



Teenage violinist Simone Porter plays for the members of the Davis High School Symphony Orchestra on Friday. Porter was in the area for her solo appearance with the Sacramento Philharmonic on Saturday night. Sue Cockrell/Enterprise photo

#### Local News

## Teenage violin star Simone Porter visits Davis High orchestra class

By Jeff Hudson

From page A5 | October 18, 2015

Violinist Simone Porter delighted the musicians of the Davis High School Symphony Orchestra on Friday, fielding questions about her education and her career, and performing several musical highlights on a historic 1745 Guadagnini violin (which she has on long term loan the Mandell Collection in Southern California).

Porter is having quite a year. She is in her fifth year of studies at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles, and she's already represented by Opus 3 Artists, a major agency. In March, while she was still 18, Porter received an Avery Fisher Career Grant (a \$25,000 award bestowed annually on a rising star in the field of classical music).

And just a few weeks ago (on Oct. 1), the 19-year-old Porter made her debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, performing in Walt Disney Hall under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel. Music critic Mark Swed of the Los Angeles Times gave Porter's performance high marks, and noted that "she is on the cusp of a major career."

Porter was in this area to appear as soloist with the Sacramento Philharmonic on Saturday night, performing the Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1 under guest conductor Andrew Grams. Porter dazzled the Davis High students by playing a portion of her part from that well-known Romantic era concerto from 1866.

She also displayed her range by playing a portion of the Beethoven Romance in F Major (an early piece from 1798, which she performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic on October 1), the Adagio from J.S. Bach's Sonata No. 1 for solo violin (from around 1720), and Fritz Kreisler's 1926 arrangement of Manuel de Falla's "Danse espagnole" (a popular encore number).

At 19, Porter is only a few months older than some of the seniors in the Davis High orchestra, and could still blend in with an everyday crowd of high school teens (except when she's playing her violin).

Porter fielded some questions that might be asked of any teenager (“How do you manage your social life and school?” Answer: “I like to do things with my friends, most of them are musicians; and I don’t know how to drive yet.”) to questions about her childhood (Q: “When did you start playing the violin?” A: “Age 3.” and Q: “When did you first perform with a professional orchestra?” A: “Age 10, Seattle Symphony, where I grew up.”) to questions about being a dedicated professional musician (Q: “How much do you practice every day?” A: “About five hours.” and Q: “What’s it like carrying around a historic violin?” A: “I’m like a mother bear with a cub, I won’t let anyone touch it.”)

Porter will be back at the conservatory this week, but she’ll be on the road again in the first week of November, performing the Bruch Concerto again with the Detroit Symphony (once again under the baton of Andrew Grams). She’ll also be appearing with the Baltimore Symphony in March (performing the Barber Violin Concerto, one of her favorites).