



have everything—a large, beautiful sound, perfect intonation, an all-encompassing technique and a performing style that is suffused with romance and charged with drama. And as if that weren't enough, the young bachelor has hordes of groupies who clamor for him wherever he plays. He's no playboy, though, but a dutiful son who lives at the family home in Tiberias, Israel, with his parents and grandparents.

OUT OF SIBERIA

In an age when renown is usually the product of scandal, the handsome Siberian violinist Maxim Vengerov, 24, is welcome news indeed: he's famous just for being talented. Like many gifted performers, he was a child prodigy; he made his orchestral debut at age five with the Novosibirsk Philharmonic. "I don't remember how well I played," he says. "But I remember how big a success it was. And I thought, Oh, yeah, it was worth it."

Apparently he still thinks it's worth it. He now routinely plays about 120 concerts and recitals a year. The 29th of this month, for example, will find him at Tanglewood, in Massachusetts, where he will perform with the great Russian conductor Mstislav Rostropovich, and in October he'll solo with the Chicago Symphony, under Daniel Barenboim.

Vengerov is one of those rare artists who

He relishes his success, having grown up, as he puts it, "a completely poor boy" in one of the bleakest regions on Earth. "It was so cold sometimes that I had to practice in a winter coat and gloves." Vengerov's memory of those hard times may well be a primary reason why he recently accepted the honorary post of Envoy for Music for the United Nation's Children's Fund. He has played for children from East Harlem to Sarajevo, he says, "to give them hope." He has accomplished that and a good deal more. Vengerov shows every sign of becoming one of the most beloved artists of his generation. *Vengerov has cut nine CDs on the Teldec label, including the Gramophone-winning Prokofiev and Shostakovich Violin Concertos No. 1. Due out this fall: Brahms' Violin Concertos, with Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony.*

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