

Tetzlaff tells stories through music

Wednesday

Posted Feb 8, 2017 at 8:42 PM

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Stories From Chatter Network

Woman, 28, Accused Of Sex With Boys In Public Bathroom

Ocala Star-Banner, Ocala, FL

Police: North Port Teacher Shoots Husband, Kills Herself

Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Sarasota, FL

Homeless Woman Arrested For Having Sex With Boys In Public Bathroom

Northwest Florida Daily News, Fort Walton Beach, FL

2 Inmates Charged In Attack At Polk County Jail

The Ledger, Lakeland, FL

By Keith Powers Correspondent

If you go...

WHAT: Christian Tetzlaff, violin, and Lars Vogt, piano

WHERE: Shalin Liu Performance Center, 37 Main St., Rockport

WHEN: Sunday, Feb. 12, 3 p.m.

TICKETS: \$42-\$59. Visit www.rockportmusic.org or call 978-546-7391.

Prepare yourself.

The German violinist Christian Tetzlaff comes to the Shalin Liu Performance Center this Sunday, offering a recital with pianist Lars Vogt featuring music of Beethoven, Schubert, Bartok and Mozart.

Rockport Music has brought many great musicians to the SLPC stage over the years. But perhaps none as deeply inspired, thoughtfully prepared and musically astute as the 50-year-old Tetzlaff.

Greatness is a given in the world of classical music: arduous training, challenging repertory and a kind of cutthroat atmosphere weed out all but the most talented, the most ambitious — and the luckiest — of performers. Superlatives comes easy, for most all performances.

Tetzlaff takes that virtuosity to another plane. Performing great music with accuracy and technical skill is quite enough for most musicians; Tetzlaff does that, and makes the music into his own personal statement as well. Time after time, repeated performance after repeated performance.

Like the Beethoven violin concerto, which Tetzlaff says he has performed "more than 300 times," and which he played last season with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. His performance made the work, written more than 200 years ago, sound like the ink of the page was still wet.

"For me, performing seems quite as easy as any storyteller who tells a tale," Tetzlaff says on the phone from Cincinnati, where he was playing the second Bartok concerto with the orchestra under John Storgards.

"I'm there to tell my audience the story as truthfully and touchingly as possible," he says. "It's not something that has ever been done before. And I'm totally inspired whenever I'm allowed to play it. I try to understand what is written, and I gain my freedom in that way."

Tetzlaff understands that his ideas often attract criticism: instead of always striving for a uniform, lusciously appealing violin sound, he's not afraid to explore, not to try continually to impress audiences with surface appeal.

"The beautiful sound is not always the best expression," he says. "When I play a piece I feel it's new, it's renewable. I have no interest in the feeling that, 'We've heard this so often, what can it tell us?'"

This approach applies to standard works, and to contemporary works as well. Even with new compositions, Tetzlaff has his own approach.

"I've played a lot of new concerti, but I only play them when I feel they are worth playing," he says. "And I like to repeat them. This idea that orchestras continually commission new works, like they take some pride in commissioning them, but don't play them except the first time — I don't like that.

"Take Jorg Widmann's concerto — that's one piece I know is strong, and I try to play it every four years. With new works, I think that's best for audiences and for performers."

Tetzlaff is quick to point out the inaccuracy in the observation that this program — Beethoven's sonata no. 7, the second Bartok sonata, Mozart's F major (K. 377), and the Schubert B minor Rondo — offers largely standard repertory.

"Bartok's second sonata — quite unusual, even for him," he insists. "It's surreal and strong, much more alien than his quartets, or even his other sonata. It's a new world."

Violinist Christian Tetzlaff performs with pianist Lars Vogt on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 3 p.m. in the Shalin Liu Performance Center, a presentation of Rockport Music. For tickets and information visit www.rockportmusic.org or call 978-546-7391.

Keith Powers covers music and the arts for GateHouse Media and WBUR's ARTery. Follow [@PowersKeith](https://twitter.com/PowersKeith); email to keithmichaelpowers@gmail.com

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Sarasota Herald-
Tribune, Sarasota,
FL

**Homeless
Woman
Arrested For
Having Sex With
Boys In Public
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Northwest Florida
Daily News, Fort
Walton Beach, FL

**Will Rhode
Island Have
School
Monday?**

The Providence
Journal, Providence,
RI

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