11-part documentary series illuminating the life and work of musical titan Leonard Bernstein. The series of 60-minute programs is narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Susan Sarandon.

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) was the last classical musician of our time to be a household name; no one since has achieved the level of fame with the general public as Bernstein. Bernstein became an American icon not only because of his ability to conduct and compose, but also because of the power of his personality and his passion to communicate, through music, about life, love and the human condition. Youngsters (and adults) in the 1960s and beyond were the beneficiaries of Bernstein's intense music making and insightful commentary on his *Young People's Concerts*.

This radio event took six years to produce. It is, says producer Steve Rowland, "a story -- a profound and multi-layered story with many fascinating twists: the number and variety of people, places, ideas and artistic issues that Bernstein worked with, came into contact with, and ultimately affected is stunning. And on top of his extraordinary talents in music, as a composer, a conductor, a performer and educator, there was still



[Listen to an audio overview
of the series](#)

Requires Real Player

more: He occupied a place in American culture as a voice of conscience, a voice for peace, a supporter of democracy in its broadest vision, and a force working to bring the world together through music and art. These 11 hours of radio tell a monumental story."

Virtually every aspect of Bernstein's career and life is explored through the words of Bernstein's own correspondence as well as interviews with more than one hundred people who knew and worked with him. These luminaries include John Adams, Marin Alsop, Betty Comden, John Corigliano, Adolph Green, Bobby McFerrin, Hal Prince, Mary Rodgers, Mstislav Rostropovich, Stephen Sondheim, and many others. Bernstein's family also participates in the production. His brother Burton, son Alexander, and daughters Nina and Jamie all appear through their thought-provoking interviews and readings.

Leonard Bernstein: An American Life

LEONARD BERNSTEIN *An American Life*



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■ Bernstein Letters

Series producer Steve Rowland had unprecedented access to thousands of letters exchanged with Leonard Bernstein throughout his career. Many of the letters are included in the eleven episodes of *Leonard Bernstein: An American Life*. In the series, letters are read by two celebrated actors of stage and screen--[Alec Baldwin](#) and [Maria Tucci](#). Daughter Jamie Bernstein voices Bernstein's own letters; Schuyler Chapin, Bernstein's record producer and longtime friend, voices the letters of European composers.



HEAR IT
TUESDAYS AT 8 PM
ON 98.7WFMT
CHICAGO
REPEATS SUNDAYS
AT 3 PM

NARRATED BY SUSAN
SARANDON

Produced by Steve
Rowland with Larry
Abrams

Distributed
exclusively by the
WFMT Radio Network



Alec Baldwin

Biography

Alec Baldwin last appeared on stage in The Roundabout Theatre Company's 2004 Broadway revival of Hecht and MacArthur's *The Twentieth Century*. His other stage appearances include *Gross Points* (Bay Street Theatre, 2001). His Broadway credits include *A Streetcar Named Desire*, directed by Gregory Mosher (Tony Nomination), Joe Orton's *Loot*, directed by John Tillingier (Theatre World Award), and Caryl Churchill's *Serious Money*. Baldwin's Off-Broadway appearances include *Macbeth*, in the 1998 New York Shakespeare Festival production, directed by George C. Wolf, *Prelude to a Kiss* at Circle Rep, directed by Norman Rene (Obie Award), and David Mamet's *Life in the Theatre* at the Hartman, directed by A.J. Antoon.

On film, Baldwin has appeared in *The Cooler* (Academy Award Nomination, Screen Actors Guild Nomination, Golden Globe Nomination), *Cat in the Hat*, *Along Came Polly*, *Pearl Harbor*, *State and Main*, *Thomas and the Magic Railroad*, *Outside Providence*, *The Edge* with Anthony Hopkins, *Mercury Rising*, *Ghosts of Mississippi*, *The Juror*, *Heaven's Prisoners*, *The Shadow*, *Malice*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *The Hunt for Red October*, *Great Balls of Fire*, *Alice*, *Miami Blues*, *Working Girl*, *Talk Radio*, *Married to the Mob*, *Beetlejuice*, and *She's Having a Baby*, among others. Baldwin recently completed shooting the feature film *The Last Shot* with Matthew Broderick, written and directed by Jeff Nathanson.

Baldwin began his career in daytime television on the NBC series *The Doctors*. He went on to numerous television roles including *Knot's Landing* on CBS and *Dress Gray*, an NBC mini-series. Baldwin produced and starred in the film *The Confession* (winner of the Writer's Guild Award for Best Adapted Screenplay) that was released by Cinemax Television. He co-produced and starred in the TNT television mini-series *Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial*. Baldwin was nominated for an Emmy for his role as Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara in *Path to War*, an HBO Films production, directed by the late John Frankenheimer.

