

**Vadim Gluzman (violin)**  
**BBC Symphony Orchestra/  
Jiří Bělohlávek**

ROYAL ALBERT HALL 25 JULY 2012

Violinist Vadim Gluzman made his long-overdue BBC Proms debut in this concert. His performance of Prokofiev's First Violin Concerto was remarkable, not least at a purely technical level. If there are any flaws in a fiddler's technique this work will find them, and Gluzman has none. Even with the writing at its most fiendish, his playing was wonderfully clear and controlled, with a focused, silky tone that could whisper to the gallery, as it did at the opening, and maintain its composure when negotiating the most extreme of the composer's demands.

Gluzman's playing was unfailingly expressive. He could certainly be fiery when need be, but it is his lightness of touch which stays in the memory, in the fleet-footed, witty scherzo or the long scalar sequences in the last movement. There was a certain rhythmic freedom to his playing, ably abetted for the most part by Jiří Bělohlávek and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, although they did go awry once or twice. But this was a fabulous performance, rounded off with a gleaming encore of 'Obsession', the first movement of Ysaÿe's Second Sonata for solo violin.

TIM HOMFRAY