



Musée Holocauste Montréal  
Montreal Holocaust Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***First Canadian appearance of the Violins of Hope presented by the Montreal Holocaust Museum and the Orchestre Métropolitain***

**October 3, 2019, Montreal, Quebec** – The Montreal Holocaust Museum, in collaboration with the Orchestre Métropolitain, present *The Violins of Hope*, a concert under the direction of the internationally-renowned Dutch conductor **Vincent De Kort**. Following select performances in Europe and the United States, the *Violins of Hope* will be played for the first time in Canada by musicians of the Orchestre Métropolitain at **Maison symphonique de Montréal, Place des Arts on Saturday, November 2nd at 7:30 pm**.

[\*The Violins of Hope\*](#) are a collection of more than 70 string instruments restored by Israeli master luthier **Amnon Weinstein** and his son **Avshalom Weinstein**. These violins were owned by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust and have survived pogroms, concentration camps, and the passage of time. They now represent stories of injustice, suffering, resilience and survival. Eight of these precious violins will travel to Montreal for the concert on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

"My mission is to get hold of any violin that has been rescued from the Holocaust, to repair it and to make it into a concert violin. I want these violins to be played, to have their voices heard and have their say, because these violins have a very particular sound: voices, weeping, laughter and prayers escape," stated Amnon Weinstein.

The November 2<sup>nd</sup> concert will be both a tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and to the **75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands by the Canadian Armed Forces**. Between October 2 and November 8, 1944, the First Canadian Army fought the Nazi forces installed on the banks of the Scheldt River, thereby liberating the port of Antwerp and saving the lives of thousands of Dutch citizens. Access to this port was essential for supplying the Allies and facilitating their advance to defeat Adolf Hitler's forces and liberate Europe.



Master violin-maker Amnon Weinstein is involved in initiating and promoting concerts and educational projects about violins around the world. He works with orchestras and artists both in Israel and abroad.

*The Violins of Hope* offer a unique and moving program including works by J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Mahler, Jocelyn Morlock, as well as the **premiere** of *Children's War Diaries* by Canadian composer [Jaap Nico Hamburger](#). The new chamber symphony by Hamburger, this year's Mécénat Musica Composer in Residence, was inspired by a compilation of diaries of teenagers murdered during the war, as well as a visit to the Children's Memorial at Yad Vashem. Cantorial music in honour of Holocaust victims will be performed by soprano **Sharon Azrieli** and tenor **Gideon Zelermyer**.

**The Violins of Hope**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 7:30 pm**

Maison symphonique de Montréal, 1600 Saint-Urbain St., H2X 1Y9

Tickets: \$ 45 - \$ 55 - \$ 75 plus taxes and services

BOX OFFICE: 514-842-2112 or 1-866-842-2112 | [placedesarts.com](http://placedesarts.com)

**About the Montreal Holocaust Museum:** The Montreal Holocaust Museum educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, while sensitising the public to the universal perils of antisemitism, racism, hate and indifference. Through its Museum, its commemorative programs and educational initiatives, the Montreal Holocaust Museum promotes respect for diversity and the sanctity of human life.

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An opportunity to greet and view the violins upon their arrival in Montreal will take place in late October, details to be announced.

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Shira Gilbert: 514-585-3868, [shira@shiragilbertpr.com](mailto:shira@shiragilbertpr.com)

Glenda Rush: 514-591-5406, [vivomusiquecanada@gmail.com](mailto:vivomusiquecanada@gmail.com)

Sarah Fogg, 514-345-2605 ext. 3437 (514-240-7357 cell) [sarah.fogg@museeholocauste.ca](mailto:sarah.fogg@museeholocauste.ca)

Co-creator of the concert : Katia Dahan, 514-998-2023, [katia@conceptduo.com](mailto:katia@conceptduo.com)