



WRR Classical 101.1 FM
1516 First Avenue – Fair Park
Dallas, TX 75210

News Release

CONTACT: Victoria Eiker
Marketing/Promotions Manager
(214) 670-8558
veiker@wrr101.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 23, 2004

Leonard Bernstein: An American Life

11-part series airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on WRR 101.1 FM beginning Oct. 6



Leonard Bernstein

LEONARD BERNSTEIN: AN AMERICAN LIFE, a groundbreaking 11-part documentary series illuminating the life and work of musical titan Leonard Bernstein, will air on WRR Classical 101.1 FM beginning this month. 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 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

together through music and art. These 11-hours of radio tell a monumental story.”

Virtually every aspect of Bernstein’s career and life will be 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 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; (2) Twelve Gates to The City (Meeting the Mentors); (3) New York, New York; (4) Tonight; (5) A New Frontier/The Philharmonic Years; (6 and 7) Bernstein: The Conductor; (8) Crossroads; (9 and 10) Bernstein: The Composer; and (11) A Candle Burned At Both Ends.

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

‘Leonard Bernstein: An American Life’ airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on WRR 101.1 FM.