

## **Shlomo Mintz**

### **Short bio (268 words)**

Critics, colleagues and audiences regard Shlomo Mintz as one of the foremost violinists of our time, esteemed for his impeccable musicianship, stylistic versatility and commanding technique alike. This virtuoso violinist, violist and conductor, is heard regularly on the international stage with well-known orchestras and conductors and is also a much sought after chamber musician.

Born in Moscow in 1957, he immigrated to Israel with his family two years later, where he studied the violin with Ilona Feher. At the age of 11, he made his concert debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and at the age of 16 he made his debut in Carnegie Hall with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, under the patronage of Isaac Stern. He began his studies with Dorothy DeLay at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. At age 20 he made his first major European tour with famous conductors such as Carlo Maria Giulini, Antal Dorati and Eugene Ormandy and signed a contract with Deutsche Grammophon.

Since then he regularly appears with the most celebrated orchestras and conductors on the international music scene and gives master classes around the world. He is president of the jury of the Violin Competition 'Munetsugu Angel Violin Competition in Japan; was President of the jury of the International Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition in Poznan, Poland in 2011 and president and artistic director of the International Violin Competition Sion Valais in Switzerland (2002-2012).

Mintz won several prestigious prizes including the Diapason D'Or, the Gramophone and the Edison Award and the Cremona Music Award 2016.

### **Long bio (680 words)**

#### **Virtuoso violinist, violist and conductor**

Critics, colleagues and audiences regard Shlomo Mintz as one of the foremost violinists of our time, esteemed for his impeccable musicianship, stylistic versatility and commanding technique alike. This virtuoso violinist, violist and conductor, is heard regularly on the international stage with well-known orchestras and conductors and is also a much sought after chamber musician. Mintz' style is compared with the old violin masters who laid the foundations of modern violin playing: rich, full tone and lush vibrato. His powerful use of the bow, intensity and ability to make the violin sound at times harrowing, is named as some of his other characteristics.

### **Ilona Feher, Isaac Stern and Dorothy Delay**

Born in Moscow in 1957, he immigrated to Israel with his family two years later, where he studied the violin with Ilona Feher. At the age of 11, he made his concert debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and at the age of 16 he made his debut in Carnegie Hall with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, under the patronage of Isaac Stern. He began his studies with Dorothy DeLay at the Juilliard School of Music in New York.

### **Appearances with major orchestras**

At age 20 he made his first major European tour with famous conductors such as Carlo Maria Giulini, Antal Dorati and Eugene Ormandi. Since then he regularly appears with the most celebrated orchestras and conductors on the international music scene. In the 2012/2013 Season, he celebrated his 50th anniversary on stage with a concert with the National Orchestra of France in the Champs Elysées Theatre among other festivities. In the 2015/2016 seasons he was a guest in the prestigious "Brisbane Maestro Series" with Queensland Symphony Orchestra in Australia. In the season 2017 Shlomo Mintz celebrated his 60th birthday. A special "The Art of Shlomo Mintz" box with all his 13 CD's was re-released with Deutsche Grammophon in the spring of 2017.

### **Important Competitions**

In the season 2017 the first "HKIVS Shlomo Mintz International Violin Competition" was launched in Beijing, July'17. Shlomo Mintz has been a jury member of several important international competitions, including the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition in Brussels. He was President of the Jury of the International Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition and the Sion Valais International Violin Competition (Switzerland). Currently he presides over the Munetsugu Angel Violin Competition in Nagoya, Japan and the Buenos Aires International Violin Competition Shlomo Mintz gives master classes around the world, among others in Crans Montana, Switzerland.

### **Music Advisor and "il Cannone" concert**

Mintz was Music Advisor of the Israel Chamber Orchestra from 1989 to 1993. In March 1994 he was appointed artistic adviser and principal guest conductor of the Limburg Symphony Orchestra (The Netherlands). He led the orchestra during four seasons, while regularly at the same time acted as conductor and soloist. In 1997, Shlomo Mintz played at the invitation of the Community of Genoa, the famous violin by Niccolò Paganini "Il Cannone", during a special concert with the Limburg Symphony Orchestra, led by Yoel Levi. The concert was later broadcast on national Dutch TV in December 1997.

### **The young generation**

In his role as patron of Keshet Eilon (Israel) and President of several competitions Mintz has made a major contribution to the career of the next generation of talented violinists such as David Garrett, Alena Baeva, Francesca Dego, Roman Simovic (concertmaster London Symphony), Laura Marzadori (first female concertmaster at La Scala), Dami Kim, Fedor Rudin, Alma Deutscher, Renaud Capuçon and Sayaka Shoji.

### **Violins of Hope**

Mintz frequently appears as a soloist in concerts for Violins of Hope, a project that aims to promote peace through music. The Violins of Hope were heard already in Paris, Sion (Switzerland), Madrid, Berlin, Rome, Charlotte, Sarasota and Cleveland (USA).

**Prizes and special awards**

Shlomo Mintz has won several prestigious prizes including the Premio Internazionale Accademia Musicale Chigiana, the Diapason D'Or, the Grand Prix du Disque, the Gramophone Award, the Edison Award and the Cremona Music Award 2016. In 2006 he was awarded an Honorary Degree from the Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, Israel.

<https://ciceronema.com/artists/shlomo-mintz/>

<http://www.shlomomintzviolin.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/shlomomintzviolin/>

©CIC-SM/bio – Jan 2018