Arts

Perlman is playing favorites

Violinist says at Peace Center, he'll play pieces 'I personally like to hear'

By Ann Hicks
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Virtuosic violinist Itzhak Perlman can count on close rapport with his audience — worldwide as well as at the Peace Concert Hall, where he returns for a one-night-only recital Monday. One can already hear the enthusiastic applause greeting him on stage.

The Tel Aviv-native and multiple Grammy winner talked about the program of Leclair, Beethoven, Stravinsky and much more he'll perform here. He will be accompanied by pianist Rohan De Silva, an acclaimed sidekick to many other virtuosos — Cho-Liang Lin, Midori and Joshua Bell for starters.

"Usually what happens with these programs, I always play things I personally like to hear," says the convivial Perlman.

First up is Perlman's "appetizer dessert," the 18th century Jean Marie Leclair's Sonata for Violin and Piano in D Major. He describes it as a very sweet piece and adds that it makes him feel wonderful to begin a concert with such a work.

It is also a perfect counterpoint to Beethoven's C Minor Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 7, says Perlman. The 1802 work is "a typically intense composition and a perfect example of what Beethoven does with melodic material," Perlman says. "He could never write anything without some punch to it." The piece bursts with rhythmic tension.

Stravinsky's sunny, fun-filled Suite Italienne, also for violin and piano, will close the first half of the recital. Perlman says the spoof-piece on Baroque period compositions (1600-1750) was fashioned on the composer's love for the era and seasoned with his dry sense of humor.

"It's one of my favorites; I have been playing it for a long time."

As for the second half of the program, Perlman says with a laugh that he has "absolutely no idea" — only more of what he likes to play.

YOU CAN GO

- What: Itzhak Perlman, accompanied by pianist Rohan de Silva
- When: 7:30 p.m. Monday
- Where: Peace Concert Hall
- Tickets: $55-$75
- Information: 864-467-3000



Courtesy photo

Itzhak Perlman plays the Peace Center concert hall Monday night.