

Jackiw performs dark yet beautiful concerto with IPO



Violinist Stefan Jackiw joins the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra to perform Sergei Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor on Feb. 20 at Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center in Frankfort. (Photo courtesy of Sophie Zhai)

Jessi VirtusioDaily Southtown

Many musicians dream of performing at Carnegie Hall in New York. Violinist Stefan Jackiw does just that after making a Southland stop.

Jackiw is the guest violinist for Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's "Modern Love," conducted by David Danzmayr, on Saturday at Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center in Frankfort.

"He and I worked together at ProMusica Chamber Orchestra," said Jackiw about IPO's music director, who is also the Elizabeth M. Ross music director

of ProMusica in Columbus, Ohio. That December 2014 program included the U.S. premiere of David Fulmer's "Jubilant Arcs."

"We had a nice time. We did a challenging program. I loved working with him so he invited me to play with his orchestra in Illinois."

Jackiw's debut with IPO involves performing Sergei Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor.

"It's quite dark with an iciness and menace. It's a very severe piece on the whole, at some point even nihilistic," said Jackiw. "But a lot of Prokofiev has patches of incredible beauty, lush colors and seductiveness to his music."

"The slow movement is one of the most beautiful things ever written for violin. There's tension between this iciness and sense of tenderness and warmth that drive the concerto."

After playing with IPO, Jackiw performs Violin Concerto No. 2 during his March 2 debut on Carnegie Hall's main stage as part of the Russian National Orchestra tour. Mikhail Pletnev conducts.

"I'm excited. It's a piece I've played a lot and really love. I'm looking forward to doing it. At Carnegie I'll be doing it with the Russian orchestra and a Russian conductor. The music is part of their tradition so I am really hoping I will learn about the piece also," said Jackiw.

"I try not to think of it as a milestone. I think of it as many concerts where I want to communicate as clearly and effectively to an audience as I can. I don't really think of some concerts as different than others but, of course, it's exciting in my life as a musician."

Born in 1985 to physicist parents, Jackiw started playing violin at age 4 and has performed as a soloist throughout the world.

"What I love, and a lot of people feel this way about stringed instruments, is there's something very vocal about it," he said.

IPO's concert also features Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 9, commonly known as "The Great," and "Heiras Schwester" (The Sister), written by Danzmayr's composer-conductor father, Wolfgang.

Jessi Virtusio is a freelance reporter for the Daily Southtown.

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

When: 8 p.m. Saturday

Where: Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center, 19900 S. Harlem Ave., Frankfort

Tickets: starting at \$25 for general public; \$5 for students with identification; free for Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210 students; group tickets available

Information: 708-481-7774 or www.ipomusic.org; www.stefanjackiw.com

Etc.: "Modern Love" features conductor David Danzmayr and guest violinist Stefan Jackiw; IPO Artistic Committee chairman Dr. Charles Amenta presents a free 7 p.m. pre-concert lecture about Franz Schubert for paid ticket-holders; Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra members perform at 7:15 p.m. in the lobby