Baldwin is also involved in several causes related to public policy. He is a board member of

People for the American Way. He also serves on the board of the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund, sponsored by Stonybrook University in honor of his mother. Baldwin is a member of the NYU Tisch School of The Arts Dean's Council and serves on Bay Street Theatre's Board. He is a board member of the New York Shakespeare Festival, and a dedicated supporter of various animal rights groups.

Alec Baldwin is a native of Massapequa, Long Island. He is a graduate of the New York University Tisch School of The Arts (BFA). Baldwin studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute under Elaine Aiken. He also studied with Mira Rostova. He has a daughter, Ireland Eliesse Baldwin.

Maria Tucci

Biography

Maria Tucci began her career in the original production of Tennessee Williams' *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore*. Later she won a Tony nomination for her portrayal of Rosa in the revival of *The Rose Tattoo*, played in *Suddenly Last Summer* and *The Rose Tattoo* (this time as Scrafina) in the Williamstown Williams Celebration, an then Hannah Jekles in *The Night of the Iguana*, again at Williamstown during the 1987 summer season.



She has worked extensively on and off Broadway, including *A Man For All Seasons*, *Requiem For A Heavyweight* (Tony Award nomination), Athol Fugard's *A Lesson From Aloes*, *Spokesong*, *Kingdoms* and *The Shadow Box*; Mike Nichols' productions of *The Little Foxes*, *Drinks Before Dinner* and *Marking*. Most recently, she appeared in *The Stendhal Syndrome* at Primary Stages.

At Stratford, she was Juliet twice, Ophelia, Hermione/Perdita in *The Winter's Tale*, and Irina in *The Three Sisters*. At the Long Wharf and elsewhere she has played in *Major Barbara*, *The Crucible*, *The Heiress*, *The Guardsmen*, *The Royal Family*, *Seascape* and *Master Class*.

She starred in *The Substance of Fire* at Playwrights Horizon and at Lincoln Center Theatre Club. Maria has performed in *Collected Stories* at Manhattan Theatre Club, *Between East and West*

and Fugard's *Hello and Goodbye* at the McCarter Theatre. On television she has been Ruth in Eugene O'Neill's *Beyond the Horizon* and Mrs. Alger Hiss in *Concealed Enemies*. She has also appeared in the television series *Tattingers* and *Law and Order*, and the film *Daniel*. Her film credits include *Sweet Nothing* and *To Die For*, directed by Gus Van Sant.

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HOOR ONE

Leonard Bernstein—The Early Years (1917-1939)

The series begins with an overview and introduction to the career of Leonard Bernstein. We then go back to the beginning, to the sub-culture of Eastern European immigrant American Jews in the first decades of this century; especially as reflected in the life and worldview of Bernstein's father, Sam. We look at the hopes, the ethos, the ambitions--the culture and the music of the immigrant Jews--and their resonance with, and influence on, the young Leonard Bernstein.

The hour follows Bernstein through his early years, through his Harvard years and finally to his meeting with



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Aaron Copland, and Copland's key influence on
Bernstein's development.

HOURL TWO

12 Gates to the City—Meeting the Mentors (1939—1943)

This episode sees Bernstein through his years at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia under Fritz Reiner, his first summer at Tanglewood, his friendship with the great conductor Dmitri Mitropolous, and the beginning of his life-changing apprenticeship with Boston Symphony Orchestra Maestro, Serge Koussevitsky. After Curtis, Lenny moves to New York where we meet his show business friends, Adolph Green, Betty Comden, and Judy Holliday, then performing as the Revuers, with Bernstein as an occasional accompanist.

While working as a transcriber and arranger for Harms Music Publishing, Bernstein gets his first miraculous break, an appointment as assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic. The assistantship—and the hour—culminates with Bernstein filling in for the sick Bruno Walter and becoming, in 1943, the first American born conductor to lead a New York Philharmonic subscription concert. The Sunday afternoon concert is on national radio and the 25-year-old Bernstein is suddenly a star.

HOURL THREE

New York, New York (1944-1951)

A look at the peripatetic world of the young Leonard Bernstein as he establishes himself as the wunderkind of American culture. We follow him from the creation of the

groundbreaking musical comedy *On The Town* with Jerome Robbins, Adolph Green and Betty Comden, to his emergence as a force in the world of "serious music" with the composition of his first two symphonies, *Jeremiah* and *Age of Anxiety*.

We look at some of the other personalities that were key in Bernstein's development, including the composer Mark Blitzstein and we follow Bernstein as he takes the baton of The New York City Center Orchestra. We also discuss Bernstein's role in the Israeli War of Independence, the establishment of the Israel Philharmonic and generally examine Bernstein's role as both agent and representative of the change in American culture during the immediate post war era.

