



GALAXY S III

The Next Big Thing Is Already Here

Get it now

SAMSUNG

POLITICS WORLD CULTURE MILLENNIALS MORE

Search

Log in

New York Philharmonic Opening Night Review: Millennials are Ready to Inherit Our Cultural Institutions

Pilar Isabella in Culture, Music 2 days ago

Mic 4 Share 21 Tweet 1 reddit this 2



New York Philharmonic Opening Night Review
Millennials are Ready to Inherit Our Cultural Institutions

If you think that the only way a concert can be exciting is if there are pyrotechnics, scantily clad pop stars, or a mosh pit of closely touching strangers, then you probably weren't at the opening night gala for the New York Philharmonic on Thursday night. However, even if those are your typical requirements for excitement (either because it's what *you* love, or it's what our generation loves), it is still possible that you would have found Thursday night's program engaging and yes, perhaps even exciting. Conducted by Alan Gilbert and featuring the legendary virtuosity of violin

soloist Itzhak Perlman, the New York Philharmonic gave a rousing performance for the opening concert of their 2012-2013 season at Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center.

The fashion-watching alone was a thrill, with women and men alike pulling out the stops with gowns, tuxedos and a cascade of sequins and sparkles. Many concert goers chose to bestow their support upon the New York Philharmonic with more than just the price of their concert ticket by purchasing a seat at the post-concert dinner for upwards of \$1,000 a plate. Avery Fisher Hall was, however, packed to the gills with more than just the stereotypical wealthy New Yorkers of their sunset years.

It may often be the misconception that only the older generations enjoy the heavenly strains of the New York Philharmonic, but if Thursday night is any indication of a turning generational tide, then it is turning fast and hard towards the younger generations and even the millennials. With some seats selling for well under \$100, the glamour and cache of the New York Philharmonic opening Gala Concert was available to a broader spectrum of audience members, and was clearly of interest to younger generations also.

As they announced that this concert was the opening of the 171st season at the New York Philharmonic I felt the weight of history, and understood in that moment that the millennial generation is soon to take on the mantle of preserving our cultural institutions. I wondered if those listeners in their seventies and eighties seated around me came to the opening night concert of the New York Philharmonic five decades ago, and whether or not our generation would be able to keep such a bastion of our nation's cultural heritage afloat, especially in tumultuous political and economic times.



Pilar Isabella
Pilar grew up in an adorable small town, and has now migrated to the city in pursuit of the ephemeral and mythical career of being an Artist. (ye...

OBAMA AND ROMNEY
ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

MILLENNIALS DEBATE

RECENTLY COMMENTED BY FRIENDS

- Gary Johnson Polls: Why the CPD Decision to Keep Him Out of the Debates is Illegal**
18 people commented on this.
- 50 Shades of Grey Movie Cast: Matt Bomer as Christian Grey, Even if He is Gay**
335 people recommended this.

GALAXY S III

The Next Big Thing Is Already Here

Get it now

SAMSUNG

TODAY'S MOST MIC'D STORIES

1 Add PolicyMic to your News Feed

PolicyMic

Like 5.2k

As the concert began with *The Star Spangled Banner* it highlighted how closely our artistic institutions and government are tied to one another. Funded by private donors as well as national and state grants, the New York Philharmonic is just one of many institutions that survives and thrives with positive government support, but might not continue to be a national treasure for another 171 years if that support disappears.

Last night, The New York Philharmonic played with stunning grace and fluidity, filling the auditorium with sounds that could transport a listener far beyond the four walls of the concert hall. Itzhak Perlman had the audience enrapt in silent awe as he played works by Massenet, Tchaikovsky and even John Williams. As always, Perlman is a wonder to behold, returning for a second bow to acknowledge the audience that leaped to their feet when he was finished, and simply couldn't stop clapping and cheering for their beloved musical champion.

Closing the program with Respighi's *Pines of Rome*, Alan Gilbert stationed part of the brass section in the front two boxes of the house, thereby stunning the audience with a marvelous din that was so loud it would rival a rock concert. My cheeks hurt from grinning so hard.

This season was set aflame by last night's performance. Take a chance and find some unexpected excitement at the New York Philharmonic this season, and finally find something to do with your Saturday night that you can tell Grandma the truth about.

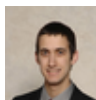
Share on **facebook**

Mic 4 Share 21 Tweet 1 reddit this 2

Sign up to join the discussion

Reply

The Discussion



Robinson O'Brien-Bours Pundit 2 days ago

Most of my life I've been going to hear the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. Every summer I try to make it to at least two concerts-- Tchaikovsky (with fireworks in lieu of cannons) and John Williams, the one of the greatest treats in symphonic music today. Almost every year Williams walks off the stage, the crowd erupts, plastic lightsabers appear throughout the arena, and he comes back for his first encore of either the Star Wars Main Theme or the Imperial March.

More people ought to go out and be exposed to such fun art more often.

Mic 0 Reply



Marcus Cunningham Pundit 2 days ago

Great article, and it's something I really haven't thought about. We have plenty of young musicians, so the supply is there. However, with cuts to arts programs and the general attitude towards this type of music, I wonder what shape these institutions will take in the near future.

2 JAPAN

From the Shadows Documentary Reflects Sad Reality of Government Sponsored Child Abduction in Japan
 15 Mics

3

Obama vs Romney: Millennials Will Achieve True Change Through Local, Not National, Politics
 9 Mics

4

Presidential Debates Schedule and Preview: Debunking Mitt Romney Prepared Lies
 8 Mics

5

Gary Johnson Florida Medical Marijuana Stance Will Boost Him in the Sunshine State
 8 Mics

Watch the **PolicyMic** Video



SIGN UP

+ Mic 0 Reply



- About Us
- Our Team
- Privacy Policy
- Terms of Service
- Jobs
- Feedback
- Contact Us



Sections

- Politics
- World
- Culture
- Millennials
- Business
- Science
- Media & Tech

Our Platform

- Writing Internship for College Credit
- Comment Policy and Community Principles
- How PolicyMic Works

Team Blogs

- Editors' Corner
- Developer Debates

Copyright © 2012 Mic Network Inc. All rights reserved.