

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

MUSIC

Spokane Symphony highlights French composers' love of Spanish music in 'Spanish Nights'

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Violinist Aleksey Semenenko joins the Spokane Symphony on Edouard Lalo's "Symphonie espagnole" during "Classics 8: Spanish Nights." (Christian Steiner)

'Classics 8: Spanish Nights'

When: 8 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday

Where: Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 1001 W. Sprague Ave.

Cost: \$17-\$60, through the Fox box office, the symphony website or any TicketsWest outlet.

Info: (509) 624-1200 or www.spokanesymphony.org

In a 2000 review of a concert by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Anthony Tommasini, chief classical music critic at the New York Times, wrote "Though it's not polite to say so out loud, some of the best Spanish music was written by French composers."

The Spokane Symphony is banking on that sentiment for "Classics 8: Spanish Nights," Saturday and Sunday at the Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, as three of the four pieces on the program were written by French composers.

Music director Eckart Preu will first lead the symphony in Emmanuel Chabrier's "España."

Inspired by a trip to Spain that Chabrier and his wife took in 1882, "España" is a mix of elements of the music of the Andalusia community and Chabrier's improvisations on the theme.

The symphony will then perform Edouard Lalo's "Symphonie espagnole," joined by guest artist Aleksey Semenenko on violin.