



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Violinist Elizabeth Pitcairn and the "Red Mendelssohn" Stradivarius return to perform with Marin Symphony

Symphonic Concerts in Marin Center and  
Intimate Solo Recital in Tiburon Home Planned

SAN RAFAEL, CA—Violin Virtuoso Elizabeth Pitcairn, playing in partnership with the legendary 1720 "Red Mendelssohn" Stradivarius, returns to Marin this November for concerts with the Marin Symphony and an intimate, solo recital in a luxurious Tiburon home.

On Sunday, November 2 and Tuesday, November 4 Alasdair Neale will conduct the Marin Symphony Orchestra in the Marin Veteran's Auditorium while Ms. Pitcairn performs Vivaldi's charming "Four Seasons", a collection of four concerti. This program was inspired by Barbara Quick, author of "Vivaldi's Virgins" as part of the Marin Symphony's 2009-10 "Season of the Scribe", exploring the relation between classical music and prominent local writers. Tickets are priced at \$70, \$54 and \$29 and can be purchased at the Marin Center Box Office and via Ticketmaster

Prior to her performance with the Marin Symphony, Ms. Pitcairn will perform Friday evening, October 30, in an intimate setting in a luxurious Tiburon home. For a limited number of guests, this "at home" concert offers not only violin works by Ms. Pitcairn, but also hors d'oeuvres, fine wines and an up-close evening with Ms Pitcairn in conversation about her music and her fabled violin. Tickets for this affair are priced at \$100 and net proceeds will benefit the Marin Symphony. For more information or to order tickets call the Marin Symphony office at 415/479-8100.

Born into a musical family in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Elizabeth Pitcairn made her New York debut at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in 2002. She has studied with preeminent violin professor Robert Lipsett and is currently a member of the distinguished faculty at Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles. Ms. Pitcairn last charmed Marin Symphony audiences as guest soloist during the 2007-08 season performing Mendelssohn's "Concerto for Violin in E minor". In addition to her musical skills, she is known for her unique partnership with the famous "Red Mendelssohn" Stradivarius violin.

Antonio Stradivari crafted the "Red Mendelssohn" Stradivarius in 1720. It is acknowledged as one of the best sounding and most beautiful of Stradivari's remaining violins and is considered one of the finest violins of all times. Its name comes from the unique red stripe on the top right side of the instrument. It is famed for the richness of its color and much of its original burnished red varnish remains on the violin today.

There is also mystery associated with the "Red Mendelssohn" violin. Not long after its creation, the instrument appeared to vanish; no one knows where or to whom the violin belonged for more than 200 years, spawning any number of historians, writers, journalists, critics as well as Canadian film maker, Francois Girard, to speculate on the violin's mysterious history. Girard's imaginative speculations became the narrative for his beloved film, "The Red Violin", winner of the 1999 Academy Award for best soundtrack. The instrument would eventually resurface in Berlin in the 1930s after being purchased by an heir to the great composer, Felix Mendelssohn. A New York industrialist next purchased the Red Violin in 1945. It was kept in impeccable performance condition until Thanksgiving Day in 1990 when it was anonymously put on the auction block at Christie's of London. The winning bid came from American solo violinist, Elizabeth Pitcairn's grandfather. He presented the instrument to his granddaughter for her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Pitcairn would remain silent about owning the violin until her rapidly burgeoning solo career brought her into the public eye on international concert stages

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Jpg: American solo violinist, Elizabeth Pitcairn and her 1720 "Red Mendelssohn" Stradivarius violin.

## **About the Marin Symphony**

Each Year the Marin Symphony Orchestra presents six pairs of classical concerts in the Marin Veteran's Civic Auditorium from October through May. Established in 1954, the organization supports a variety of youth programs such as the Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra, Crescendo Workshops and the Symphony@schools program. To learn more visit [www.marinsymphony.org](http://www.marinsymphony.org) or call 415/479-8100.

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