

ALEXANDER MARKOV, VIOLINIST

Internationally celebrated violinist Alexander Markov has been hailed as one of the world's most captivating and versatile musicians. Whether performing as a soloist with prestigious orchestras at major concert halls or playing in sports arenas in front of tens of thousands of people on his gold electric violin, Markov always makes an instant connection with his audiences.

Markov was born in Moscow and studied violin with his father, concert violinist Albert Markov. By the time he was eight years old, he was already appearing as a soloist with orchestras and in double concertos with his father. The duo still performs together in concert halls worldwide. Alexander emigrated to the U.S. with his parents and received his United States citizenship in 1982.

Before being awarded a prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1987, Markov made his New York debut recital at Carnegie Hall in 1983. His recent headlining concerts at the legendary venue were filled to capacity. A Gold Medal winner at the Paganini International Violin Competition, he has appeared as a soloist with some of the globe's most esteemed orchestras including: the Philadelphia Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, the Montreal Symphony, Budapest Festival Orchestra and the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra. Markov has also performed with such conductors as Lorin Maazel, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Franz Welser-Möst and Ivan Fischer, and has shared stages with Martha Argerich and other luminaries.

Markov's reputation in the 19th-century romantic virtuoso repertoire is second-to-none. One of the few violinists anywhere who performs the entire set of the 24 Paganini Caprices in a single recital, he is featured in the internationally acclaimed film about great violinists, "The Art of Violin," directed by the prominent film director Bruno Monsiegeon. His CD release and video of the 24 Paganini Caprices, distributed world-wide by Warner Classics International, caused a sensation and became a best-seller. In 2006, Warner released the long-awaited DVD of the 24 Paganini Caprices and it instantly became one of the best-selling classical DVD's on Amazon. Many of his Caprices have been posted to YouTube by fans, and some clips have over five million hits.

Markov's musical journey goes beyond his work as a classical violin soloist. He has composed numerous rock compositions featuring his unique "gold" six-string electric violin (designed by James V. Remington with whom he also composed an early work "The Rock Concerto") accompanied by an orchestra, a choir and a rock band. The vision of this project is to bridge the gap between rock fans and classical audiences and to attract young people who otherwise might never go to a symphony.