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Violinist Yevgeny Kutik Soloist with Springfield Symphony Orchestra

Performing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto

Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 7:30pm
Symphony Hall | 34 Court Street | Springfield, MA
Tickets: \$23 - \$65 at www.springfieldsymphony.org

“polished dexterity and genteel, old-world charm” – *WQXR*

www.yevgenykutik.com

Springfield, MA — On **Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 7:30pm**, Russian-American violinist **Yevgeny Kutik**, known for his “dark-hued tone and razor-sharp technique” (*The New York Times*), returns as soloist to perform **Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto** with the **Springfield Symphony Orchestra** at **Symphony Hall** (34 Court Street). Led by Music Director Kevin Rhodes, this season finale performance also includes **Salvatore Macchia's Overtura Rocambollesca** and **Dvořák's** Symphony No. 9, Op. 95, E minor “From the New World,” which was performed on Springfield Symphony Orchestra's very first concert in 1944.

“Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto is one of the crown jewels in our repertoire for good reason,” says Kutik. “The melding of Russian sound, soul, folk music and virtuosity into one epic work is unparalleled, and I'm thrilled to return to the Springfield Symphony Orchestra with Kevin Rhodes to perform it.”

Yevgeny Kutik has captivated audiences worldwide with an old-world sound that communicates a modern intellect. Praised for his technical precision and virtuosity, he is also lauded for his poetic and imaginative interpretations of standard works as well as rarely heard and newly composed repertoire.

A native of Minsk, Belarus, Kutik immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of five. His 2014 album, *Music from the Suitcase: A Collection of Russian Miniatures* (Marquis Classics), features music he found in his family's suitcase after immigrating to the United States from the Soviet Union in 1990, and debuted at No. 5 on the Billboard Classical chart. The album garnered critical acclaim and was featured on NPR's *All Things Considered* and in *The New York Times*.

As an extension of *Music from the Suitcase*, Kutik commissioned a diverse group of today's leading composers for his new project dedicated to building a living archive devoted to family and memory called ***Meditations on Family: New Works Inspired by Memories and Tradition***. The composers translated a personal family photo into a short musical miniature for violin and various ensemble. Featured composers include Joseph Schwantner, Andreia Pinto Correia, Gity Razaz, Timo Andres, Chris Cerrone, Kinan Azmeh, Gregory Vajda, and Paola Prestini. Kutik recorded each of the new pieces for weekly digital release online as singles on Marquis Classics, starting in January 2018 with the full EP released on March 22, 2019. You can watch a video of Kutik perform Joseph Schwantner's *Daydreams* for violin, vocal quartet and glass harmonica [here](#).

Kutik's 2012 debut album, *Sounds of Defiance*, also on the Marquis label, features the music of Achron, Pärt, Schnittke, and Shostakovich. Kutik released his third solo album, *Words Fail*, to critical acclaim on Marquis Classics in October 2016. The album uses Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words* as a starting point to expand upon the idea that music surpasses traditional language in its expressive capabilities, and includes two new commissions on the theme by Timo Andres and Michael Gandolfi.

In April 2019, Yevgeny Kutik makes his debut at the Kennedy Center, presented by Washington Performing Arts. Additional performances in his 2018-19 season include appearances with the Dayton Philharmonic, La Crosse Symphony, Duluth Superior Symphony, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Symphony of the Redwoods, Verde Valley Sinfonietta, the Cape Town Philharmonic in South Africa, and recitals at the Honest Brook Music Festival, Bargemusic, and the Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

Deeply committed to fostering creative relationships with living composers in addition to performing music from the standard repertoire, Yevgeny Kutik has been involved in commissioning and premiering several new works. Recent highlights include the world premieres of Timo Andres' *Words Fail* at The Phillips Collection, Michael Gandolfi's *Arioso Doloroso/Estatico* at National Sawdust in Brooklyn, Ron Ford's concerto *Versus* with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, and Sheila Silver's *Six Beads on a String*, as well as the New York premiere of George Tsontakis' *Violin Concerto No. 2* at the 92nd Street Y. He has also been involved in the performances of new and rarely played works by Kati Agócs, Joseph Schwantner, Nico Muhly, and Donald Martino.

Passionate about his heritage and its influence on his artistry, Kutik is an advocate for the Jewish Federations of North America, the organization that assisted his family in coming to the United States, and regularly speaks and performs across the United States to both raise awareness and promote the assistance of refugees from around the world.

Yevgeny Kutik made his major orchestral debut in 2003 with Keith Lockhart and The Boston Pops as the First Prize recipient of the Boston Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition. He has since performed with numerous regional orchestras across the U.S., and around the world at major venues including Switzerland's Verbier Festival; with Germany's Norddeutsche Philharmonie Rostock and WDR Rundfunk Orchestra Köln; Japan's Tokyo Vivaldi Ensemble; and in Poland at the March of the Living. In 2006, he was awarded the Salon de Virtuosi Grant as well as the Tanglewood Music Center Jules Reiner Violin Prize.

Yevgeny Kutik began violin studies with his mother, Alla Zernitskaya, and went on to study with Zinaida Gilels, Shirley Givens, Roman Totenberg, and Donald Weilerstein. He holds a bachelor's degree from Boston University and a master's degree from the New England Conservatory and currently resides in Boston. Kutik's violin was crafted in Italy in 1915 by Stefano Scarpella.

For more information, please visit www.yevgenykutik.com.

About the Springfield Symphony Orchestra

The Springfield Symphony Orchestra performed its first concert in 1944, at its current home – Springfield Symphony Hall, which was originally built as the Municipal Auditorium. Today, the SSO is the largest Massachusetts symphony outside of Boston. It consists of over 80 musicians from the NE region of the United States and Canada, and holds many performances in a given season – as either the full orchestra or in ensemble formats. The Springfield Symphony Orchestra is led by internationally acclaimed American conductor Kevin Rhodes, who has held the post since 2001.

The established mission of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra is to maintain and develop a professional symphony orchestra that produces musical performances of high artistic quality; to entertain and educate their audiences; to expand and develop their audiences; and to sponsor related programs and concerts that enhance the musical life of the region it serves.