



# MARK KAPLAN, VIOLIN

"... a rich, luminous tone quality that hung resonantly in the air; near-perfect intonation, even in the most treacherous multiple-stopped chords... these were formidable performances"

[Bach Sonatas and Partitas]

*Los Angeles Times*

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**Mark Kaplan** has established himself as one of the leading violinists of his generation. His consummate artistry has resulted in solo engagements with nearly every major American orchestra, including the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras, the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras, the Chicago and National Symphony Orchestras, and the symphony orchestras of St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Minnesota, Cincinnati and Indianapolis. He has collaborated with many of the world's foremost conductors, among them Ormandy, Tennstedt, Maazel, Masur, Ashkenazi, Dutoit, Bychkov, Comissiona, Conlon, Foster, Gatti, Rattle, Robertson, Salonen, Semkov, Skrowaczewski, Slatkin and Zinman; and has appeared regularly at festivals such as Aspen, Blossom, Chautauqua, Grant Park, Ravinia, Saratoga and Wolf Trap.

Mark Kaplan has also maintained a flourishing international career since his European debut in 1975 when he was asked on short notice to substitute for Pinchas Zuckerman, playing the Bartók Concerto in Cologne under the baton of Lawrence Foster. In subsequent seasons he has made highly acclaimed concerto and recital appearances in all the musical centers of Europe – London, Berlin, Paris, Vienna, Prague, Zurich, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Milan – as well as in Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore. Among the particularly memorable musical experiences for Mr. Kaplan have been Beethoven violin concerto performances with Klaus Tennstedt together with the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra and National Symphony Orchestra, several appearances with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, and his many projects involving the solo works of Bach.

In addition to his solo music-making, Mr. Kaplan is devoted to chamber music. As a member of the Weiss-Kaplan-Stumpf Trio with pianist Yael Weiss and cellist Peter Stumpf, he records and concertizes world-wide. Mark Kaplan performed and recorded extensively for two decades in the Golub-Kaplan-Carr trio, with cellist Colin Carr and the late pianist David Golub.

Mr. Kaplan has a wide range of repertoire currently available on compact disc. His re-recording of the solo violin works of JS Bach is due for release in 2016, joining recent CDs of concerti of Berg and Stravinsky, the Lalo Symphonie Espagnole and the Concierto Espagnol of Joan Manen, all under the baton of Lawrence Foster, as well as Lewis Spratlan's Concertino and the tone poem, *Le Ménétrier*, by Max d'Ollone. His discography also includes the Bartók Violin Concerto No. 2, Dohnanyi Violin Concerto No. 2, violin concerti of Paganini, Wieniawski and Viotti; the Brahms Double Concerto; Spanish Dances of Sarasate; various works of Bartók, violin and piano sonatas of Schumann, and trios of Brahms, Debussy, Dvorak, Fauré, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninov, Saint-Saens, Schubert, Smetana and Tchaikovsky. The Golub-Kaplan-Carr Trio's recording, on Arabesque Records, of Tchaikovsky and Smetana trios, received an INDIE Award for "Best Classical Album by an Ensemble." Since 2011, his new trio recordings for Bridge Records feature world premieres of trios by Lera Auerbach, Fred Lerdahl, Clancy Newman, Paul Schoenfeld and Chen Yi, as well as works of Brahms and Smetana.

Since 2005, Mark Kaplan has been Professor of Violin at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, and prior to that he served as Professor with Distinction at UCLA. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where he was a student of Dorothy DeLay and recipient of the Fritz Kreisler Memorial Scholarship. Mark Kaplan plays a violin made by Antonio Stradivari in 1685, known as the *Marquis*.



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"The man of the moment... was almost upstaged however in the second piece by violin maestro Mark Kaplan and his dazzling interpretation of one of the great violin pieces - Sibelius' violin concerto in D minor. It comes with the reputation of being a finger breaker but Kaplan's scintillating virtuosity gave us a real performance to remember. His technique was matched only by the crisp vivid resonate tones of his Stradivari violin in a performance of passion which drew gasps from the listeners."

[Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Gerard Schwarz, conductor]  
*Lancashire Evening Post*

"The most remarkable thing was the stellar performance by Kaplan... He delivered a warm, rich sound without sharp edges but with clarity"

*Palm Beach Daily News*

"The musicians I admire most tend to be selfless types... for them, the composer always comes first. Mark Kaplan is exactly that kind of violinist, and hearing him play all of Bach's sonatas and partitas on two consecutive evenings in Bargemusic's intimate setting was profoundly satisfying."

*The STRAD*

"With Mark Kaplan the eloquent soloist... the subtext of the concerto emerged with graphic immediacy."

[Berg Violin Concerto, Royal Philharmonic, Daniele Gatti, conductor]  
*The Times, London*

"Kaplan mastered not only the considerable technical difficulties of this concerto but also communicated the rhapsodic contrasts of song-like lyricism and fiery movement."

[Bartok Violin Concerto No. 2, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Lawrence Foster, conductor]  
*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

"His 1685 Strad, resonant beneath, seductively throaty in the middle, and with a top as sweet as a nut, seemed made for this music."

*MusicWeb*

"The playing is splendid throughout, technically brilliant, musically expressive, full of variety, character, and idiomatic flair."

[Dohnanyi Violin Concerto No 2, Bartók Violin Concerto No 2, Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona, Lawrence Foster, conductor - Koch International Classics]  
*Strings Magazine*