The hour ends with Bernstein's marriage to the Chilean actress, the former Felicia Montealegre.

OUR FOUR

Tonight (1951-1958)

In hour four we explore Lenny's role in the development of Tanglewood, with newly established Brandeis University, his first opera, *Trouble in Tahiti*, the death of Serge Koussevitsky and the birth of Bernstein's first two children, Jamie and Alexander. We follow his triumphant conducting debut with Maria Callas at La Scala in Milan, his return to Broadway with the show *Wonderful Town*, his film scoring (*On the Waterfront*) and his compositional work of the period (*Serenade*).

The mid-'50s find Bernstein at the height of his public

reputation. We look at his TV music specials for Robert Saudek and the CBS series *Omnibus*, and finally Bernstein's landmark works in the musical theatre, *Candide* and *West Side Story*.

HOURLY FIVE

A New Frontier-The Philharmonic Years (1959-68)

Three months after Bernstein's triumph with *West Side Story*, he takes over as conductor and music director of the New York Philharmonic, arguably America's flagship orchestra. This hour finds Bernstein, enthroned as "star conductor", heir to the tradition of Koussevitsky, Stokowski and Toscanini and the living embodiment of the Television Age in serious music.

We examine Bernstein as a key cultural component of the ideology and mythos of the Kennedy Years. In this era, Bernstein also composes and performs his third and fourth symphonies *Kaddish* and *Chichester Psalms*. We hear the music and examine the mixed critical response to Bernstein's compositional work in these years. Finally, we examine the influence of televised *Young People's Concerts* with the New York Philharmonic.

HOURS SIX AND SEVEN

Bernstein: The Conductor

In these two hours, we discuss Bernstein's evolution as a conductor, including his apprenticeship with Serge Koussevitsky, Fritz Reiner, and Dmitri Mitropoulos, his Philharmonic debut and his subsequent career leading the Philharmonic. We touch on his early work with the Israel

Philharmonic and his guest-conducting career in Europe and in Israel, especially in the latter part of his life. We'll also explore Bernstein's historic role as the first important American-born conductor, as well as examining the conductor's role in general. What does a conductor do and how does he/she do it? What is the relationship between a conductor's interpretation of a work and the score itself?

We also examine Bernstein's role as a teacher, which was both central to his idea of himself, and perhaps also central to the development of a generation of American conductors.

Finally, we cover how Bernstein's interpretations of the classics differ from those of other great conductors. We will hear many examples of what music Bernstein best liked to conduct and discuss his role in the introduction of 20th Century works into the classical repertoire. We also examine Bernstein's central role in the revival of interest in the work of composer and conductor, Gustav Mahler.

HOOR EIGHT

Crossroads (1968-1978)

We follow Bernstein as he leaves the Philharmonic in 1968 to concentrate more on composition. This hour covers the creation of Bernstein's *Mass* in 1971, his Norton lectures on music and language at Harvard in 1973, and his signing of a new record contract with Deutsche Grammophon in 1972, ending his 25-year relationship with Columbia Records. This move to the

German-based record company was accompanied by a steady tilt of Bernstein away from his American base and toward Europe where he now did most of his conducting.

This hour will also touch on Bernstein's *Songfest* of 1977, his collaboration on the ballet *Dybbuk* with Jerome Robbins in 1974, and the colossal failure of his 1976 Bicentennial musical collaboration with lyricist Alan Jay Lerner, *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*.

In 1976, Bernstein publicly separated from his wife Felicia and moved in with his longtime lover, Tommy Cochran. Four months later, Bernstein moved back in with Felicia, just before she was diagnosed with lung cancer. She died in 1978 and Bernstein blamed himself for her death. He never completely recovered--either from her loss or his sense of guilt.

HOURS NINE AND TEN

Bernstein: The Composer

Bernstein's role as a composer is often overshadowed by his roles as conductor and teacher. These two hours will feature an examination of Bernstein's body of composed music. We will discuss both popular and obscure works, and will attempt a re-evaluation of Bernstein's work as a composer. We begin this process by reviewing Bernstein's musical theatre work and his concert composition as part of a whole.

This program will trace the evolution of Bernstein's own works, including his three Symphonies: *Jeremiah*, *Age of Anxiety* and *Kaddish*; and many of his other works,

including *Facsimile*, *Fancy Free*, *Chichester Psalms*, *Mass*, *On the Town*, *Wonderful Town*, *West Side Story*, *On The Waterfront*, *Trouble in Tahiti*, *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, *Songfest*, *A Quiet Place*, *Candide*, *Dybbuk*, *Halil*, *Jubilee Games*, *Arias and Barcarolles*, and other piano, vocal and symphonic works.

