

**Adam Despinic**  
**SSO guest performer**  
**Out of This World**  
**April 11, 2015**



Adam Despinic, winner of the 2014 SSO Emerging Artist Competition, is completing a master's degree in violin performance at the University of Toronto. He has an Honours Bachelor of Music in violin degree at McMaster University.

Adam received his first lessons at the age of six. He joined an orchestra of students from the Hamilton public school system called the East Hamilton Strings. Showing initiative, he started teaching students himself, and later approached Michael Schulte for advanced study. His teacher recalls that Adam requested at his first lesson that a new community student orchestra be formed so that he and some friends might have a place to play. Before long, Adam was concertmaster of the Schulte Strings. Still in high school, he was coaching young string ensembles and he paid for some of his own violin lessons.

As member and soloist with the Schulte Strings, Adam has inspired his associate string players. The group was awarded Best Community String Orchestra in provincial competition by the Ontario Music Festivals Association. In 2009, Adam won top prize at the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra Young Artists Competition and then gave a rousing performance of Sarasate's Zigeunerweisen, accompanied by the HPO at the Hamilton Place Great Hall.

The next year, he won the Symphony on the Bay Young Artists Concerto Competition and performed a work by Canadian composer Marajan Mozetich accompanied by the orchestra. Adam has also been concertmaster and mentor at the IMC music camp and attended the Southern Ontario Chamber Music Institute as violist.

