

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra to use Violins from Holocaust in Season Finale Concert Performance

*Partnership with Violins of Hope hosted by JCC Chicago Gives
Historic Violins Another Chance to Sing*

PARK FOREST, IL (April 19th, 2023) - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra's 45th Anniversary Season Finale concert promises to be more moving and meaningful than usual as the three-time Illinois Council of Orchestra's Professional 'Orchestra of the Year' will utilize, in its live concert performance, several violins owned and played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust.

The concert will take place at 7:30 pm on May 13th, 2023, at the 1,100 seat, state of the art Ozinga Chapel concert venue on the grounds of Trinity Christian College, 6601 W. College Drive in Palos Heights, IL. Tickets can be purchased at IPOmusic.org or by calling the IPO Box Office at 708-481-7774.

The concert program will include the World Premiere of *Nifrach*, a work by IPO Composer-in-Residence Jonathan Cziner dedicated to his grandfather, who lost many family members in the Holocaust. The concert will also feature Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 and Amy Beach's Symphony in E minor, op. 32.

"Musical instruments are a vessel for music, but on this night, our orchestra will be these magnificent instruments' vessel," says Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra Executive Director Christina Salerno. "To know these instruments, the exact ones that were present and are part of so much history, will once again have music emanating from them is nothing short of extraordinary. This night will be history and hope come to life, and we are incredibly humbled to carry the violins' message into our concert hall."

The violins are made available by Violins of Hope hosted by JCC Chicago. Violins of Hope are a collection of 70 string instruments that were played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust and have been donated or purchased from survivors. The instruments have been painstakingly restored and are now coming to the Chicagoland area for cultural exhibitions, performances, and community education with a message of hope, resistance, resilience, and unity.

ABOUT VIOLINS OF HOPE

Israeli violinmakers, Amnon and Avshalom (Avshi) Weinstein have spent the last 20 years collecting and repairing 70 Holocaust-era violins and other stringed instruments from around the world, some with the Star of David on the back and others with names and dates inscribed in the instrument. Together they have lovingly located and restored the violins to reclaim their lost heritage, give voice to the victims and reinforce essential messages of hope, harmony, and humanity. The violins have traveled to cities across the globe, including Rome, Tel Aviv, Berlin,

Cleveland, London, Washington D.C., Sarasota, Birmingham, Fort Wayne, Phoenix, San Francisco/East Bay, Los Angeles County, Richmond and now Chicago. For more information, visit violins-of-hope.com

ABOUT JCC Chicago

JCC (Jewish Community Centers) Chicago, founded in 1903 and rooted in Jewish values, offers a life-affirming journey fostering a connected, inclusive community from birth through senior years. With a focus on growing good kids and building connections, it is JCC Chicago's mission to strengthen the Jewish community, from generation to generation. Today, JCC Chicago serves a diverse population of more than 60,000 community members who learn, grow, and thrive through early childhood, day and overnight camps, teen, adult and family offerings, fitness and wellness, aquatics & sports and special events and happenings year-round.

With headquarters in Northbrook, JCC Chicago has over a dozen facilities that serve the greater Chicagoland area including: seven Early Childhood and Daycare Centers, nine Apache Day Camp locations, Camp Chi Overnight Camp and Perlstein Retreat Center (located in Lake Delton, WI) and five Community Centers. For more information on JCC Chicago programming and commitment to community, visit jccchicago.org.

ABOUT ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

IPO celebrates its 45th anniversary season in 2022/23. Under the leadership of Music Director Stilian Kirov and Christina Salerno (2022 Illinois Council of Orchestras 'Executive Director of the Year'), the mission of IPO is to provide compelling professional symphonic music, support music education, and expand audience awareness of musical excellence for the diverse communities of the greater Chicago region.

During this milestone anniversary season, the three-time Illinois Council of Orchestras "Professional Orchestra of the Year" will perform several classical concerts at their home venue, Ozinga Chapel at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL. In addition, the orchestra performs a myriad of educational youth offerings each year via their educational arm - The Marilyn Tannebaum Educational Institute. IPO also performs an annual summer chamber series, IPO Summer @ Olympia Fields Country Club.

From its community orchestra roots in Park Forest, the 69-member orchestra has grown into a critically acclaimed professional regional orchestra. Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is supported in part by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation, Ozinga Foundation, the Walder Foundation, Gerhard Manufacturing and Design, Northern Trust, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. For more information, visit ipomusic.org.

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