



“Where there were violins, there was hope.”

– Amnon Weinstein, Founder of Violins of Hope

In late January 2018 the Holocaust & Humanity Center (HHC) will bring the Cincinnati community a unique concert event, *Violins of Hope*. This event, will feature eight Holocaust era violins that will be played by Cincinnati’s finest musicians. The stories of each violin will be carefully woven into the concert. These violins witnessed the worst of humanity in ghettos and concentration camps but serve as a symbol of hope and resistance.



For decades, Israeli violinmaker, Amnon Weinstein had received violins that had been played by musicians during the Holocaust. In the 1990’s he began to restore these instruments with the help of his son, Avshi. These once silent violins were able to play again in concerts around the world and became known as the *Violins of Hope*.

HHC was the first to bring one of the *Violins of Hope* to the United States in 2009 for a concert at Plum Street Temple. The concert attracted around 1,000 people and the violins have continued to be of interest to the local community since that time. In 2018, we look forward to an opportunity to share more of the violins with a larger part

of the community. We are excited to have the involvement of Cincinnati Opera Artistic Director, Evans Mirages as our Artistic Advisor. We also excited to have the participation of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the concert will be conducted by the CSO’s Louis Langrée.

HHC will hold an educational and community performance on January 23 at Music Hall. We will also work with partners to produce additional programming to build excitement for the concert along with opportunities for school visits with the violins.

HHC looks forward to bringing the Cincinnati community a powerful, inspiring event.

Partnerships: Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Museum Center, Linton Chamber Music Series, Mayerson JCC, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati Arts Association, WGUC, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Jewish Federation of Cincinnati

More on the Violins of Hope: *CBS Sunday Morning:* <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/violins-of-hope/>

About the Holocaust & Humanity Center

HHC exists to ensure the lessons of the Holocaust inspire action today. HHC educates about the Holocaust, remembers its victims and acts on its lessons. Through innovative programs and partnerships, HHC challenges injustice, inhumanity and prejudice, and fosters understanding, inclusion and engaged citizenship. HHC impacts over 100,000 individuals each year.

In January 2019, HHC will relocate to Cincinnati’s Union Terminal. This unique partnership will be a first of its kind in the United States, putting Cincinnati on the map for bringing the lessons of the Holocaust into the civic conversation.