

Reflections on the Premier of Symphony No. 1

The evening of April 5th was a personal triumph. It was among the very best days of my life, ranking right along with my marriage to Barbara and the birth of each of my three precious sons. (Of course, each of these events was a big beginning, with the premier of my symphony marking the public start of my career as a composer.) With the final notes still reverberating in the air, the jubilant crowd roared its approval and swept me out into the street on its shoulders. (At least, this is how it felt.) The NPO delivered in style – not perfection, but with commitment, passion, and heart. The presence and support of so many dear friends, family, teachers, colleagues, and acquaintances was a gratifying, remarkable gift.

Would I change anything at all about the event? Well, in retrospect I am a bit embarrassed about the length of my pre-performance lecture and the stilted delivery on my part. Next time I'll give a more abbreviated, informal talk and refer people to this site for additional details.

The other aspect that made this event so special has been all of the wonderful comments that I've received from so many people, including those who enjoyed hearing the piece as well as those who enjoyed playing it. Particularly gratifying have been the many orchestra members thanking me for writing such good parts for them. Another aspect that I enjoyed was the consternation at how such a soft spoken, mild-mannered person could write such powerful music. All in all, it was a truly unforgettable evening.

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April 7, 2008