



ourMidland.com
from the Midland Daily News

11/15/2007

Littlejohn returns home

By Kris Winterton

A musician who has musical roots in Midland will be returning Sunday to perform as a violin soloist with the Midland Community Orchestra (MCO).

John Littlejohn, who also goes by ADIDAM, is a professional violinist, composer, arranger and producer who lives in Vancouver, B.C. He began playing the violin at age 10 and moved from Lansing to Midland in the middle of sixth grade. He credits the encouragement he received from the Midland community with his decision to pursue a musical career.

"Ann Schoelles was my orchestra teacher in sixth grade, and she let me practice my violin at lunchtime," he said. "She was clever; she'd give me little hints to help me improve. She knew I was a wild child, and she'd gently suggest things. Formal lessons with her started in 11th grade."

Littlejohn, 29, said he never had to buy a violin during his years in Midland schools. He played in the MCO for four years, studied at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and graduated from Midland High School. His friend Roland Wallace introduced him to a gospel violinist. He was hooked.

He went on to earn a bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan and then a Master of Music degree and a Graduate Performance Diploma in violin performance from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Md.

He served as concertmaster of the Newark Symphony, Baltimore Sinfonietta and Darin Atwater's Soulful Symphony. He's currently a member of the Infinitus String Quartet and the band he originated, ADIDAM, which stands for "All Day I Dream About Music." The band was recently renamed Psalm Fresh.

Littlejohn has produced two albums, "All Day I Dream About Music" and "Violinistik."

One critic wrote, "As a musician who truly understands hip hop, R & B, classical and dance, ADIDAM brings something new and refreshing to the popular music scene." Another critic wrote, "The hybrid sound ADIDAM unleashes on this album is definitely a breath of fresh air. After listening to the album I can say it's truly a good thing that Littlejohn dreams about music all day."

"I grew up listening to hip hop and soul music, and then I was classically trained," he said. "About four years ago I joined the two together."

His solo with the MCO on Sunday will be classical: "The Carmen Fantasie" by Georges Bizet. It is considered a challenging work to perform.

Littlejohn has a full performing schedule, touring in the United States, Canada and Europe. He is married and has two children.

Sunday's concert is at 3 p.m. at Central Middle School Auditorium. He's also scheduled to perform a solo violin recital at First Baptist Church in Midland, 915 E. Sugnet, at 7 p.m. today. The recital will raise money for students to attend a summer music festival.

Revisiting Midland is fun for Littlejohn. "So many people in Midland banded together to help me out," he said. "Your money didn't go to waste."



©Midland Daily News 2007