

Rock of Ages

By Katie Green, on December 21st, 2011



One could easily draw comparisons between world-class violinist David Garrett and Kurt Cobain — and not just because of the startling resemblance between the two. Garrett has introduced a whole new genre of music to a younger generation with his release of *Rock Symphonies*. The title says it all — Garrett covers songs, including Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit,” Led Zeppelin’s “Kashmir,” and Guns n’ Roses’ “November Rain.” Garrett performs at the Benedum Center on **January 29**, celebrating *Rock Symphonies*. We caught up with the violin wunderkind in anticipation of his show.

Have you ever been to Pittsburgh? If so, what did you do or see when you were here?

I had the pleasure of coming earlier this year. I performed at the Benedum Theater with my band back in February. The fans were great — they loved all the different styles of music, which was a joy for me.

Your goal is to introduce young people to classical music. How do you feel you've accomplished that?

Perhaps because I am younger and more accessible, closer to the age of those young audiences, and doing something different with the music. Step by step, once a younger generation comes to my shows, I hope that they see classical music has so much to offer and visit more classical concerts. That's why we play Bach, Beethoven, and Vivaldi, mixed in with AC/DC, Metallica, and Guns n' Roses!

What was your inspiration for *Rock Symphonies*?

I love both classical and rock, and thought, 'Why not combine the two?' Classical and rock have a very close connection. They have a strong sense of rhythm and precision, so I always felt that out of all music directions, these two work closely together. Being a musician means you've got to find your own path and do what you love doing.

What's next in your musical career?

Next, I am reverting back to my core classical roots and will be releasing Beethoven's Violin Concerto hopefully next year in the U.S. I recorded it at the famous Abbey Road Studios in London with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra — a real thrill. In 2012, there will also be more touring in the States, Europe, and South East Asia and I'll also start recording my next crossover album.