

# The Columbus Dispatch

## Guest artist to offer taste of ProMusica Chamber Orchestra's future

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By Bill Mayr

"Those who do not take risks do not drink the champagne," violinist Vadim Gluzman said two years ago in describing a concert program he organized for the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. Gluzman and ProMusica enjoyed their taste of the heady wine so much that they will pop the cork again, both this weekend and for a much longer-term relationship.

"Mozart and the Masters," on Saturday and Sunday in the Southern Theatre, will be led by the Israeli violinist, who will also be a guest soloist, along with Italian pianist Alessio Bax. This will be Gluzman's fourth appearance with ProMusica but his first since his appointment earlier this year as creative partner and principal guest artist. He will officially begin those roles next season, when Austrian conductor David Danzmayr takes over as music director for five years. Danzmayr will conduct the orchestra during concerts in January and February, but this weekend will be Gluzman's opportunity to present a taste of ProMusica's future.

Gluzman, a globe-trotting soloist, will develop programs and lead and perform with the orchestra once or twice each year during the next three seasons, beginning with 2013-14. This weekend, he will be featured in Mozart's *Violin Concerto No. 3*. Bax will be featured in Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 24*. The program also includes Bohuslav Martinu's *La Revue de Cuisine* and Bartok's *Romanian Folk Dances*. In this weekend's concerts, Gluzman won't hold a baton or stand on the conductor's podium. "What you will see in the pieces when I am not a soloist, I will sit in the concertmaster's chair and lead with the violin. That is physically how it works," he said.

Gluzman spoke from Chicago. He, his wife, pianist Angela Joffe, and their 8-year-old daughter split their time between homes in Chicago and Tel Aviv. He travels extensively; his performance itinerary ranges from St. Louis and Moscow to Paris and Atlanta in coming months.



Creating a new position for Gluzman is an outgrowth of the orchestra's mission to approach music in varied ways, said Executive Director Janet Chen. Danzmayr, who will replace Timothy Russell, the orchestra's co-founder who is retiring after 35 years, proved popular with both the search committee and with the orchestra's musicians, Chen said.

"We knew hands down that David Danzmayr was the choice to be our music director," she said. "And then pretty much everyone said wouldn't it be great if we hired David and found something for Vadim on a long-term basis? The musicians said wouldn't it be great if we could work with both of them?"

When Gluzman played with ProMusica in November 2010, he and the orchestra hit it off.

"It's chemistry," he said. "I have never had the ambition to be a conductor. But from my first time with ProMusica, there was this electricity that goes between people." Gluzman said he has no intention of abandoning his violin for a baton. "Please make sure, don't call me a conductor, I beg you. I have much too much respect for conductors. But a leader is something else; that I do with great pleasure."

Conductor-less ensembles have a history dating back centuries; smaller chamber groups routinely perform without one. Gluzman said he wants to take that approach, "where each of us takes on much more responsibility, where much more artistic vision is required of everyone."

Gluzman said he and Danzmayr discussed their ideas for ProMusica a few months ago. "David happened to be in Chicago. We had a wonderful, very long dinner together, discussing artistic plans, programming. "David is the most collegial and open musician. I think we have the chance for an extraordinarily productive, exciting relationship."

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