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STANFORD LIVE HOSTS SCREENING OF THE RED VIOLIN WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA ON DECEMBER 8

Performance features Canadian violinist Lara St. John with members of the Stanford Philharmonia, led by Paul Phillips

Stanford, CA, November 21, 2017—It’s the stuff of legend: a priceless violin long thought lost is dug up and brought back to musical life. In the film The Red Violin, the titular “character” is at one point along its winding journey buried with its player then unearthed by grave-robbing gypsies. But Canadian violinist Lara St. John also has a violin with a past.

When she performs as soloist in Stanford Live’s screening of the film with live orchestra on December 8, at Memorial Auditorium, she’ll be playing the same 1779 “Salabue” Guadagnini she has for the past 17 years, thanks to an anonymous donor. “It came to the American continent in the 1920s as a gift from a father to his young son, who was studying with Efrem Zimbalist and performed at the Hollywood Bowl,” she writes. “Unfortunately, he contracted tuberculosis and died at 17, and his heartbroken father entombed him with this Guadagnini and some bows. A few years later during the Depression, the family needed money, so the violin was brought out and sold, but it’s a very poignant story nevertheless.”

Joining St. John will be members of the Stanford Philharmonia, led by its new music director and conductor Paul Phillips, performing the Academy Award-winning score by John Corigliano. It also marks Stanford Live’s first collaboration with Phillips who came to Stanford earlier this year.

Director François Girard’s film, released in the U.S. in 1999, follows the intricate history of a mysterious antique violin from its creation by a legendary violin maker in 17th-century Cremona, to an
auction house in modern-day Montreal where it draws the eye of an expert appraiser (Samuel L. Jackson)—travelling through five different countries over the course of four centuries. The film was inspired by one of the violins of Antonio Stradivari, the 1721 Red Mendelssohn, which features a unique red stripe on its top right side. Stradivarius used red varnish on numerous other violins from 1704 to 1720, the so-called “golden period,” and other red-colored violins besides the Red Mendelssohn survived.

The violin, described in the film as “the single most perfect acoustic machine,” becomes a coveted treasure by all who touch its strings. In addition to receiving an Oscar, The Red Violin also received eight Genie Awards, nine Jutra Awards and a Golden Reel Award for Sound Editing.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for The Red Violin screening with orchestra range from $30-80 for adults and $15 or all current Stanford students. Tickets are available at the Bing Ticket Office, by phone at 650-724-2464 (BING) or online at live.stanford.edu.

**VENUE INFORMATION**

Memorial Auditorium is located on the Stanford University campus at 551 Serra Mall. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 PM and on weekends at all times, and is available along Serra Street, Memorial Way, Lasuen Street, Museum Way, and Roth Way. Visit live.stanford.edu/plan-your-visit/venues.

**ABOUT STANFORD LIVE**

Stanford Live presents a wide range of the finest performances from around the world fostering a vibrant learning community and providing distinctive experiences through the performing arts. With its home at Bing Concert Hall, Stanford Live is simultaneously a public square, a sanctuary and a lab, drawing on the breadth and depth of Stanford University to connect performance to the significant issues, ideas and discoveries of our time.
CALENDAR EDITORS NOTE:

What:    The Red Violin
         With Lara St. John, violin, and members of the Stanford Philharmonia
When:    Friday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.
Venue:   Memorial Auditorium, 551 Serra Mall, Stanford University
Tickets: $30-$80

Description: Canadian violinist Lara St. John, with the help of a live orchestra, performs the score at a screening of The Red Violin, a film about an antique instrument made in Cremona, Italy.

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