



Photo by Corey Hayes available in high resolution at www.jensenartists.com/yevgeny-kutik

Violinist Yevgeny Kutik Makes Debut with El Paso Symphony Orchestra

Performing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto

Friday, October 18, 2019 at 7:30pm

Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 7:30pm

The Plaza Theatre | 125 W Mills Ave | El Paso, TX

Tickets (\$16 - \$46) and more information: www.epso.org

“polished dexterity and genteel, old-world charm” – *WQXR*

www.yevgenykutik.com

El Paso, TX — On **Friday, October 18, 2019** and **Saturday, October 19, 2019** at **7:30pm**, Russian-American violinist **Yevgeny Kutik**, known for his “dark-hued tone and razor-sharp technique” (*The New York Times*), makes his debut with **El Paso Symphony Orchestra** performing **Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto**. Led by Music Director Bohuslav Rattay, the program also features Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 “Leningrad Symphony.” Both performances begin at 7:30pm at **The Plaza Theatre (125 W Mills Avenue)**.

“Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto is one of the crown jewels in our repertoire for good reason,” says Kutik. “The melding of Russian sound, soul, folk music and virtuosity into one epic work is unparalleled, and I'm thrilled to make my debut with El Paso Symphony Orchestra to perform it.”

The Tom Lea Institute presents a unique multimedia experience incorporating Tom Lea's iconic WWII paintings, sketches and photos of his time as the first embedded artist correspondent for WWII. These elements will be synched with the powerful last movement of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 “Leningrad Symphony.”

Yevgeny Kutik has captivated audiences worldwide with an old-world sound that communicates a modern intellect. Praised for his technical precision and virtuosity, he is also lauded for his poetic and imaginative interpretations of standard works as well as rarely heard and newly composed repertoire.

A native of Minsk, Belarus, Yevgeny Kutik immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of five. His 2014 album, *Music from the Suitcase: A Collection of Russian Miniatures* (Marquis Classics), features music he found in his family's suitcase after immigrating to the United States from the Soviet Union in 1990, and debuted at No. 5 on the Billboard Classical chart. The album garnered critical acclaim and was featured on NPR's *All Things Considered* and in *The New York Times*. In 2019, Kutik launched a new commissioning and recording project titled *Meditations on Family* via Marquis Classics. He commissioned eight composers to translate a personal family photo into a short musical miniature for violin and various ensemble, envisioning the project as a living archive of new works inspired by memories, home, and belonging. Each track was released digitally weekly, and the full EP CD, produced by four-time Grammy winner Jesse Lewis, was released on March 22, 2019. *Strings Magazine* featured Kutik and *Meditations on Family* as its cover story for the March/April issue. Kutik's other recordings include his debut album, *Sounds of Defiance* (Marquis 2012), and *Words Fail* (Marquis 2016), both released to critical acclaim.

Yevgeny Kutik made his debut at the Kennedy Center, presented by Washington Performing Arts in April 2019 and debuted at the Ravinia Festival in September 2019. In addition to the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, recent and upcoming performances include appearances with the Dayton Philharmonic, La Crosse Symphony, Huntsville Symphony, New Bedford Symphony, the Cape Town Philharmonic in South Africa, Morris Museum, Honest Brook Music Festival, and the Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

Passionate about his heritage and its influence on his artistry, Kutik is an advocate for the Jewish Federations of North America, the organization that assisted his family in coming to the United States, and regularly speaks and performs across the United States to both raise awareness and promote the assistance of refugees from around the world.

Yevgeny Kutik made his major orchestral debut in 2003 with Keith Lockhart and The Boston Pops as the First Prize recipient of the Boston Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition. In 2006, he was awarded the Salon de Virtuosi Grant as well as the Tanglewood Music Center Jules Reiner Violin Prize.

Yevgeny Kutik began violin studies with his mother, Alla Zernitskaya, and went on to study with Zinaida Gilels, Shirley Givens, Roman Totenberg, and Donald Weilerstein. He holds a bachelor's degree from Boston University and a master's degree from the New England Conservatory and currently resides in Boston. Kutik's violin was crafted in Italy in 1915 by Stefano Scarpella. For more information, please visit www.yevgenykutik.com.

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