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Contents:

- **Biography**
- **Reviews**
- **Repertoire**

Daniel Szasz- BIOGRAPHY

Active as a concert soloist, chamber musician, and recitalist, Daniel Szasz has been the concertmaster of the **Alabama Symphony Orchestra** since 1997. A versatile musician, interested in performing both standard and less familiar repertoire, Mr. Szasz has been consistently praised for his “**expressive, rich and warm sound**” as well as for his “**strong, confident, and assertive playing.**” His performances have been described as “**breathhtaking**” and “**exquisite**” and have generated great enthusiasm among his audiences and in the press.

Born in Romania, in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu, Mr. Szasz began playing the violin at age six under the supervision of his father, a former principal trumpet player with the Sibiu State Philharmonic Orchestra. At the age of eight he played his first solo recital, and at thirteen he performed his first concerto with a professional orchestra. His teachers in Romania included Mihai Wunderlich, Victoria Nicolae, and his mentor, violinist Andras Agoston. While a student at the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj, at only nineteen, Mr. Szasz landed a position with one of the top orchestras in Romania, the Cluj State Philharmonic Orchestra, with which he toured Europe extensively, recorded, and performed as a soloist on many occasions. Following studies with Alberto Lysy at the International Menuhin Music Academy in Gstaad, Switzerland, Szasz moved to the USA and continued his violin studies with Vasile Beluska, Yair Kless, Gerald Jarvis, and Patrick Rafferty. He also studied chamber music with members of the Franz Schubert Quartet, Audubon Quartet, and Fine Arts Quartet.

Mr. Szasz has won numerous awards in national competitions in Romania as well as international competitions in Italy and the USA, including the “Public Prize” at the prestigious **Vittorio Gui International Chamber Music Competition** in Florence, Italy, playing with his wife, pianist Alina Voicu. Over the years, Mr. Szasz participated in several music festivals, including the **Graz Music Festival** in Austria, the Sopron Music Festival in Hungary, and the Blossom, Chautauqua, and New Hampshire Music Festivals in the U.S. In 2004, in collaboration with the Sibiu Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Szasz initiated the establishment of the “Romanian-American Music Days” in Sibiu, Romania, an annual summer music festival that promotes American music and supports active professional interactions between Romanian and American musicians. In the summer of 2006, Mr. Szasz won the position of concertmaster for the **Lake Placid Sinfonietta**, an annual summer music festival orchestra in Lake Placid, New York.

Some of Mr. Szasz's most notable collaborations over the years included solo appearances and chamber concerts with violinists Jaime Laredo, Andras Agoston; pianists Jerome Rose, **Yakov Kasman**; cellist Alban Gerhardt; mandolinist Chris Thile; **bandoneonist Raul Jaurena**, and conductors Emil Simon, Horia Andreescu, Petre Sbarcea, Ilarion Ionescu-Galati, Justin Brown, **Stefan Sanderling**, Christopher Confessore, Scott Speck, Daniel Hege, and Jaime Laredo, among others.

Mr. Szasz's 2011 summer performances included solo engagements with the **Cluj State Philharmonic** and the **Sibiu State Philharmonic** in Romania, the Lake Placid Sinfonietta in Lake Placid, New York, as well as chamber music performances in

Romania, Moldova, and the USA with the newly formed **Arrhythmia Quartet** and renowned bandoneon player and Latin Grammy award-winner **Raul Jaurena**. Upcoming 2011-2012 appearances include solo and chamber music concerts in Europe, as well as performances with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra in the Masterworks and Concertmaster and Friends series, and with the Lake Placid Sinfonietta.

Daniel Szasz-Reviews

Szasz could easily hold his own with the finest violinists on the solo circuit. He was in rare form, rendering clean, crisp articulations, furious cascades of scales and a consistently rich sound.

The Birmingham News, Birmingham, USA

The exquisite solo playing by concertmaster Daniel Szasz most eloquently attested to what makes the Fifth Symphony (Vaugh-Williams) so beautifully fragile and vulnerable.

The Birmingham News

Several solos from concertmaster Daniel Szasz were breathtaking.

The Birmingham News

Daniel Szasz, a musician of substance, with a charming personality. played masterfully, with much sensitivity, leading powerfully the musical discourse in its continuous dialogue with the orchestra. The climaxes were impressive, and the relaxed moments were full of light and peaceful.

