

# FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC

Andrew Constantine, Music Director

Date: October 14, 2019  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Interviews available upon request

What: *Violins of Hope* Fort Wayne

When: Friday, November 9-24, 2019

Where: Various Locations

## ***Violins of Hope* Come to Fort Wayne Community Collaborations Event Listings**

FORT WAYNE, IN — October 14, 2019: The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne and Fort Wayne Philharmonic will lead over twenty-five organizations from across the community in presenting the historic *Violins of Hope* throughout Northeast Indiana from November 9–23, 2019. *Violins of Hope* comprise a collection of restored instruments played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust.

Israeli luthier Amnon Weinstein has spent the last two decades locating and restoring this collection of violins. These instruments serve as a testament to the defiance, resilience, and legacy of the Jewish people, the triumph of the human spirit, and the power of music to lift hearts during even the most horrific circumstances.

After growing up to become one of the most respected violinmakers in the world, the Israeli Amnon Weinstein was determined to reclaim his lost heritage. Twenty years ago, he started locating violins that were played by Jews in the camps and ghettos, painstakingly piecing them back together so they could be brought to life again on the concert stage. He dedicated this important work to 400 relatives he never knew, all who were murdered by Nazi Germany. Although most of the musicians who originally played these instruments were silenced by the Holocaust, their voices live on through the violins that Amnon has lovingly restored.

"*Violins of Hope*, the two-week commemoration of concerts, visual art exhibitions, theater, public conversation, interfaith dialogue, readings, genealogical study, and educational activities is arguably the largest and most significant collaboration of its type under one arts and cultural theme in the history of Fort Wayne," said Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry.

Most importantly, Fort Wayne Philharmonic and Youth Orchestra musicians will bring to life the humanity and stories of those who owned these precious instruments through dozens of local and area performances.

### **Event Schedule:**

**Bearing Witness: Holocaust Through the Eyes of Soldiers**

November 3 at 2:00 p.m. | History Center

**EXHIBITION: Strings of the Holocaust**

November 9 - December 1 | Ian and Mimi Rolland Center, USF

**A Conversation with James Grymes about *Violins of Hope***

November 10 at 2:00 p.m. | Allen County Public Library

**Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Symphony Orchestras: The Violins Live On**

November 10 at 4:00 p.m. | Rhinehart Music Center, PFW

**The Pianist**

November 10, 12, 14, 15 & 17 - 7:00 p.m. | Cinema Center

November 20 & 21 - 2:00 & 7:00 p.m. | Cinema Center

**Opening Event: *Violins of Hope***

November 11 at 7:00 p.m. | Fort Wayne Museum Of Art

**Guitars and Violins: Tone, Wood, and Structure as Described by the Luthiers That Build Them**

November 12 at 7:00 p.m. | Sweetwater Sound

***Violins of Hope: Stories of Defiance, Resilience, and Legacy***

November 14 at 7:30 p.m. | Allen County Courthouse

**Shabbat Service**

November 15 at 7:00 p.m. | Congregation Achduth Vesholom

**Ghetto**

November 15, 16, 21, 22 & 23 at 8:00 p.m. | Williams Theatre, PFW

November 17 at 2:00 p.m. | Williams Theatre, PFW

**Violins of Hope: Music from the Shoah**

November 16 at 1:30 p.m. | Allen County Public Library

**Three Rivers Choral Festival: Voices of Hope**

November 16 at 4:00 p.m. | Rhinehart Music Center, PFW

**The Klezmatics**

November 16 at 7:30 p.m. | Embassy Theatre

**Researching Victims and Survivors: Holocaust Genealogy**

November 17 at 2:00 p.m. | Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

**Defiance: Screening of the Movie, Starring Daniel Craig**

November 18 at 7:00 p.m. | PFW, Neff Hall, Rm 101

**Perspectives on Defiance: The Courage of the Bielski Partisans**

November 19 at 7:00 p.m. | PFW, Neff Hall, Rm 101

**Jewish-Catholic Prayer Service**

November 20 at 7:00 p.m. | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

**Culinary Diplomacy: A Melody of Jewish Foods**

November 21 at 6:00 p.m. | Joseph Decuis Farm

**Fort Wayne Philharmonic: Violins of Hope**

November 23 at 7:30 p.m. | Embassy Theatre

Please visit [violinsofhopefw.org](http://violinsofhopefw.org) for detailed event information, educational resources, media materials, and a myriad of programs offered on PBS39 and WBNI/WBOI.

For additional information, please contact [info@violinsofhopefw.org](mailto:info@violinsofhopefw.org) or Douglas Dennis at 260.481.0779.

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**Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne**

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne is to support the wellbeing and continuity of the Jewish people in greater Fort Wayne, in Israel, and throughout the world. The Federation was organized in 1921 as a welfare and relief organization to coordinate work and communal fund raising for the entire Jewish community. In subsequent years the Federation developed into a multi-faceted organization serving young and old in the areas of social services, education and cultural programs, leadership development, community relations, and fund raising. The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne is considered a community leader in the efforts to reduce and eliminate prejudice. For additional information, call 260.456.0400 or log on to [jewishfortwayne.org](http://jewishfortwayne.org).

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**Fort Wayne Philharmonic**

Now in its 2019-2020 Season, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic's mission is to inspire and foster a lifelong love of symphonic music through performance and education. Music Director Andrew Constantine leads the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. All programming is made possible by the support of community individuals, businesses, corporations and foundations. The Philharmonic is a funded member of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, the Indiana Arts Commission, and National Endowment for the Arts. For additional information, call 260.481.0777 or log on to the website at [fwphil.org](http://fwphil.org).