

Hailed as an "absolute wonder", violinist ANDREW SORDS has established himself as the preeminent new face of classical violin. Already a veteran of the concert stage, Sords has appeared with over sixty orchestras and in countless recital venues across three continents. The 2010-11 season will showcase the concerti of Dvorak, Bruch, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky.

Born in 1985 in Newark, Delaware, Sords later moved to Shaker Heights, Ohio, and began his violin studies with Liza Grossman. Sords completed his undergraduate education at the Cleveland Institute of Music with violin pedagogues Linda Cerone and David Russell, and performed for the legendary Midori in masterclasses in New York City and at the University of Southern California. Sords most recently studied under internationally acclaimed violinist Chee-Yun at The Southern Methodist University of Dallas, Texas in the Artist Diploma program.

In 2008, Sords received international exposure as the top Google Classical News story as well as crowning the "Top-40 Charts" in Classical Music. During the 2009-10 season, Sords was a featured guest on NPR's "Morning Edition", Dallas' WRR, Boise State Public Radio, and numerous other media outlets. Sords was profiled by the Reno Gazette Journal and The Sun News among others.

Highlights for the 2010-11 season include return appearances with the Balcones Chamber Orchestra, Carson City Symphony Orchestra, Medical Arts Symphony, St. Augustine Symphony Orchestra, Parma Symphony and the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra. Sords will make his debut with The Gulf Coast Symphony, Austin Civic Orchestra, Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra, Crown City Symphony, the Toronto Philharmonia, and the Waynesboro Symphony. Sords will appear as a guest artist on the EMMA Recital Series, Music from the Western Reserve Series, and the Mansfield Symphony Chamber Series. Sords will expand his international presence with recitals on the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society and Anguilla Foundation Recital Series. Sords made his solo debut with the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra and Robert Franz in the memorable 2010 season finale capping Maestro Franz's 7-year tenure with the orchestra. Additionally, Sords has served as Concertmaster of the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra since the 2008-2009 season.

Recently, Sords has appeared with the Portsmouth Symphony, Parma Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Philharmonic, Suburban Symphony, Rappahannock Pops, Diablo Symphony, Magic Valley Symphony, Mesquite Symphony, TOCCATA Tahoe Symphony, Stow Symphony Orchestra and Clear Lake Symphony. As a popular recitalist at colleges nationwide, Sords has performed recitals for the Abilene Christian University, Kent State University, Boise State University, and Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory among others. Re-invited by the Kent State Recital Series in 2008, Sords performed the complete Brahms sonata set with pianist Anita Pontremoli in a broadcast performance. International appearances include concert halls and venues in Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia.

Sords commissioned a violin concerto from acclaimed composer Evan Fein, which was completed and recorded with the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra in early 2007. The recording of the concerto is already accumulating awards, and will be performed in upcoming seasons on recitals and solo appearances. In 2005, Sords performed George Crumb's "Black Angels" at Cleveland's Ingenuity Festival with a live broadcast on Cleveland's WCLV 104.9.

In 2007, Sords opened the Great Mountains Music Festival in South Korea with the Beethoven Violin Concerto; for the duration of his stay, he studied and performed extensively with musicians from across the globe. In fall 2009, Sords stepped in on 48 hour notice to helm the Boise Philharmonic Orchestra's season opening concert. Additionally, in 2006, Sords stepped in on twelve hours notice to perform on the Franciscan University Recital Series with pianist Eric Genuis.

Sords is the winner of the 2005 National Shirley Valentin Violin Award, the 2004 and 2005 National Federation of Music Clubs Competition, the Fortnightly Music Club of Cleveland and the Festival de la Orquesta Sinfonica de las Americas Competition of the Casals Festival among others. He is the featured violinist in a documentary on violin technique recorded at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Sords performs on a 1912 Augustine Talisse violin with strings provided by Warchal.

Strongly committed to extending classical music to all, Sords dedicates a portion of his time at nearly all engagements to educational outreach, masterclasses and community programming.

Please visit www.andrewsords.com, the official website of Andrew Sords. Sords is represented by EMC Artists, Ltd. Contact emcartists@gmail.com for press or booking inquiries.