

MailOnline

The classical crossover violinist, 32, on fast living, freebies and thwarted romance

SCROLL DOWN FOR VIDEO



Violinist David Garrett, 'It's hard to sustain a serious relationship. Either they have to travel with me or they're at home while I'm away'

Do you have a wild lifestyle to match your rock-star looks?

You have to take care of your body and mind to do as many shows and as much travelling as I do. These days musicians are aware of their responsibilities, whatever field they are in, so it isn't possible to live that kind of lifestyle.

Does your image stop people taking you seriously as a classical musician?

As long as a great violinist like Itzhak Perlman says he loves my playing then I don't really care too much about others not liking me. I'm not saying I would never wear a suit on stage, but it doesn't make the music sound any better.

Who are your favourite bands?

I'm a big fan of rock because I appreciate the skill of people actually playing their instruments. It's not created on a computer. For me, Queen and Led Zeppelin are the total package.

You're from Germany. Do you have a sense of humour?

I think I have a very good sense of humour. You have to be able to laugh once in a while, especially when things go wrong. My father is German and my mother American, so I actually have dual citizenship, which is very useful [David uses his mother's maiden name Garrett professionally].

Where's home?

I have apartments in Berlin and New York, but I don't spend much time in either place as I'm away for up to 340 days a year.

What would be an ideal day?

Being in a little house near the beach, maybe in the Maldives, with no phone reception. Once a year I have ten days off, which I like to spend by myself as far away as possible from civilisation.

What do you spend your money on?

Not much. It's perverse that once you make good money people give you things, from Diesel jeans and a Dolce & Gabbana jacket to the cars I drive. A few years ago, when I didn't have much money, nobody wanted to give me anything!

Any time for romance?

Sometimes, but it's very hard to sustain a serious relationship. Either it means someone has to travel with me – which I've tried and it has never worked out – or they're at home while I'm away most of the time. Maybe in a few years I will have the option to go for it.

Music by David Garrett is available now; an album of previously unreleased recordings, 14, will be released on 15 July, both on Decca