



Chinese channel bumped off Rogers dial

# A musical miracle

North Vancouver native Corey Cerovsek was thought to be brain-damaged as an infant. At age 12, he won a gold medal for violin from Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, and now at age 25, he is a violin virtuoso.

Corey Cerovsek, 25, performs at the Orpheum Theatre. He is wearing a dark shirt and is focused on his performance.

## Bibbs come together as a family in song

Leon and Eric Bibb, father and son, are performing together. They are both wearing dark clothing and are playing acoustic guitars.



# WEEKEND FOCUS



WARD BOUND: 25-year-old Corey Cerovsek will perform a program of Sibelius tonight at the Orpheum Theatre.

# A musical miracle

**COREY CEROVSEK**  
When he was born in 1972, Cerovsek was in a coma. He had no eyes and was thought to be brain-damaged.

Interested in art by age four, he developed himself perspective, and to his parents' amazement, to read and write.

At age 12 he graduated from the Conservatory of Music in Toronto with a gold medal for his performance of Sibelius' *Violin Concerto*. That year, he was accepted as a student at the Indiana Conservatory of Music in Bloomington, Ind.

He moved to Bloomington, Ind., where he lived with his mother Sophia, an amateur pianist, his father Helmut, a structural engineer, and his sister Katja, an accomplished pianist. Katja now lives in California, and Corey has two children.

Corey is constantly touring, he rarely sees his parents, who live across the country. His mother leaves food in his refrigerator.

Corey says of Josef Gingold: "My heart was in his fingertips."

Corey says his Canadianism is at "a minimum" but doesn't consider himself an American either. "I like being Canadian, but I don't know what it is."

North Vancouver native Corey Cerovsek was thought to be brain-damaged as an infant. At age 12, he won a gold medal for violin from Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, and now at age 25, he is a violin virtuoso.

**LLOYD DYCK**  
Sun Music Critic

The orchestra has left long ago. Rehearsal for Sibelius' *Violin Concerto* had gone so well that afternoon that they got to go home in half the scheduled time.

Corey Cerovsek, in worn jeans and a T-shirt, stands alone on the Orpheum stage with his violin, listening for the theatre's acoustical "sweet spot."

"I thought this was it, but over here sounds pretty good too," he says, moving a few steps to the left.

Tonight, Cerovsek will perform the second of two concerts with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Under the direction of American conductor Robert Spano, it's an all-Sibelius program that includes the composer's *Violin Concerto*, *Symphony No. 2* and *Night Ride* and *Sunrise*.

While the photographer homes in, I eavesdrop on some dazzling Paganini passage-work. Cerovsek's violin finds nothing but sweet spots. Its sound is subtle, rich and overpowering: a 1742 Guarneri del Jesu instrument, valued at \$3.8 million US and insured at \$7,000 a year.

Once owned by the legendary mid-19th century Polish virtuoso Henri Wieniawski, it's now in the possession of a rich Chicago woman who nearly sold it to a private collector, where it could have ended up unplayed and dying in a glass case.

Cerovsek had already been lent another precious Guarnerius from the Stradivari Society of Chicago but traded it in just weeks ago for the Wieniawski violin.

"I broke protocol and called the woman direct-

ly. I didn't even have to convince her that much. She was looking for someone who could be trusted with it and who could pay the insurance." (Cerovsek, whose career is international, can afford the insurance.)

He used the violin to record his first CD, on California's Delos label, which is due out soon and contains, fittingly, works by Henri Wieniawski.

Virtuosi far younger than the phenomenal Cerovsek have rushed into record deals, often perilously jump-starting their careers. Cerovsek, who says he feels "middle-aged" at 25, hasn't rushed into anything, and for all the right reasons. He's never chased the competition circuit. "It's fine for some, but my teacher advised me not to."

A North Vancouver boy, he was accepted at age 12 into Bloomington, Ind.'s famous music school by Josef Gingold, the great violin teacher. Gingold, who died two years ago at 85 after turning out at least two generations of highly accomplished violinists, including Joshua Bell, had heard Cerovsek play at age seven.

Gingold is on record as saying, "It was frightening. I'd never seen this brilliance in anybody. He assimilates knowledge before I finish a sentence."

Cerovsek is approachable, engaging and as normal as any kid can be who was bright enough to win a bachelor's degree at age 15 in both music and mathematics, his master's degree a year later, and a double doctorate in both subjects by 18.

The pressure of just a single doctorate leaves most adults close to nervous breakdown. "Well, I still haven't done my theses," he says.

Please see **Math, D11**

# Chinese channel bumped off Rogers dial

**MICHAEL SCOTT**  
Vancouver Sun with Canadian Press

Canada's Chinese-language pay-TV network, Fairchild Television, says it's being discriminated against by Rogers Cable Systems and has filed a complaint with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

Next Friday, some Fairchild subscribers in Vancouver and Toronto will lose access to the station so that Rogers can offer a free trial of new cable channels to all its subscribers.

Included in the package of 15 new channels will be several American signals, including The Golf Network, Black Entertainment and Atlanta superstation TBS.

Fairchild officials say the company was initially told by Rogers that as many as 1,400 subscribers to the channel in the Lower Mainland and another 1,100 in Toronto would be affected because their cable capacity could not accommodate Fairchild as well as the 15 new channels.

Glenn Wong, president of Rogers' B.C. operation, says his latest estimates are much lower. "As we've dug deeper, really checking address by address, it looks like there will be less than 500 homes involved," Wong said.

"We're going to give our 625,000 subscribers in British Columbia a free preview of the new cable stations — and that includes the Fairchild subscribers who lose their signal," Wong added.

"We had to ask ourselves, what was the greatest benefit to our subscriber base as a whole? Was it better to give 625,000 people a free preview or serve the 500 Fairchild subscribers?" he said.

Fairchild chief operating officer Joseph Chan said a principle is still at stake. "A few hundred may not seem very much to Rogers, but it means a lot to us."

Across Canada, Fairchild reaches 28,500 subscribers through Rogers, 25,000 of them in the Lower Mainland.

"To take this service away from our subscribers is cruel because there's no alternatives," said Calvin Wong, general manager for Fairchild Eastern division in Toronto.

"We're the only Chinese-language service available — and I do think we're being discriminated against."

Chan added: "We didn't even get the news from Rogers. We heard about the decision from one of our subscribers."

Chan said his company has already filed a complaint with the CRTC, but does not expect an answer from the broadcasting watchdog before the end of next week.

"In the meantime we feel we are being treated very unfairly. Why should we have to suffer while they accommodate others?" Chan said.

Fairchild, which employs 70 full-time staff in Vancouver and 70 in Toronto, has been broadcasting for four years.

Advertisement for Vancouver Film Fest '97. It features a stylized graphic of a film strip and the text "VANCOUVER FILM FEST '97 INSIDE".

# Bibbs come together as a family in song

**KERRY GOLD**  
Vancouver Sun  
In the big Holy Rosary Cathedral rehearsal hall, longtime Vancouver singer Leon Bibb and his singer son Eric chat so naturally they seem to forget they are in the midst of an interview. Eric, wearing his trademark broad-rimmed fe-

■ **LEON AND ERIC BIBB**  
Tonight at 8 p.m. at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, University of B.C.  
Tickets \$36.75 plus service charge through TicketMaster, 280-4444.

