



EUGENE-SPRINGFIELD YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Presents

“Voices of the Great Violins”

A presentation and performance by

David Fulton and James Ehnes

October 25, 2019, 5:00pm

Tykeson Room, Berwick Hall

David Fulton *Why We're Here*

James Ehnes *The Great Violins Come to Life*

David Fulton *Violin-Making History, Violins Making History*



James Ehnes has established himself as one of the most sought-after violinists on the international stage. Gifted with a rare combination of stunning virtuosity, serene lyricism and an unfaltering musicality, Ehnes is a favourite guest of many of the world's most respected conductors including Ashkenazy, Alsop, Sir Andrew Davis, Denève, Elder, Ivan Fischer, Gardner, Paavo Järvi, Mena, Nosedá, Robertson and Runnicles. Ehnes's long list of orchestras includes, amongst others, the Boston, Chicago, London, NHK and Vienna Symphony Orchestras, the Los Angeles, New York, Munich and Czech Philharmonic Orchestras, and the Cleveland, Philadelphia, Philharmonia and DSO Berlin orchestras.

Recent orchestral highlights include the MET Orchestra at Carnegie Hall with Nosedá, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig with Shelley, San Francisco Symphony with Janowski, Frankfurt Radio Symphony with Orozco-Estrada, London Symphony with Harding, and Munich Philharmonic with van Zweden, as well as his debut with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Lincoln Center in spring 2019. In 2019/20, Ehnes is Artist in Residence with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, which includes performances of the Elgar Concerto with Luisi, a play/direct programme leg by Ehnes, and a chamber music programme. In 2017, Ehnes premiered the Aaron-Jay Kernis Violin Concerto with the Toronto, Seattle and Dallas Symphony Orchestras, and gave further performances of the piece with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Ehnes began violin studies at the age of five, became a protégé of the noted Canadian violinist Francis Chaplin aged nine, and made his orchestra debut with Orchestra Symphonique de Montréal aged 13. He continued his studies with Sally Thomas at the Meadowmount School of Music and The Juilliard School, winning the Peter Mennin Prize for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in Music upon his graduation in 1997. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and in 2010 was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada. Ehnes was awarded the 2017 Royal Philharmonic Society Award in the Instrumentalist category. James Ehnes plays the “Marsick” Stradivarius of 1715.



Born in 1944, **David Fulton** grew up in Eugene, Oregon, playing the violin from an early age, and participating in the Junior Symphony (which would later be named Eugene-Springfield Youth Orchestras.) He studied mathematics at the University of Chicago, and was concertmaster of the University of Chicago Symphony while he was there. Fulton performed professionally with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra as a violinist. In 1970 he founded the Department of Computer Science at Bowling Green State University serving as Professor and Chairman for 10 years. While still at Bowling Green, he co-founded Fox Software, which ultimately gained international recognition for its database management application, FoxPro. Following the sale of Fox Software to Microsoft in 1992, Dr. Fulton served as Microsoft's Vice President for Database Products until retiring in 1994.

Fulton has produced several documentary films about violins and music. The first was *Homage* (2008), which won the 2009 Juno award as "Classical Album of the Year: Solo or Chamber Ensemble". The film features violinist James Ehnes performing on fourteen instruments from Fulton's collection. The second, *Violin Masters: Two Gentlemen of Cremona*, (2010), narrated by Alfred Molina and featuring renowned violinists James Ehnes, Joshua Bell, Midori, Itzhak Perlman among others, examines the history and modern use of Stradivari and Guarneri del Gesù violins. *Violin Masters* won a 2012 Emmy in the "Documentary - Historical" category. The most recent film, *Transcendence: A Meeting of Greats*, (2014), documents the sessions at which the Miró Quartet recorded Schubert's great String Quartet No. 15, in G Major, D. 887. This film was nominated for two 2014 Emmy awards in the Special Event Coverage category, winning Best Director in that category.

Eugene-Springfield Youth Orchestras (ESYO), formerly known as *Eugene Junior Symphony* or *Arts Umbrella*, has been providing orchestral music education in Lane County for 86 years. ESYO offers multiple ensembles (*Youth Symphony, Junior Orchestra, Little Symphony, and String Academy 2*) in addition to providing *String Academy 1* classes at 8 elementary schools. ESYO outreach programs include free concerts for elementary school students, both in Eugene and in Springfield, as well as community performances by our orchestral ensembles. Our volunteer Ambassador Musicians also perform throughout the year at various events, upon request.

The ESYO board and staff offer their profound gratitude to David Fulton for sponsoring this event. His devotion to ESYO is a source of endless inspiration to us all. His continued friendships with his youth orchestra friends, along with his unabated passion for great music and treasured instruments, are beautiful reminders of the lifelong impact that our programs have. Our heartfelt thanks also go to James Ehnes for his extraordinary artistry and generosity.

A Vision for the Future

You can help ensure that Eugene-Springfield Youth Orchestras continues to offer high-quality orchestral programs for youth far into the future by supporting our endowment campaign.

For more information, visit our website at www.esyorchestras.org

This special event is generously supported by a gift from David Fulton.