

# philharmonia orchestra

## **April 2009 – Nicola Benedetti**

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#### *Audio Extracts – Sibelius's Violin Concerto*

I remember hearing on the radio or at a live concert, some clip of Sibelius and it was part of the first movement, one particular explosion that is one of the best moments in all violin concertos.

It's much more bleak and there are these huge long lines all the time, and you have to think of a much larger picture than you do with a lot of other violin concertos. In the first movement, you don't really arrive anywhere until the end and you have to transport yourself somewhere for this piece, I think.

For the last few years I was doing stupid amounts of concerts, a lot of travelling and a lot of tours with concerts and a flights everyday, and never being at home. I decided I didn't want to spend the next year doing just that and because I just turned twenty-one this summer I'm really still in a studying phase - well I should be! So I want to continue doing that and I'm planning to take more time out.

My first major London concerts were with the Philharmonia and they have been so nice and so supportive. I've played three major concertos with them over a period of time and a couple of other one-off concerts, and each time they have made me feel like it's a real experience. I think part of it is also because they're interested in continuing working with people throughout their development. I was still really young when I first started playing with them and to play with one of the biggest orchestras in the world was such a new and nerve-wracking thing – it still is today – but three years ago it was even more so. I very much felt that I was being supported and I was amongst friends. I wasn't just being judged and I think it is really unusual for an orchestra that great to be giving off that kind of vibe to a young soloist. Looking at the concerts we're doing in the future, I'm excited to show my progress as I go along.