

**Jacksonville Symphony to Present Second Annual Civic Orchestra January 27th;
Violins of Hope, Featuring Holocaust Restored Instruments, on January 28th**

What: The Jacksonville Symphony will present its second annual **Civic Orchestra** on Friday, January 27th. More than 73 residents of North Florida have committed to a week of rehearsal with Jacksonville Symphony musicians who will appear onstage with them. Associated Conductor Nathan Aspinall will lead the concert.

Violins of Hope will feature 16 violins that have been recovered and restored from The Holocaust. The event is held in conjunction with the Anne Frank: A History for Today exhibit at the Museum of Science and History (MOSH).

The international series of Violins of Hope concerts were started by Israeli luthier Amnon Weinstein when he was approached in 1996 to restore a violin that had been played by a man interned in one of the World War II concentration camps. Weinstein, whose parents fled Europe in 1938 only to learn later of the death of more than 400 relatives, felt a connection to bring the violin back to life. After he restored the first violin, he actively sought out other violins. There are now 30 violins that have been restored. Sixteen will be featured in the Symphony performance.

Violins of Hope will include guest artist Alexi Kenney on the violin. Symphony principal cello Alexei Romanenko will solo on Max Bruch's *Kol Nidre*. The Kol Nidre prayer is sung by Jews at the opening of Day of Atonement services on the eve of Yom Kippur.

Date: Civic Orchestra is Friday, January 27th at 8pm. Violins of Hope is Saturday, January 28th at 8pm.

Where: Robert E. Jacoby Symphony Hall, Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts

Sponsors: Violins of Hope is co-sponsored by Jay and Deanie Stein and Stein Mart.

Tickets: Tickets for the Civic Orchestra performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets for Violins of Hope start at \$22 for the concert and \$100 for the concert and 6:30pm reception with luthier Amnon Weinstein. Students under the age of 18 may attend the Violins of Hope concert for free. For ticket information visit jaxsymphony.org or call 904-354-5547.

Note: Photos available upon request.