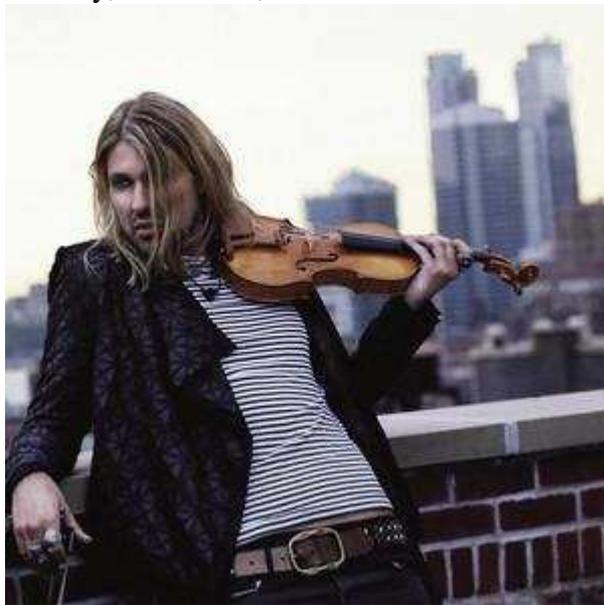


Feel a tug on his heartstrings

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Some people are just blessed with good looks. All they need to do is squint their eyes, pout their lips and the result is voila, simply picture perfect. What's more, much to the envy of the rest of the world, is that some are even excruciatingly talented.

Meet David Garrett, a violinist who once held the record of the world's fastest violin player, according to the Guinness World Record performing *Flight Of The Bumblebee* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov in 1 min 5.26 seconds (13 notes per second).

As if that's not impressive enough, Garrett capitalises on his looks that can melt even the coldest ice queens, by modelling. His fashion/brand partnerships include Banana Republic, Sony Walkman, S. Oliver and more recently, Audi cars.

Although he can maintain a luxurious lifestyle with modelling, his love falls on music. With a number of albums to his name, Garrett has enjoyed considerable success in South East Asia, scoring Gold album status in both Hong Kong and Singapore with his first studio album, *Virtuoso*.

In 2009, his classical album *Classic Romance* was sharing the chart with Lady Gaga and The Black Eyed Peas in the Top 5 during Christmas week!

His latest release *Rock Symphonies* went straight to No.1 in Germany. The album is now platinum in Germany and gold in Switzerland and Austria.

With Rock favourites like *Smells Like Teen Spirit*, *November Rain*, *Walk This Way*, *Master Of Puppets* and *Live And Let Die* on the song list, it's easy to see how the instrumental album managed to garner mass appeal.

But selecting the songs for the album must have been a pain, knowing how many good rock songs there are in the market. So how did he make the final song selections for the album?

"Kind of a lot of instinct, a lot of gut feeling and in the end, after choosing the 20 pieces you end up recording, you just want to have like a good feel through the record, so you just think which piece kind of fits behind which piece. Of course you change a couple of things once in a while but, it's more like a natural progress. But basically, you already have the list in your head while you record it, even though you don't know it," Garrett elaborated in an interview.

Every artiste needs a specific muse, a subject, an inspiration to form their art. While some rely on a spouse, daughters, failed relationships and even nature at times to be inspired, for Garrett, he is inspired by everything.

"I think music in the end is more of a conversation, and I think your emotions, like how you feel during the day and then as we react differently to certain situations, inspire music," he continued. "So I think that's why we're able to play music and listen to music, because it does change the chemistry".

A true musician, Garrett does not limit himself to only playing the violin.

"I play the piano, but that's only for me at night, after a good glass of wine or two. Not as good as playing the violin though, otherwise I would play it," he added, laughing.

So violin is first and foremost, his favourite instrument. Mastering the art is not an easy task. One has to be really passionate and committed, something Garrett is very familiar with - he has been playing the violin since he was four years old, practicing his craft for hours daily. Some would see it as a chore, but for Garrett, he's loving it.

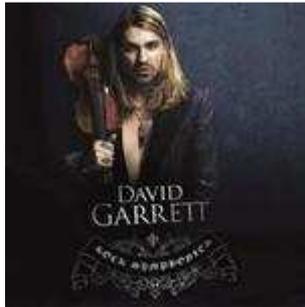
"I try to practice about four hours as a mandatory kind of thing, I just know where to keep in shape, if I have to learn new stuff or prepare something a bit more, but four hours is like the minimum of a daily working day.

"I think I actually do like practicing because it's like meditation, you spend a lot of time with yourself, you kind of always have to search for the fun in practice, and to see you improve something or to find a new fingering which I think is very exciting. Actually, I probably like practicing more these days than when I was a kid."

Now that he is known as a great violinist, we wondered if that's what he wants people to take away, if, God forbid, his time is due.

"I don't want people to think of me as a classical artiste or a crossover artiste or a pop artiste, I don't even want people to think of me as a violinist. I don't think of myself as a violinist, more as somebody who just picks the best music and hopefully has good taste. I'm pretty much like an iPod where in the end I just have a great playlist.

"And I think these days, there are no boundaries anymore, and everything just grew together in the music world. I'm not talking about the music industry, everything fell apart there but, the music world in itself kind of grew together and that's pretty much a nice way to kind of also interpret what I do. I just take the best from everything and try with good taste to just, have a great time with it."



CD Giveaway!

Interested in knowing Garrett further?

Well, let him speak to you with his music, via *Rock Symphonies*. We have 10 CDs to giveaway, so the first 10 to give us two song titles from David Garrett's *Rock Symphonies* gets the album!

Email your answer to umusic1@gmail.com along with your particulars (Full name, address, contact number, IC number) by tomorrow, 9am with the subject Universal Music Malaysia/*The Malay Mail* Rock Symphonies-David Garrett contest.