Hailed by music critics as “a superb musician” with the “classical virtuosity of a Heifetz or Perlman,” the “suave café style of Florian Zabach” and the “jazzy insouciance of Stephane Grappelli,” Alejandro Drago has “crisscrossed the line between concerto virtuoso and jazz soloist.” His versatile musicianship has allowed him to be successful with many diverse styles and genres. His discography in France, USA and Argentina includes string quartets, concertos, avant-garde tangos for the EMI International label and works for solo violin CD distributed internationally by Naxos Music Library Japan and CD Tradition.

As a soloist, Alejandro has performed in the Great Hall at the Moscow Conservatory, the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic Hall (with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra), Teatro Colón de Buenos Aires, The Kennedy Center and the Kolarac Zal of Belgrade. He has toured extensively in Russia, the United States, China, Austria, Switzerland, Lithuania, Taiwan, Belarus, France, Brazil, ex-Yugoslavia (Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina), Romania, Portugal, Mexico, Colombia, Panama, Paraguay, Ecuador and Haiti.

As a conductor, Alejandro began his training with the CCBA Chamber Orchestra in Buenos Aires. In 1991 he assisted in the preparation of Handel’s Messiah with the Chamber Orchestra of the Argentine-American Cultural Institute. Alejandro’s recognized expertise in the field of string studies has led him to coach regularly a number of youth and professional ensembles, including Guayaquil Symphony Orchestra in Ecuador and the MERCOSUR Youth Symphony Orchestra. He has been a guest conductor with the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, Tandil Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of the Argentine Library of Congress and the MERCOSUR Academic Camerata. From 2005 to 2008 he was the Assistant Conductor of the Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the Southern Mississippi Chamber Orchestra. Since 2008, he has appeared on a number of occasions as a guest conductor with the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra.

In July 2008, Alejandro joined the faculty at the University of North Dakota Department of Music as the Professor of Violin and Viola and Director of the UND Chamber Orchestra.
Program

Sinfonia in A Major, C.538
I. Allegro assai
II. Andante assai
III. Menuett, Allegro assai

Giuseppe Tartini (1692-1770)

Alejandro Drago, conductor

Introduction and Allegro for Strings, Op. 47

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Alejandro Drago, violin I
Ana Galdavadze, violin II
Yi Dong, viola
Simona Barbu, cello

Rodrigo Amorim, conductor

intermission

Crisantemi, SC 65

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

Simple Symphony, Op. 4
I. Boisterous Bourrée
II. Playful Pizzicato
III. Sentimental Sarabande
IV. Frolicsome Finale

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Alejandro Drago, conductor

Personnel

First Violins
Ana Galdavadze (Concertmaster)
Noah Holden
Iva Pecotić
Elizabeth Boyle
Odele Rajpathy

Second Violins
Nicholas Sholy (Principal)
Mason Fuller
Kayley Wachter
Emma Mekkes
Olivia Rajpathy

VioIs
Yi Dong (Principal)
Cassandra Fincher
David Manzke
Sophia Frank
Rodrigo Amorim
Meghan Hemmer
Sibi Manian
Ligia Feo *

Cellos
Itzel Orellana Sierra (Principal)
Ana Castro
Michael Escobedo
Danielle Bach

Double Basses
Grace Klee (Principal)
Brian Galdun *

* Guest Artist