

# JENNIFER KOH

violinist

*~ at the Blossom Festival ~*

The debutante Saturday was Gian Carlo Menotti's Violin Concerto, a 1952 work that violinist Jennifer Koh has been championing since she recorded it several years ago with the Spoleto Festival Orchestra and Richard Hickox on the Chandos label. Her Blossom performance provided a gorgeous introduction to a piece steeped in Romantic tradition and thoroughly removed from the avant-garde learnings of the mid-20th century.

Koh applied fragrant sweetness to the poetic writing and fierce vigor to Menotti's dramatic statements. Her tone projected clearly and soaringly into the cool night air, partly because of the 1727 Stradivarius she has played for six years."

*- Donald Rosenberg, Cleveland Plain Dealer, August 25, 2003*

"Violinist Jennifer Koh, making her Cleveland Orchestra debut, sounded perfectly integrated into the orchestral fabric. Koh chose the Violin Concerto of Gian Carlo Menotti for her debut, and she couldn't have picked a better vehicle to show off her considerable powers of musicianship and persuasion.

She is a gung-ho advocate for this work of mid-20th century romanticism. Koh's suave technique and alert musicianship helped her put across the lyricism that is always present in the work and also let it sound utterly fresh.

It was terrific to hear such a strong, intelligent personality from someone in the 20-something generation of violinists. Koh belongs on a short list of soloists to invite back soon."

*- Elaine Guregian, Ohio Beacon-Journal, August 24, 2003*

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