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LARA ST. JOHN

Season 2007-2008

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LARA ST. JOHN, Violin

Canadian-born violinist Lara St John has been described as "something of a phenomenon" by *The Strad* and a "high-powered soloist" by the *New York Times*,

She has performed as soloist with the orchestras of Cleveland, Philadelphia, Minnesota, Seattle, Brooklyn, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, the National Arts Centre, the Boston Pops and many more in North America. In Europe, she has played with the NDR Symphony (Hanover), Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, Bournemouth Symphony, and the Amsterdam Symphony, among others. In Asia, solo appearances have included the Hong Kong Symphony, Tokyo Symphony, China Philharmonic in Beijing, Guangzhou Symphony and the Shanghai Broadcasting Orchestra. Lara has also performed with the Queensland Orchestra in Australia.

The Los Angeles Times has written, "St. John brings to the stage personal charisma, an unflinching musical imagination and genuine passion." Recitals in major concert halls have included New York, Boston, San Francisco, Ravinia, Washington DC, Prague, Berlin, Toronto, Montreal, and in the Forbidden City of Beijing.

Her debut CD, [BACH: Works for Violin Solo](#), has sold over 40,000 copies and received resounding acclaim. *The Chicago Tribune* described Ms. St. John as having "superb technique and an irresistible vitality," while *US News and World Report* called the recording "an exquisite performance". Her second album, [Gypsy](#), was described as "a sizzling display" by *Gramophone*, and *The Strad* called her "an electrifying player, as deeply satisfying in Bach as she is bewitchingly seductive in Waxman's Carmen Fantasy".

Her third recording, [Bach: the Concerto Album](#), appeared in the "strongly recommended" section of *Gramophone*, which stated, "It is difficult to argue with such a technically dazzling and unfailingly musical interpretation." In June of 2005 the recording was released on iTunes where it immediately became No. 1 in the classical category. Lara has also recorded for Sony Classical.

She has been featured in *People*, *US News and World Report*, on CNN's *Showbiz Today*, and NPR's *All Things Considered*, Fox News, CBC and a Bravo! Special: *Live At the Rehearsal Hall*.

Lara began playing the violin when she was 2 years old. She made her first appearance as soloist with orchestra at age 4, and her European debut with the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon when she was 10. She toured Spain, France, Portugal and Hungary at ages 12 and 13, entered the Curtis Institute at 13, and spent her first summer at Marlboro three years later. Her teachers have included Felix Galimir, David Takeno, and Joey Corpus.

Lara's latest recording, [Bach: The Six Sonatas and Partitas for Violin Solo](#), described as "awe-inducing" by The Toronto Star, was released exclusively on iTunes on September 4, 2007 (street release October 9) where it climbed to No. 2. Upcoming releases include a recording with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London, featuring two world premiere works: the Matthew Hindson Violin Concerto and the Martin Kennedy/ St John arrangement of Totentanz, as well as The Red Violin Suite by John Corigliano.

She performs on the 1779 "Salabue" Guadagnini thanks to an anonymous donor and Heintz & Co. of Toronto.

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