

DANIEL SZASZ, VIOLIN

www.danielszasz.com

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(205) 907-5456

Biography, Press Excerpts, and Concerto Repertoire

BIOGRAPHY

Daniel Szasz, “a sensitive, carrying player who sublimates his virtuosity to better serve the music” (The Birmingham News)

Active as a concert soloist, chamber musician, and recitalist, Daniel Szasz has been the concertmaster of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra since 1997. A versatile musician, interested in performing both standard and less familiar repertoire, Mr. Szasz has been consistently praised for his “expressive, rich and warm sound” as well as for his “strong, confident, and assertive playing.” His performances have been described as “breathtaking” and “exquisite” and have generated great enthusiasm among his audiences and in the press.

Born in Romania, in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu, Mr. Szasz began playing the violin at age six under the supervision of his father, a former principal trumpet player with the Sibiu State Philharmonic Orchestra. At the age of eight he played his first solo recital, and at thirteen he performed his first concerto with a professional orchestra. His teachers in Romania included Mihai Wunderlich, Victoria Nicolae, and his mentor, violinist Andras Agoston. While a student at the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj, at only nineteen, Mr. Szasz landed a position with one of the top orchestras in Romania, the Cluj State Philharmonic Orchestra, with which he toured Europe extensively, recorded, and performed as a soloist on many occasions. Following studies with Alberto Lysy at the prestigious International Menuhin Music Academy in Gstaad, Switzerland, Szasz moved to the U.S. and continued his violin studies with Vasile Beluska, Yair Kless, Gerald Jarvis, and Patrick Rafferty. He also studied chamber music with members of the Franz Schubert Quartet, Audubon Quartet, and Fine Arts Quartet.

Mr. Szasz has won numerous awards in national competitions in Romania as well as international competitions in Italy and the U.S., including the “Public Prize” at the prestigious Vittorio Gui International Chamber Music Competition in Florence, Italy, playing with his wife, pianist Alina Voicu. Over the years, Mr. Szasz participated in several music festivals, including the Graz Music Festival in Austria; the Sopron Music Festival in Hungary; and the Blossom, Chautauqua, and New Hampshire Music Festivals in the U.S. In the summer of 2006, Mr. Szasz won the position of concertmaster for the Lake Placid Sinfonietta, an annual summer music festival orchestra in Lake Placid, New York. Some of Mr. Szasz’s most notable collaborations over the years included solo appearances and chamber concerts with violinists Jaime Laredo, Andras Agoston; pianist Yakov Kasman; cellist Alban Gerhardt; mandolinist Chris Thile, and bandoneonist Raul Jaurena.

In 2004, in collaboration with the Sibiu Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Szasz initiated the establishment of the “Romanian-American Music Days” in Sibiu, Romania, an annual summer music festival that promotes American music and supports active professional interactions between Romanian and American musicians. Since 2011, Mr. Szasz has also become extremely involved with Music4Romania (www.music4romania.org), a non-profit organization aimed to help orphanages and schools in Romania while promoting Romanian music and culture in the U.S. and internationally.

Mr. Szasz’s 2014-2015 performances include solo engagements with the Cluj State Philharmonic Orchestra and the Sibiu State Philharmonic Orchestra in Romania, the Lake Placid Sinfonietta in Lake Placid, New York, the Brevard Symphony in Melbourne, Florida, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra in Masterworks and Concertmaster & Friends series, as well as other chamber music performances in Europe and the U.S.

Mr. Szasz performs on a rare 1755 Italian violin crafted by Bartolomeo Calvarola.

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PRESS EXCERPTS

"Szasz could easily hold his own with the finest violinists on the solo circuit. He was in rare form, rendering clean, crisp articulations, furious cascades of scales and a consistently rich sound."

The Birmingham News, Birmingham, USA

"The exquisite solo playing by concertmaster Daniel Szasz most eloquently attested to what makes the Fifth Symphony (Vaugh-Williams) so beautifully fragile and vulnerable."

The Birmingham News

"Several solos from concertmaster Daniel Szasz were breathtaking."

The Birmingham News

"Daniel Szasz, a musician of substance, with a charming personality. played masterfully, with much sensitivity, leading powerfully the musical discourse in its continuous dialogue with the orchestra. the climaxes were impressive, and the relaxed moments were full of light and peaceful."

Tribuna, Sibiu, Romania

"In Vivaldi's Seasons, the soloist (Szasz) demonstrated his knowledge of the Baroque performance style. His interpretation of the slow movements and the precision of his technique were truly remarkable."

