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Notes on Tonight's Program

1. Adjective _____

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By 1810 Beethoven was already being lauded as the _____Adjective_____ living composer of the time. He began sketching his Seventh Symphony in the fall of 1811 in Teplitz, a small resort town near Prague where he had spent the summer. He returned to Vienna later that year and completed the symphony in the spring of 1812. The work was premiered in the Grand Hall at the University of Vienna on December 8th 1813 at a concert to benefit soldiers who had been wounded in the Napoleonic Wars. Beethoven's friend Johann Mlzel, an inventor and engineer who would later invent the metronome, organized the concert and Beethoven himself conducted. Programmed alongside the Seventh was Wellington's Victory, sometimes referred to as Beethoven's "Battle Symphony". The concert was one of the most successful of Beethoven's career and Symphony No. 7 received three additional performances in the 10 weeks following the premier, all garnering positive approval from audiences. Concert reviewers of the time reported that, "the new symphony was received with so much applause, again.", and that, "the applause rose to the point of ecstasy." To this day the seventh symphony is widely regarded as one of the composer's most compelling and powerful works, and even Beethoven himself referred to it as "one of the happiest products of my poor talents."

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