

[David Garrett UK Showcase](#)

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The first UK Decca showcase of the year was one to remember as international superstar David Garrett dazzled the crowd with his violin virtuosity on January 25th. This was violin playing with a difference. At the opulent venue, Café de Paris, in London's Piccadilly, Garrett made a surprise entrance from the balcony, playing as he walked down the sweeping staircase. Backed by his own band, David brought a new energy to tunes such as "Smooth Criminal" and "Live And Let Die" with an eclectic style that combines his twin passions of rock and classical music.

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Since David Garrett usually plays to some 15,000 people a night, experiencing his artistry in such an intimate setting was a real one-off.

A slight technical hitch prompted the violinist to play some unaccompanied Bach, whereupon the room – packed full of key UK and international media, Universal Music executives and fans – was stunned into silence by his flawless impromptu performance.

After an onstage Q&A session, David was surprised to be presented with a disc by President of Decca Records Group, Dickon Stainer, to mark worldwide record sales of 2 million.

Although Garrett has the good looks to gain modelling contracts and a GQ award, it was his blend of technical perfection and musical passion, even as a youthful prodigy, that led to him being the youngest ever artist to sign to Deutsche Grammophon at the age of just 12!

Hearing David Garrett's thrilling yet immaculate playing explains just why he is listed among the biggest grossing live artists of 2010 in Billboard. His performances combined the two contrasting musical genres effortlessly: a superb launch indeed for his forthcoming DVD, *Rock Symphonies – Live On A Summer Night*, released through Decca internationally on March 7th.

Earlier in the day, around 25 Universal Music delegates from around the world who had flown in for the UK David Garrett showcase met in Kensington's exclusive Baglioni Hotel, for a Decca UK presentation of current and forthcoming priorities for 2011.

Host Mark Wilkinson, MD of Decca Records pointed out, the timing of this 'Decca Day' presentation could not have been better as the label has two albums riding high in the UK Midweeks both Imelda May's *Mayhem* and Alfie Boe's *Bring Him Home* are in the Top 10 week commencing January 24th.

Dickon Stainer, started off the proceedings in the Kensington Suite by welcoming guests and describing the true diversity of the Decca 'Black' label, before handing over to Mark Wilkinson who showed a 17-minute video presentation featuring artists David Garrett, Imelda May, Eric Whitacre and Alfie Boe – together with a first look and listen of new signing Mary-Jess, and Hayley Westenra's incredible new collaboration with Maestro Ennio Morricone!

Mark introduced Hayley into the room to a warm applause, giving delegates the chance to talk with her directly about the new album and her experience of working with Morricone.