Adevarul de Cluj, Cluj, Romania

"In Barber's violin concerto, Daniel Szasz's playing was virtuous and virtuosic. A combination one encounters all too rarely among concerto soloists."

The Birmingham News

"The playing of Daniel Szasz was strong, confident and expressive, and at the end it was very close to seamless."

The Chautauqua Daily, Chautauqua, New York

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CONCERTO REPERTOIRE

Arnold

Concerto for two violins and string orchestra, Op. 77

J.S. Bach

Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041

Concerto in E major, BWV 1042

Concerto for two violins, in D minor, BWV 1043

Concerto for violin and oboe in C minor, BWV 1060

Brandenburg Concertos

Barber

Concerto for violin and orchestra

Bartók

Concerto No. 1

Beethoven

Romance in G major, Op. 40

Romance in F major, Op. 50

Triple Concerto for violin, cello, piano and orchestra, in C major, Op. 56

Bence-Muk

Transylvanian Seasons (composed for Daniel Szasz)

Berlioz

Reverie et Caprice for violin and orchestra

Brahms

Concerto in D major, Op. 77

Double Concerto for violin, cello and orchestra, in A minor, Op. 102

Dorman

Concerto Grosso

Dvorak

Romance for violin and orchestra, in F minor, Op. 11

Enescu

Balada for violin and orchestra

Romanian Rhapsody #1 for violin and orchestra (arr. Harmon)

Ewazen

Concerto for trumpet, violin and orchestra

Fasch

Concerto for trumpet, oboe, violin and orchestra, in E major

Foss

Three American Pieces for violin and orchestra

Glazunov

Concerto in A minor, Op. 82

Haydn

Concerto for violin, piano and orchestra, in F major, Hob. XVIII:6

Hertel

Concerto for trumpet, violin and orchestra

Hubay

Scene de la Csarda (Hejre Kati) for violin and orchestra

Jaurena

Duo Concertante for violin, bandoneon and orchestra

Kreisler

Concerto in the style of Vivaldi

Landers

Concerto for violin and orchestra (composed for Daniel Szasz)

Lehar

Hungarian Fantasy for violin and orchestra

Lumbye

Concert-Polka for two violins and orchestra

MADERNA

Music of Gaiety for violin, oboe and orchestra

Maxwell Davies

A Spell for Green Corn - The MacDonald Dances for violin and orchestra

Mendelssohn

Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

Concerto in D minor for violin and string orchestra

Concerto for violin, piano and string orchestra

Menotti

Concerto in A minor

Mozart

Concerto No. 3, in G major, K. 216

Concerto No. 4, in D major, K. 218

Concerto No. 5, in A major, K. 219

Concertone for two violins and orchestra, in C major, K. 190

Sinfonia Concertante for violin, viola and orchestra, in E flat major, K. 364

Concerto for violin, piano and orchestra (ed. Wilby)

O'Connor

Strings & Threads Suite for violin and string orchestra

The American Seasons for violin and orchestra

Pergolesi

Concerto in B flat major

Piazzolla

The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires for violin and orchestra

Porumbescu

Balada for violin and orchestra

Prokofieff

Concerto No.2, in G minor, Op. 63

Rouse

Orange Blossom Special for violin and orchestra (arr.)

Saint-Saens

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, Op. 28

La Muse et le Poète for violin, cello and orchestra

Sarasate

Navarra for two violins and orchestra

Schnittke

Concerto Grosso No. 2 for two violins and orchestra

Still

Suite for violin and orchestra

Svendsen

Romance for violin and orchestra, Op. 26

Tchaikovsky

Concerto in D major, Op. 35
Souvenir d'un lieu cher, Op. 42
Valse-Scherzo, Op. 34

Telemann

Concerto for violin, trumpet and orchestra
Concerto for four violins and orchestra

Ungar

Ashoken Farewell for violin and orchestra

Vaughn-Williams

The Lark Ascending

Vieuxtemps

Souvenir D'Amérique for violin and orchestra, Op. 17

Vivaldi

Concertos Nos. 1-4, Op. 8 "The Four Seasons"
Concertos for 2, 3, and 4 violins and orchestra
Concerto for violin, trumpet and orchestra

Wieniawski

Concerto No. 2, in D minor, Op. 22

Williams, John

Three Pieces from Schindler's List
Tango por Una Cabeza for violin and orchestra (Gardel/arr. Williams)
Fiddler on the Roof for violin and orchestra (Bock/arr. Williams)