



**SALON
CONCERTS**

CHAMPS

Chamber Music in Public Schools

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RETURN OF THE “RED VIOLIN”

Salon Concerts Annual Gala fundraiser presents the return of the “Red Violin” to Austin to inspire young musicians and raise funds for music education.

Austin, TX, August 23, 2017– The legendary 1720 “Red Mendelssohn” Stradivarius Violin that inspired the Academy-Award winning movie will be returning to Austin. Presented by Salon Concerts, Inc., this event will feature world renowned violinist Elizabeth Pitcairn, its current owner, performing in partnership with the Red Violin and sharing its unique history.

Salon Concerts’ Fall Fundraiser will feature Elizabeth Pitcairn in concert with her famous violin, accompanied by pianist Louise Thomas. A reprise of the hugely popular event that Salon Concerts presented in 2011, Ms. Pitcairn returns to Austin for the second time. The Return of the Red Violin will take place on Sunday, October 15th from 3-4:30 p.m. at Bates Recital Hall, located inside the Music Building on the UT Campus. Proceeds from the gala will go to benefit music education through Salon Concerts’ Chamber Music in Public Schools (CHAMPS) Program and through student scholarships to attend Luzerne Music Center. Student musicians will also be featured during the event.

“Through the sounds of music, we express ourselves, humanity, love, freedom and peace while conveying a sense of unity that seeks nor sees no boundaries. Just as how a musician and an instrument come together with others to make one piece sound so brilliant. . . .The opportunities we can offer to our young musicians to play an instrument or simply appreciate music is a gift of a lifetime.”

--Surangi Widyaratne, President, Salon Concerts

Ms. Pitcairn’s family acquired the red violin at a famous Christie’s Auction when she was only 16 years old. She began performing with it when she was 21 and has built a lifelong partnership with the instrument. Ms. Pitcairn has come to view the violin as her life’s most inspiring mentor and friend. She shares the wondrous sounds of the instrument and its unique history with music lovers in the United States and around the world. In addition, she recognizes its ability to inspire young musicians.

The Red Violin was crafted by Antonio Stradivarius in Cremona Italy in 1720. The instrument, famous for its wonderful sound and beautiful bright red varnish, was missing for over 200 years. It then turned up in 1930 in Berlin and was purchased by the Mendelssohn family who owned it as collectors for many years. No one knows what happened to the

violin before it turned up in Berlin - it was presumed destroyed or lost. The story of its disappearance and its auction for 1.7 million dollars in 1990 inspired the movie, *The Red Violin*, 1998, which shows a very dramatic possible history for the instrument. The movie score, for which composer John Corigliano won an Academy Award, features "The Red Violin Chaconne."

This event will provide much needed funding for young musicians in Austin. The proceeds will be used for Salon Concerts' CHAMPS program along with scholarships for students to attend the Luzerne Music Center. CHAMPS, now in its 27th year, is an educational outreach program that provides chamber music coaching and private lessons to students at 16 middle and high schools across Austin, Westlake, Round Rock, Lake Travis and Georgetown. Students in the program form ensembles and receive coaching once a week from a professional musician. They perform many times throughout the year and attend masterclasses funded by the program. CHAMPS *Private Lesson Fund* gives eight deserving students that demonstrate need, the opportunity to receive FREE private lessons during the school year. The CHAMPS program greatly enhances the orchestra programs in our schools and provides students a chance to master their instruments and develop self-confidence through performance.

"Having played the viola for the past 27 years, the joys and challenges of being a musician have been a profound journey for me, and I'm inspired to go on creating opportunities for future generations. I'm delighted to share with the greater Austin community the chance to interact with a rare piece of history and a fantastic artist like Elizabeth."

—Leah Nelson, Executive Director, Salon Concerts

Advance Tickets - \$25, At the door -\$30, Students - \$10, CHAMPS students – FREE. All tickets are available on-line at www.salonconcerts.org or by calling 512-402-2516.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Leah Nelson at 512-402-2516 or email at leah.salonconcerts@gmail.com.

Related Websites:

www.salonconcerts.org

www.elizabethpitcairn.com

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