

World-renowned violinist Vadim Gluzman to open Shreveport Symphony season

By Devin White
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Vadim Gluzman will be sharing his life's devotion with audiences at the opening night of the Shreveport Symphony's 2012-13 season. An acclaimed violinist, Gluzman will perform Max Bruch's "Violin Concerto No. 1" in G minor.

"It's one of those universally adored pieces by musicians, by everybody. I've yet to meet a person who doesn't like Bruch," Gluzman said. "I think it's one of those irresistible masterworks. I've been playing it since I was a boy."

Gluzman, 39, truly has devoted his life to music. Born in the former Soviet Union, he expressed a desire to play music at an early age and soon his reluctant family agreed to allow Gluzman to enroll in a school for musical arts. He was 7 years old.



"That was the end of my childhood," he said. "There was no fooling around. The moment you were accepted into the school you were a musician. There was no joking. Nothing but the best was expected of us and we were pushed to no limit."

Gluzman moved to Israel in 1990 and has since appeared with major orchestras around the world, including the Chicago Symphony, London Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, London Symphony and the San Francisco Symphony.

Gluzman's recent recording of Bruch, which he will perform Saturday, received the Diapason d'Or de L'Annee award in Europe.

"To open with Vadim Gluzman is exciting for us because he really is on the ascent in his career," said Michael Buttermann, music director for the Shreveport Symphony. "He received the European equivalent of a Grammy for his recording of the concerto he will be playing for us."

Back to an eight-concert master series, the upcoming symphony season will host a variety of shows that will unite the familiar with the unfamiliar. "What we try to do with our concerts is surely present some of the great time-tested masterpieces but also to freshen the experience with things that hopefully will be new discoveries for people," Buttermann said.

In October, the Symphony will collaborate with Moonbot Studios in Shreveport for a screening of the Oscar winning animated short film, "The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore." The Symphony will perform the world premiere of a newly commissioned orchestration of the film's score.

In an unusual twist, the first performance of 2013, "Rhapsody in Blue," will combine classic symphony with today's popular music.

"We have a beat boxer joining us in January," Buttermann said. "That's a concert all about rhythm. We're bringing something totally unique and different."