

Aubree Oliverson, violin

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Topanga Symphony – Violinist Aubree Oliverson’s Impressive Mendelssohn Concerto

By Jeanne Mitchell



Soloist Aubree Oliverson was graceful, strong and flawless in her performance of “Concerto for Violin in E minor, Op. 64” by Felix Mendelssohn.

The elegance of her performance showed that, at 17-years-old, she has the ability to play each note, whether it be long and sustained or part of a complicated passage, as if it were a shimmering black pearl that exudes the very essence of charm and beauty.

Her emotional and brilliant interpretation expressed the sophisticated passion of a serious artist and the playfulness of a child that gleefully danced around the fingerboard. Her bow moved across the strings with such soul and charm that it evoked an intense love for the music.

Normally, classical concert attendees know that it is not proper to applaud after each movement—applause is supposed to be saved for the end of the piece. After the first *Allegro molto appassionato* movement, the audience could not hold back their enthusiasm for Ms. Oliverson’s performance and applauded boldly while conductor and Music Director Jerome Kessler waved his hand furiously to cease.

As she began the second slower *Andante* movement, there were moments when the conductor and the soloist’s eyes met with smiles of happiness. It was obvious that both shared the joy as the music came to life.

It was clear, as Ms. Oliverson began the third movement, *Allegretto non troppo – Allegro molto vivace*, that she really liked this section. Her delight showed with a confident flair and sense of command. As we in the audience were awestruck by this young virtuoso, we were reminded that she had memorized the entire piece. This was a very long concerto with a solo cadenza that was technically impeccable while expressing the emotional intent.

After she dramatically played the ending crescendo, her teacher Robert Lipsett, who holds the Jascha Heifetz Distinguished Violin Chair at the Colburn School, was there to see his protégé glimmer and glow in the accolades she received as she took three curtain calls to a standing ovation.

This was a thrilling performance played with the quality and poise that will undeniably take this young musical genius to concert halls throughout America and around the world. We are only too happy that she brought her talents to our humble Topanga stage before she gets whisked away to bigger more prestigious venues.

The concert began with the Topanga Symphony performing the bold “Egmont Overture, Op. 84,” by Ludwig van Beethoven.

Following the intermission the concert concluded with Johannes Brahms’ “Symphony #2 in D Major, Op.73.”

Once again, to a standing-room-only house, the talented musicians of the Topanga Symphony presented exceptional musical expertise that demonstrated the collective inspired dedication of each musician whose lifetime of devotion to their art came together on the stage.