

From the Verbier Festival Blog of Eugenia Zukerman

David Garrett, classical violinist and superstar

Walk through the streets of Verbier this summer and you might bump into top classical stars like Joshua Bell, Evgeny Kissin, Gidon Kremer, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Rene Pape, Bryn Terfel... and one who is tops in classical and other genres. David Garrett, popular crossover artist, studied violin with Itzhak Perlman (among others) and composition with Eric Ewazen. He's one of the few artists who's been able to intertwine Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal" with Mozart's Turkish March, and to hot-wire Beethoven, Vivaldi, Paganini and company with enormous success. Garrett is a champion of the belief that classical music and rock can share chords without compromising musical standards. As a result of his sold-out crossover shows he says he's begun to see more young people at his classical concerts. His traditional violin performances are superb, as was his Beethoven Concerto here a few days ago with the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra. His upcoming festival recital of Brahms, Mozart and Beethoven sonatas is completely sold out. He seems unfazed by his fame and more interested in having a large fan base in which to kindle enthusiasm for classical music. At age 30, he's a multifaceted superstar who's comfortable with all kinds of music, and with himself.