OUR ELEVEN

A Candle Burned At Both Ends (1979-1990)

Bernstein continues his moves toward Europe in the '80s. His work in this period includes the opera *A Quiet Place*, and the film *Love of 3 Orchestras*, which documents Bernstein's work with the Vienna Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic and the Israel Philharmonic. We examine Bernstein's role in the launching of the Mahler mania of the last 20 years as well as his last compositional work, *Concerto for Orchestra*. We follow Bernstein to his heroic Freedom Concert at the fall of the Berlin Wall, to his last performance at Tanglewood, to the events surrounding his death in 1990.

Finally, we look at the legacy. Bernstein's last period sees him racing against the clock to finish major compositional works that he hopes will help gain him the reputation as a major composer--the one attainment he feels has somehow eluded him. While his major compositions of his last period, the opera *A Quiet Place*, and his *Concerto for Orchestra* do not bring him this kind of acclaim, Bernstein remains the most celebrated conductor in the world right up to his death.

His final days are colored by his own sense of failure.
Only after his passing does it become clear the immensity
of Bernstein's place in the music of the 20th century.

Check local listings for station and airtime in your area.

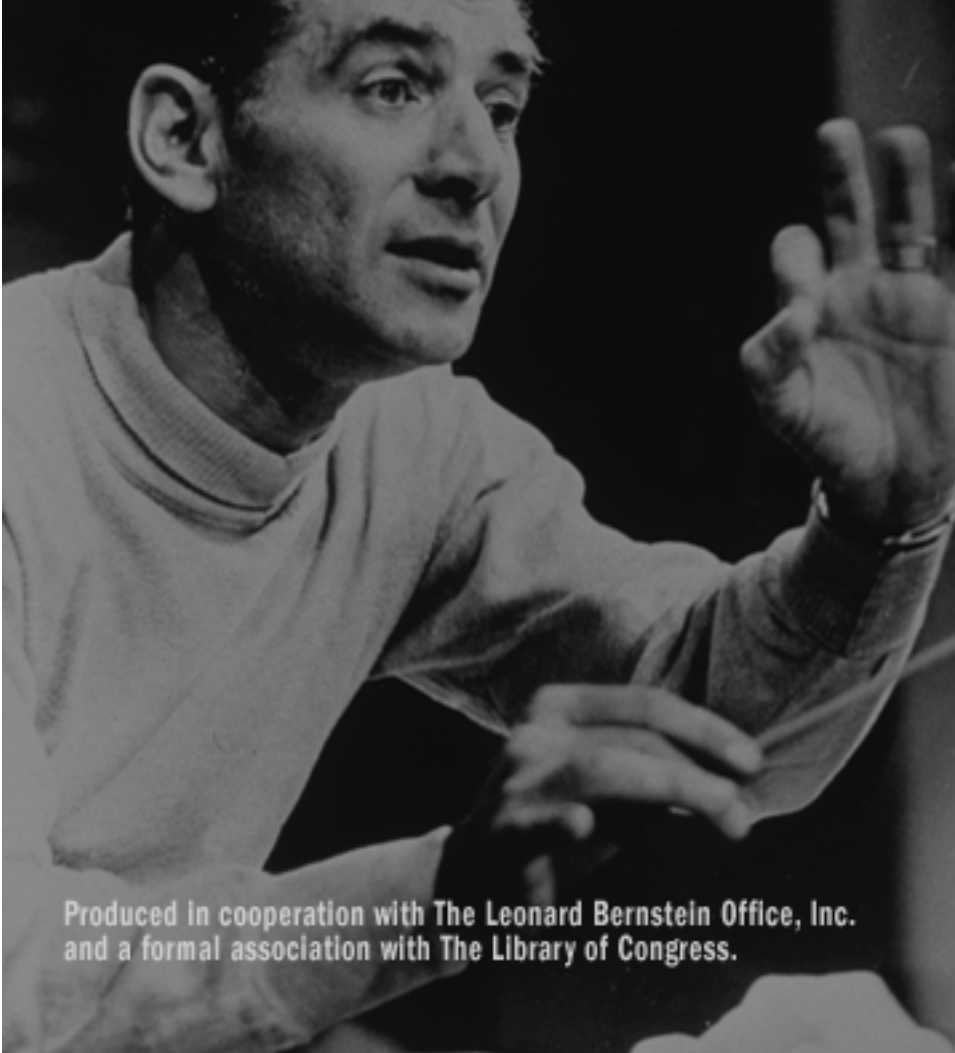


LEONARD BERNSTEIN

An American Life

NARRATED BY SUSAN SARANDON

PRODUCED BY STEVE ROWLAND WITH LARRY ABRAMS. A CULTUREWORKS PRODUCTION.



Produced in cooperation with The Leonard Bernstein Office, Inc.
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