Tribuna, Sibiu, Romania

In Vivaldi's Seasons, the soloist (Szasz) demonstrated his knowledge of the Baroque performance style. His interpretation of the slow movements and the precision of his technique were truly remarkable.

Adevarul de Cluj, Cluj, Romania

In Barber's violin concerto, Daniel Szasz's playing was virtuous and virtuosic. A combination one encounters all too rarely among concerto soloists.

The Birmingham News

The playing of Daniel Szasz was strong, confident and expressive, and at the end it was very close to seamless.

The Chautauqua Daily, Chautauqua, New York

Daniel Szasz-Repertoire

Arnold

Concerto for two violins and string orchestra, Op. 77

J.S. Bach

Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041
Concerto in E major, BWV 1042
Concerto for two violins, in D minor, BWV 1043
Concerto for violin and oboe in C minor, BWV 1060
Brandenburg Concertos

Barber

Concerto for violin and orchestra

Bartók

Concerto No.1

Beethoven

Romance in G major, Op. 40
Romance in F major, Op. 50
Triple Concerto for violin, cello, piano and orchestra, in C major, Op. 56

Bence-Muk

Transylvanian Seasons for violin and orchestra

Berlioz

Reverie et Caprice for violin and orchestra, Op. 8

Brahms

Concerto in D major, Op. 77
Double Concerto for violin, cello and orchestra, in A minor, Op. 102

Dvorak

Romance for violin and orchestra, in F minor, Op. 11

Enescu

Balada for violin and orchestra
Romanian Rhapsody No. 1/ arr. C.
Harmon for violin and orchestra

Ewazen

Concerto for trumpet, violin and orchestra

Fasch

Concerto for trumpet, oboe, violin and orchestra, in E major

Foss

Three American Pieces for violin and orchestra

Glazunov

Concerto in A minor, Op. 82

Haydn

Concerto for violin, piano and orchestra, in F major, Hob. XVIII:6

Hertel

Concerto for trumpet, violin and orchestra

Hubay

Scene de la Csarda (Hejre Kati) for violin and orchestra

Jaurena

Duo Concertante for violin, bandoneon and orchestra

Kreisler

Concerto in the style of Vivaldi

Lehar

Hungarian Fantasy for violin and orchestra

Lumbye

Concert-Polka for two violins and orchestra

Maderna

Music of Gaiety for violin, oboe and orchestra

Maxwell Davies

A Spell for Green Corn - The MacDonald Dances for violin and orchestra

Mendelssohn

Concerto in E minor, Op. 64
Concerto in D minor for violin and string orchestra
Concerto for violin, piano and string orchestra

Menotti

Concerto in A minor

Mozart

Concerto No. 3, in G major, K. 216
Concerto No. 4, in D major, K. 218
Concerto No. 5, in A major, K. 219
Concertone for two violins and orchestra, in C major, K. 190
Sinfonia Concertante for violin, viola and orchestra, in E flat major, K. 364
Concerto for violin, piano and orchestra (ed. Wilby)

O'Connor

Strings & Threads Suite for violin and string orchestra
The American Seasons for violin and orchestra

Pergolesi

Concerto in B flat major

Piazzolla

The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires for violin and orchestra

Porumbescu

Balada for violin and orchestra

Prokofieff

Concerto No.2, in G minor, Op. 63

Rouse

Orange Blossom Special for violin and orchestra (arr.)

Saint-Saens

Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, Op. 28
La Muse et le Poète for violin, cello and orchestra

Sarasate

Navarra for two violins and orchestra

Schnittke

Concerto Grosso No. 2 for two violins and orchestra

Svendsen

Romance for violin and orchestra, Op. 26

Tchaikovsky

Concerto in D major, Op. 35
Valse-Scherzo, Op. 34

Telemann

Concerto for violin, trumpet and orchestra
Concerto for four violins and orchestra

Ungar

Ashoken Farewell for violin and orchestra

Vaughn-Williams

The Lark Ascending

Vieuxtemps

Souvenir D'Amerique for violin and orchestra, Op. 17

Vivaldi

Concertos Nos. 1-4, Op. 8 "The Four Seasons"

Concertos for 2, 3, and 4 violins and orchestra

Concerto for violin, trumpet and orchestra

Wieniawski

Concerto No. 2, in D minor, Op. 22

Williams, John

Three Pieces from Schindler's List

Tango Por Una Cabeza for violin and orchestra (Gardel/arr. Williams)

Fiddler on the Roof for violin and orchestra (Bock/arr. Williams)