

Classical guitarist at PSO concert

Mediterranean Romance theme of evening show

Mediterranean Romance will be presented by the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra tonight.

"The Peterborough Symphony Orchestra will take us on a musical journey through Italy and Spain with Canadian classical guitarist Daniel Bolshoy," states assistant general manager Tori Owen.

Bolshoy grew up in Israel and moved to Ottawa with his parents while still in his teens. He started studying music at the Academy of Arts and Science in Jerusalem and continued at Arts Canterbury High School and Carleton University in Ottawa, the University of Toronto and the University of Denver.

He is an instructor of classical guitar and a lecturer on guitar history at the Indiana University's prestigious School of Music.

He will be performing Concierto de Aranjuez

by Spanish composer Rodrigo in the Symphony's season finale concert.

Bolshoy has won several top prizes in music competitions, has performed recitals in Europe, Canada and the U.S.A., and has been featured on CBC Radio Two nationwide.

"It is predicted that he will become a major figure of the international classical guitar scene," states Owen.

At this final concert of the 2004-2005 season the PSO will again launch its annual Roses for Renewal campaign, during which renewing subscribers will receive a beautiful long-stemmed rose.

Single tickets are available from Showplace Box Office at 742-7469.

All main series concerts are at 8 pm at Showplace Performance Centre, 290 George S. N.



Daniel Bolshoy

Publicity photo

THE PETERBOROUGH
EXAMINER

Weekend Edition

847

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR: WERNER BERGEN

745-4641 ext. 253

fax 743-4581

e-mail news1@ptbo.igs.net

PSO season ends on spectacular note

Wow! What a spectacular way to bring the season to a close for the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra!

Saturday night at Showplace Peterborough, Michael Newnham conducted the orchestra in a program that thrilled the large audience and brought them to their feet at the end, demanding an encore.

Labelled Mediterranean Romance, it brought colour, excitement, infectious rhythms to brighten our dull, chilly days.

While the orchestra distinguished itself, and Newnham conducted brilliantly,

the guest soloist - guitarist Daniel Bolshoy - delighted his listeners with a moving and masterful performance of the *Concierto Aranjuez* by Jaquin Rodrigo. Even at a relatively young age, Bolshoy has built an impressive list of credits, performing widely at festivals across the country, on the CBC and for films, also doing extensive concert tours,

both as soloist and with orchestras. He has won a number of international competitions.

The Rodrigo concerto is considered to be the most popular guitar concerto in history. Premiered in 1940, it contains all the colour, rhythm, mood and emotion we associate with Spanish music; and Bolshoy performed it with passion and sensitivity. His amazing technique produced fluid runs, beautiful broken chords supporting the lovely melodies.

There was a good balance between the soloist and the orchestra and some lovely orchestral solo segments, notably on the cello, English horn, oboe and horn. The strongly emotional second movement, with the guitar strumming chords, was lovingly played, and the rhythmical third movement powerful, bringing the audience to its feet.

Bolshoy delighted them with a beautiful encore, by the Spanish composer Agustin Barrios Mangone, titled *Una Limosna por el Amor de Dios*, or *An Alm for the love of God*.

It was a demanding program from beginning to end, for the orchestra, but not for the audience. The typical Spanish rhythms, so

changeable and strong, the broad range of dynamics, the changing moods required total concentration from the players, responding to Newnham's leadership, and while regular players were augmented somewhat, there was a wonderful feeling of unity among them.

There wasn't a weakness anywhere, and the selections showed off the whole orchestra. Newnham was in control all the way and the players were right with him.

The infectious rhythms and colours of Chabrier's *Espana* opened the program, with lovely playing from the horn, bassoon, great trombone and tuba. A work not often performed, but very appealing to an audience, the *Botticelli Tryptic* by Ottorino Respighi followed, three sections each based on a painting by Botticelli, and beautifully transposed to music by the composer.

Newnham's wonderful sense of drama was evident in this work. In the first, titled *Spring*, the strings evoked the breezes, the centre section delicately played by the flute, clarinet and oboe portraying the three graces.

The Adoration of the Magi was beautifully conducted and played.

The second half of the program

contained two works, the much-loved *Carmen* suite by Bizet, its five parts exciting and dynamic, with some especially fine playing from all sections, and ending with a particularly strong *Toreador Song*.

The final selection was the *Three Dances from The Three-Cornered Hat* by Manuel de Falla, a wonderfully appealing work, full of melody, rhythm and colour, beautifully flowing phrases. The audience loved it, rose for a spontaneous ova-

tion, and were rewarded by a spirited encore of the *Toreador Song*, clapping in time.

It was a perfect program to bring the season to a close and sign up even more memberships for next year.

Barb Scott is a musician, retired music teacher, an accompanist, choral conductor and freelance reviewer for The Examiner.



BARB SCOTT
MUSIC
REVIEW