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Previews
Early Bloomer

Maxim Vengerov, at 24, is experiencing what might be called a second childhood, except that he pretty much missed his real one. He first picked up a violin when he was 4 and made his concert debut at the age of 5. "I remember I had to work so much, so hard," he says. "All the children, I saw them walking outside and strolling and having fun, playing ice hockey, and I envied them so much. But with my first concert and every time after, I understood this is my life and my talent is required." Vengerov is now using that talent to enrich the lives of children; as UNICEF's envoy for music, he has traveled the world to raise money for the organization and to spread awareness and appreciation of classical music. Last Tuesday, he visited the Third Street Music School Settlement, where he played—in both senses—with the students there. All this, plus 70 concerts a year, including his Carnegie Hall recital debut this Tuesday (see 2/16). Still, Vengerov has no regrets; being one of the world's premier violinists has garnered him some well-earned freedom. "Now I can have some childhood," he says, with characteristic optimism. "I went paragliding two years ago. Childhood is coming through. In life you have to be everything—a mature person and a child."

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