

Critical Acclaim of Robert McDuffie's Performances with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra on its 2008 US Tour

San Francisco Chronicle

Music review: Jerusalem Symphony plays Rózsa

*Joshua Kosman, Chronicle Music Critic
Tuesday, October 28, 2008*

"With Robert McDuffie as the brilliant soloist and Music Director Leon Botstein leading a keenly impassioned performance, Rózsa's three-movement score...McDuffie, the American virtuoso who has been away from the Bay Area for far too long, gave the piece every ounce of vitality and panache it needed. The outer movements were athletic and precise, especially in the extended cadenza of the first movement, and the slow movement gained an extra measure of urgency in McDuffie's eloquent reading."

Los Angeles Times

Review: The Jerusalem Symphony at UCLA's Royce Hall

*Mark Swed, Music Critic
Thursday, October 30, 2008*

"McDuffie proved a robust soloist...Yet this was, in its way, a winning performance, a portrait of Bernstein as tormented as he was bewitched by his erotic impulses. McDuffie and the orchestra kept plunging into the deep dark, and Botstein kept them from drowning."

The Sacramento Bee

Israeli orchestra treats audience to powerful Americana

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008

"On Bernstein's serenade, the unassuming violinist Robert McDuffie took to the stage. McDuffie is one of those violinists whose sound is so distinctive that you can pick out his playing upon hearing a few recorded bars. It's a powerfully lean sound that radiates all kinds of dark tonal colors... In the first movement, McDuffie's playing was relaxed and confident, with the angular passages for the violin tastefully played. In the second and third he attacked the strings with a boxer's steely determination."

Kansas City Star

Jerusalem Symphony shows a split personality at Lied Center performance

*Timothy McDonald, Special to The Star
Thursday, November 6, 2008*

"Violinist Robert McDuffie joined the orchestra for a compelling performance of Leonard Bernstein's "Serenade," composed in 1954 and premiered in Venice by violinist Isaac Stern... McDuffie opened the work with a violin line that sang and soared—a sonic gem. The orchestra responded with fervor and passion. In particular, the fourth movement featured soulful and ethereal playing by soloist and ensemble."

Chicago Tribune

Classical review: Jerusalem Symphony delivers a winner

*John von Rhein, Tribune critic
November 14, 2008*

"The brilliant Robert McDuffie dug into the concerto's Bartokian lyricism and dashing bravura as if he were channeling the work's dedicatee, Jascha Heifetz."