



Aleksey Semenenko, *violinist*

With Brevard Philharmonic Sunday: Award Winning Ukranian Violinist To Perform

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Aleksey Semenenko



Two spectacular internationally celebrated musicians will open the 41st season with the [Brevard Philharmonic](#) this Sunday, Oct. 15, at 3 p.m. in the [Porter Center](#) at [Brevard College](#). The program: Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky. Cornelia Laemmler Orth is the conductor, and the afternoon's guest soloist will be violinist, Aleksey Semenenko, whose artistry and intensity have won him gold medals all over Europe and earned him triumphant reviews from the New York Times and the Washington Post.

Semenenko's demanding performance schedule takes him all over the world. When the Philharmonic caught up with him via telephone this week, he was on a sentimental journey, at home in Ukraine, where he was one of the performers at the Golden Violins of Odessa Festival.

"It's a homecoming experience where I see and perform with so many of the friends and teachers from my childhood," he said.

Born in 1988 he began his study of the violin at age 6.

"My father brought me to this instrument," he said. "He was a clarinetist in the Odessa Philharmonic. He would bring me to every performance and even to rehearsals where I would sit close to him. My grandfather also played the clarinet." The obvious question would be, "Why then did they not recommend you take up the clarinet?" Aleksey laughed as he answered, "They both told me, 'Why would we want another homeless person in the family?'"

The violin proved to be the best possible choice for Semenenko, who was singled out early on and chosen to play as his school's representative at the Golden Violins Festival at the age of 7. A year later he made his debut with the Odessa Philharmonic. When Aleksey was 14, his father became ill. "That was the breakpoint for me," Aleksey said. "My father's death was the moment I got the desire to take the violin seriously."

From there, in 2012, he won the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York. In 2015, he was the winner of the International Boris Goldstein Violin Contest in Bern, Switzerland, and he made his debut with the Moscow Philharmonic soon after that.

Semenenko plays a 1699 Stradivarius which he was awarded after winning an audition in Hamburg, Germany. "The rules say one can only keep this incredible instrument until the age of 30. I have only one more year with it," he said. The Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto Aleksey will play with the [Brevard Philharmonic](#) on Sunday afternoon is one of his favorite pieces. "The music of Tchaikovsky goes straight to your heart," he said. "I especially love playing this composer for Americans who are so open with their feelings."

The New York Times praises his, "Powerful technique, rich tone and his romantic intensity." Strings Magazine raves about his, "... genuinely masterful performance, pulling the audience in from the beginning."