

# *Elissa Lee Koljonen*

Violinist



Recognized as one of the most celebrated violinists of her generation, *Elissa Lee Koljonen* has thrilled audiences and critics in over one hundred cities throughout the world. *Ms. Koljonen* initially received international acclaim when she became the first recipient of the prestigious Henryk Szeryng Foundation Award and the silver medal at the Carl Flesch International Violin Competition. Her playing has been lauded by the Helsingin Sanomat (Helsinki) as “sparkling, sensual and personal”. Dan Tucker of the Chicago Tribune writes, “She displayed boundless technique and musicianship,” and reports the Detroit News, “...Koljonen brings to her playing not just assured technique but unflinching purpose and confidence.”

*Ms. Koljonen's* upcoming highlights include performances with the Alabama, Eugene, Greenwich and Southwest Florida symphonies, among others. Recent past performances include engagements with the Annapolis Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Boston Pops, Buffalo Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Champaign-Urbana Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Delaware Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, New World Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, Reading Symphony, and South Dakota Symphony. She has previously appeared with orchestras worldwide, including the Bilbao Symphony/Spain, Helsinki Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, and the Seoul Philharmonic.

*Ms. Koljonen* has collaborated with such noted conductors as Mattias Bamert, James DePreist, Lawrence Foster, Richard Hickox, Neeme Järvi, Louis Lane, Andrew Litton, Eiji Oue and the late Bryden Thompson. Her engagements have taken her to some of the world's most important venues, among them the Vienna Musikverein, Salzburg Mozarteum, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, London's Barbican Centre, Seoul Arts Center, Boston's Symphony Hall, and Philadelphia's Academy of Music.

As a recitalist, *Ms. Koljonen* has performed in many musical capitals including London, Amsterdam, Salzburg, Seoul, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and New York. A 2004 performance in Carnegie Hall was hailed with excellent critical review. Also an avid chamber musician, *Ms. Koljonen* appears regularly at festivals throughout North America, Europe and Asia. She garnered critical acclaim for her debut at the Queen Elisabeth Hall in London and her appearances with the London

Mozart Players and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo in a special concert celebrating the 700th anniversary of the Grimaldi Dynasty.

*Ms. Koljonen* is a protégé of the great Aaron Rosand at the Curtis Institute of Music. Through his influence, she continues the legacy and tradition of Leopold Auer and his legendary school of violin playing.

<http://www.elissaleekoljonen.com/web/home.aspx>

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“Few violinists have the dexterity required to cleanly articulate the passagework in this concerto, of these fewer are also patient enough to allow the warm and simple lyricism of the piece to unfold. Koljonen was able to hear deeply within the orchestra and she interacted with individual musicians with eloquence ... The audience was stunned at the close of the work and rose for a standing ovation almost prior to applauding.”

*Greenwich Times*