

OPAS begins with Perlman

MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society will open its 1986-87 season with a performance that promises to knock the socks off even the most uncultured cad.

The San Antonio Symphony and internationally acclaimed violinist Itzhak Perlman will perform Sunday at 3 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.

Perlman, along with the 83-member symphony, will perform various works by Brahms, including "Tragic Overture in D minor," "Variations on a Theme by Haydn" and "Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra."

Perlman has performed with every major orchestra in the world and has left behind the image of a brilliantly skilled musician and compassionate human being.

"He's a prodigiously gifted violinist, manually and technically. I don't think he knows any limits," Jacques Israelievitch, concertmaster for the St. Louis Symphony has said of Perlman. "I think he's one of the very best violinists on the stage today."

And if monetary value is any indication of musical quality, this should be a real humdinger.

Anne Black, OPAS program coordinator, says the performance cost the organization just under \$60,000.

Perlman is an Israeli-born musician who began playing when he was five years old, about the time he was stricken with polio. He became permanently crippled in both legs, but what his lower limbs lacked, his upper ones more than made up for.

Denied many things as a child because of his disability, he concentrated all his efforts on studying the violin, which seemed to come naturally.

Victor Aitay, concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony, has said of Perlman, "You can teach the violin to a certain de-

gree, but if you don't have the inborn talent, you can only go so far. You have to be born with certain qualities, with the right temperament. You cannot create a person like that, but can only polish his talents."

Perlman's parents enrolled him at the Tel Aviv Academy of Music, where he proved to be an outstanding student. But although his great talent was expected to propel him into the musical limelight, launching his career was proving to be a problem.

His lucky break came at age 13 when he was invited to take part in "The Ed Sullivan Caravan of Stars," a group picked to represent Israel on "The

Ed Sullivan Show" and then tour the United States.

Soon after, he fulfilled his childhood dream when he was accepted to The Julliard School in New York to study under Ivan Galamian and Dorothy DeLay.

At 17, Perlman made his Carnegie Hall debut, but no review was written about the performance because of a newspaper strike, so only the people who attended were aware of his awesome talent.

The next year he won the prestigious Leventritt Competition and finally drew newspaper attention, but for more than his outstanding performance.

After the curtain calls he went backstage to discover that the 200-year-old violin he had borrowed from Julliard had been stolen. It later turned up at a Times Square pawn shop where it had been pawned for \$15.

Since then, Perlman has achieved worldwide success. He was selected as Musician of the Year by Musical America in 1981 and was one of 12 Americans

more accessible to the disabled. He's also on the board of two rehabilitation hospitals for severely handicapped children, and frequently consults with architects about ways to overcome architectural barriers that the handicapped often face.

The San Antonio Symphony, which performs more than 150 concerts during its 39-week season, has presented many of the world's great artists including Andre Watts, Lorin Hollander, Bella Davidovich and Maxim Shostakovitch.

Andrew Schneck, conductor, is the youngest first prize winner of the International Competition for Conductors.

Only single seats are still available for the performance. Tickets are \$24.75 for students and \$29 for non-students and can be purchased at the MSC Box Office.

—by Nancy Neukirchner



Violinist Itzhak Perlman and the San Antonio Symphony will open OPAS' fall season on Sunday at 3 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.

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