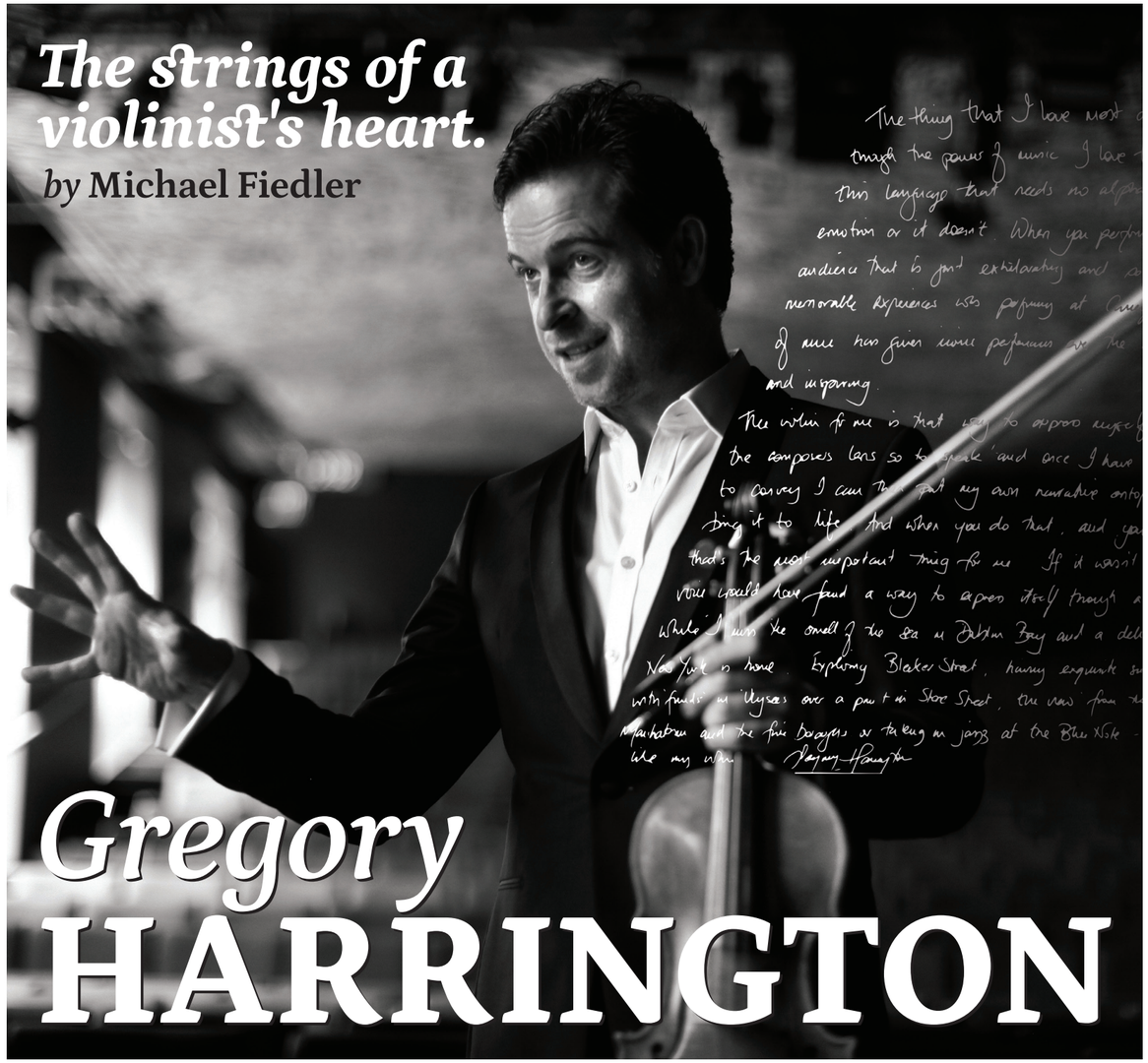

The strings of a violinist's heart.

by Michael Fiedler

Gregory HARRINGTON

GREGORY HARRINGTON IS one of Ireland's most recognized violinists. He sat down with photojournalist Michael Fiedler to explore his feelings about his art, and his adopted city, New York.

MICHAEL FIEDLER: What do you most like about playing the violin?

GH: The thing I love most is the ability to connect with others through the power of music. I love the art of taking the audience along on a journey. Music is a language that needs no alphabet.

MF: What do you feel like when you're performing?

GH: When you perform, you feel this tangible energy in a room from the audience that is just exhilarating and so very organic.

MF: What is your most memorable playing experience?

GH: As I think back, one of the most memorable experiences was performing at Carnegie Hall—to stand on that stage where every idol of mine has given very iconic performances over the decades was that beautiful combination of exhilarating and inspiring.

MF: Explain what the violin means to you.

GH: The violin, for me, is a way to express myself. It's a way of telling a beautiful story through the composers lens. Once I have an understanding of what the composer is trying to convey I can then put my own narrative on top of it to give it my own personal viewpoint. To bring it to life. When you do that and your interpretation brings happiness to just one person, that's the most important thing for me. If it wasn't violin, I have a feeling my musical voice could have found a way to express itself through a cello, a piano, or some other musical instrument.

MF: What do you love about New York?

GH: While I miss the smell of the sea in Dublin Bay and a deliciously pure pint of Guiness in Ireland, New York is home. Exploring Bleeker Street, sushi at Morimoto's, friends in Ulysses over a pint, the view from the top of the World Trade Center overlooking Manhattan and the five boroughs, or taking in jazz at the Blue Note. This is the New York that I love. *DT*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL FIEDLER

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