

## Soovin Kim, violin

Soovin Kim has been warmly received throughout the world since capturing first prize at the Niccolò Paganini International Violin Competition in 1996. He was subsequently awarded the honor of performing a concert on “Il Cannone,” Paganini’s rarely played *del Gesu* violin. One year later, he received the prestigious Henryk Szeryng Foundation Career Award, leading to performance and recording engagements throughout Europe. He was again honored in 1998 with an Avery Fisher Career Grant and was a Bronze medalist at the 2002 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis. He has been the recipient of the prestigious London-based Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award for 2005 and will tour the major European centers this Fall including the Konzerthaus/Vienna, Queen Elizabeth Hall/London and the Concertgebouw/Amsterdam with Christian Tetzlaff.

Mr. Kim’s musical activities encompass a wide range of repertoire from Bach to the works of living composers. His virtuosity is notable in programs as diverse as the complete 24 Paganini *Caprices* which he performed on an eleven-concert tour across Italy shortly after winning the Paganini prize to last season’s challenge of performing Bach’s 6 *Sonatas* and *Partitas* for solo violin for the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society where he performs regularly.

He has performed as concerto soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, Accademia di Santa Cecilia Orchestra, the Prague Chamber Orchestra, and the Mozarteum Orchester in the famed Salzburg Festspielhaus. Two career highlights were Mr. Kim’s appearances at the Salle Pleyel in Paris with the Orchestre Pasdeloup in a concert honoring the late Henryk Szeryng’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and a performance at Carnegie Hall on Christmas Eve with Jaime Laredo conducting the New York String Seminar Orchestra.

As a recitalist, he has performed in Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Terrace Theater at the Kennedy Center, Herbst Theater in San Francisco, and Casals Hall in Tokyo, as well as at Ravinia. Last season he also made his Korean recital debut at the Seoul Arts Center.

Recent and upcoming concerto performances include engagements with the Baltimore Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Nashville Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Florida Philharmonic, a tour with the Syracuse Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Acadiana Symphony, North Carolina Symphony Orchestra, Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, Portland Symphony, Erie Philharmonic, Annapolis Symphony, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Indianapolis and Philadelphia Chamber Orchestras, the Seoul Philharmonic and multiple re-engagements with the KBS Symphony Orchestra.

His recently released CD on the Azica label of the Paganini 24 *Caprices* has been lauded by critics and peers, including the Best Instrumental Disk of the Month by Classic FM magazine.

Mr. Kim is in great demand as a chamber musician and devotes part of each year to touring with the Johannes Quartet, comprised of the concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and associate principals of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Together with violist Michael Tree of the Guarneri Quartet and cellist Margo Tatgenhorst of the American Quartet, he performs as a founding member of the string trio *Divertimento*. He frequently participates in the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont and on tour, and as a guest artist with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Born into a family of non-musicians, at his request, Soovin was given a violin at the age of four. Soovin has worked with some of the finest pedagogues and artist-teachers throughout the world, blending qualities from various violin traditions. At fifteen, he was invited to study with David Cerone and Donald Weilerstein at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He continued studies with Victor Danchenko and Jaime Laredo at the Curtis Institute of Music, where he received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1999.

He plays on a 1709 Antonio Stradivarius violin, the “ex-Kempner.”