

[Close Window](#)

An Evening of Russian Greats

Reviewers Name: Donna S. Kline

Company Reviewed: Marin Symphony

Soloist/s: Vadim Gluzman, violin

Performance: Marin Symphony 3rd. Concert

Location: Marin Civic Center Auditorium

Performance Date: 2008-01-22

(If you would like to comment on this review directly, please click on 'email reviewer':)
[email reviewer](#)

This past Sunday and Tuesday evenings, the third concert of the 2007-08 Marin Symphony season broke from their salute to the Silver Screen to perform a concert of two Russian greats, composers Igor Stravinsky and Peter Tchaikovsky. **The Divertimento from the ballet, The Fairy's Kiss**, composed early in Stravinsky's career (1928), and the Symphony in Three Movements, composed 17 years later, in 1945, offered an interesting contrast in the composer's illustrious career. As a lifetime admirer of Tchaikovsky, Igor Stravinsky composed music for The Fairy's Kiss to honor the 35th anniversary of Tchaikovsky's death. He arranged portions of this ballet in the resulting Divertimento (or "little diversions") in 1945. Last night's performance of the Divertimento was a **tour de force** from the orchestra. After a very minor shaky start in the wind section of Tuesday night's performance, the solo parts from cellist, Jan Volkert, flutist, Monica Daniel-Barker, clarinetist, Arthur Austin, and horn, Meredith Brown, were exceptional. Combined with Stravinsky's always interesting and complex rhythms, and the elegant playing from the orchestra's members, it set the pace for the evening.

Stravinsky's **Symphony in Three Movements**, composed during the Second World War years is much more angular, evoking Stravinsky's impressions of world events of the time. Again his complex rhythms, changing meters, and harmonies were the driving force in this seldom heard symphony. It evoked movement and energy throughout. Clearly Maestro Neale and the orchestra were in fine form for this performance. Always evoking a war-like motif, one could almost picture the lockstep marching of a military and the drum beat of guns and war. Yet, as Maestro Neale said in the pre-concert lecture, Stravinsky ends this symphony on a loud but very definite major chord, evoking hope and peace. Kudos to Maestro Neale for programming this work.

The post intermission performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major, Opus 35, with violinist, Vadim Gluzman, was the highlight of the evening's concert. Mr. Gluzman's elegant performance of the oft heard concerto brought the audience to their feet. The orchestra's elegant accompaniment couldn't have been better, as well as Maestro Neale's enjoyment in conducting it. One could not only hear, but see the "musical communication" between soloist, orchestra, and conductor. No other words come to mind other than they performed **con amore** all around. With the unfortunate exception of the bravos and loud clapping from the audience at the end of the First Allegro Moderato Movement, Mr. Gluzman, with his Leopold Auer 1690 Strdivarius performed with passion and brilliance. A short Bach Passacaglia/Chaconne performed as an encore brought a beautiful evening of music to a close. The Marin Symphony keeps getting better and better.
