

The Bridge 2009

“THE BRIDGE” 02/2009 Prague

Alexander Shonert – violinist virtuoso.



No matter what he plays, you have the impression that the rules or music sheets mean nothing to him. Every composition becomes a miracle when a real virtuoso plays! Classical compositions come alive again and bewitch the listener. Alexander’s own compositions cause a multitude of emotions, as the whirlwind of music that caught the bow heard just a second ago only by Shonert, offers itself to the listener, who cannot resist the fascinating charm of the music... He casts a spell over the audience. The whole world stops and fades away when he plays. Melodies capable of transmitting the most beautiful human emotions; compositions which make us see the story that they tell: everything is played perfectly by Alexander Shonert.

Anna Kosyaeva

How unpredictable is life! It is only after coming to live in Prague that I got the chance to meet an extraordinary musician who, as I found out afterwards, comes from Siberia – exactly like me!

The first concert I saw him play at was incredible. Never before have I understood what is to have a violin in the hands of a true master. It is like magic when you see, hear and feel with all your essence that music is being born here and now! Alexander Shonert is an improviser and his unique gift turns upside down all the conventions of classical violin music.

If I am to tell you about Alexander’s artistic journey I should start with the childhood of the great violinist. He was born into a family of virtuoso piano players in Irkutsk. Alexander’s mother, Natalia, played a special role in Alexander’s education. She presented him with his first violin at the age of six. I met his mother once and she told me, smiling softly, “You never know what or how he will play on any particular day”. The skill of any pianist who accompanies this violinist-virtuoso has to be incredible!

When Alexander was 17, he went to Novosibirsk for an audition with Zachar Bron, renowned Russian professor and teacher, and was instantly enrolled into the school for especially gifted children at the Novosibirsk Conservatorium. With a recommendation from Bron, Shonert started to learn with a wonderful pedagogue, Gvozdev. It was Gvozdev who discovered yet another facet of Alexander Shonert’s talent – he was only a third-year student when he started to give master class courses on the methods of teaching.

In Prague, Alexander has mostly concentrated on his solo career, nevertheless he does not forget about his many pupils: we often see them playing musical compositions written specially for them next to him on stage. Alexander’s students have successfully performed at international violin competitions, as solo performers and as soloists with an orchestra. Alexander’s teaching methods prove to be very effective and, what is even more important, pleasing to children.

Alexander's latest project is "Jewish Violin played by Alexander Shonert". The music on this CD lets us live through a journey of love, joy, and mysticism. It links our past and the present lives. The disc has a unique programme containing inventive arrangements of national Jewish melodies, original works of Alexander Shonert and works of the classics of Jewish music depicting the journey of the Jewish violin from the Orient, across old Europe, to Prague of the present day.

Alexander Shonert is held in high regard especially in Israel. Amongst other achievements, he is a Laureate of the World Competition of Jewish Artists in Berlin.

The fortunate listener is given the impression that every note which comes from Alexander Shonert's hands, and the always-flying bow, comes directly from his soul.

Alexander will be playing at various venues in Prague over the next few months. Visit his website <http://www.shonert.com> for more details.

Tatyana and Anna Kosyaeva