



## Aleksey Semenenko, *violinist*

 Oberon's Grove

**Young Concert Artists ~ Gala ~ 2016**

*Philip Gardner | Oberon's Grove | May 11, 2016*



*Aleksey Semenenko, Michael Stern, Julia Bullock,  
and Yun-Chin Zhou after tonight's exhilarating concert*

Music by three of my favorite composers - and an opportunity to hear three gifted young musicians in solo turns with the Orchestra of St. Luke's - drew me to the Young Concert Artists' annual gala at Alice Tully Hall in a state of eager anticipation. It was a wonderful evening, with a raptly attentive audience, and it ended with a full-house standing ovation following a magnificent performance of the Prokofiev third piano concerto.

After a cordial welcome from Susan Wadsworth, we greeted the Ukrainian violinist Aleksey Semenenko, who won the 2012 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, making his New York concerto debut playing Mozart's Violin Concerto # 5 in A major with the Orchestra of St. Luke's under the baton of Michael Stern. Mr. Semenenko looks extremely young. His playing was marked by a very nice sheen on the tone, beautifully connected registers, fine dynamic control, and a cadenza that was communicative in its own right.

During the orchestral introduction to the *Adagio*, the violinist looked pensive; then his sweet timbre emerged with grace, and decorously minute trills. One lovely melodic arc crested on a *ppp* high note of shimmering beauty. Throughout, his gradations of volume were finely calibrated, adding a poetic quality to the music. The gracious finale - a rondo/minuet movement - found the violinist in full virtuoso mode, with a charming touch of playfulness. A bit of a tempest is stirred up by Mozart, before returning to the main theme. Mr. Semenenko found the concerto's "Turkish" element most congenial, and he was warmly applauded by the music-lovers who had packed the hall.