



Violinist Yevgeny Kutik Soloist with La Crosse Symphony Orchestra

Performing Korngold's Violin Concerto and John Williams' Theme from *Schindler's List*

Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 7:30pm
Viterbo University Fine Arts Center
929 Jackson Street | La Crosse, WI

Tickets: \$23 / \$41 general (\$10 student) available
www.lacrossesymphony.org or 908.783.2121, ext. 1

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

www.yevgenykutik.com

Photo by Corey Hayes available in high resolution at
www.jensenartists.com/yevgeny-kutik

La Crosse, WI — On **Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 7:30pm**, Russian-American violinist **Yevgeny Kutik**, known for his “dark-hued tone and razor-sharp technique” (*The New York Times*), returns to perform as soloist with the **La Crosse Symphony Orchestra** at the **Viterbo University Fine Arts Center** (929 Jackson Street). Led by Music Director Alexander Platt, this program entitled “Celebrating Cinema” highlights music by John Williams from timeless films, with Kutik as the featured soloist on the **Theme from *Schindler's List***. The La Crosse Symphony Orchestra performs music from Williams’ scores for *Hook*, *Jaws*, *Harry Potter*, *Indiana Jones*, *E.T.*, and *Jurassic Park*.

Yevgeny Kutik rounds out the program with **Korngold's Violin Concerto**. One of the great musical geniuses of the Golden Age of Hollywood in the 1940s, Korngold wrote the scores for *The Sea Hawk*, *Captain Blood*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, and *The Prince and the Pauper* – all of which found their way into his concerto.

“Korngold's Violin Concerto is pure beauty in musical form,” says Kutik. “I've always been amazed by just how vividly Korngold captured the luscious late-romanticism found in the early days of Golden-Age Hollywood. Each theme drips with beautiful imagery.”

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.

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 will make 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.

Celebrating its 121st season in 2018-2019, the **La Crosse Symphony Orchestra** has an extensive history serving the cultural needs of the Coulee region, including parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. The mission of the Symphony is to provide excellent symphonic music for the pleasure of the public in the tri-state region, educate people of all ages in the symphonic repertoire and tradition, and encourage student and professional musicians to develop and share their musical talents and skills.

###