



**For Immediate Release**

April 15, 2020

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**Columbus Concert Promotes Global Unity Amid Coronavirus**

**Columbus, Ohio** – Greater Columbus Sister Cities International and the Columbus Symphony present a livestreamed rebroadcast of Paganini’s “Il Cannone” Violin in Concert, from the Columbus Symphony Facebook page for the first time since the historic concert in May 2019. Much like Columbus, our Sister City of Genoa Italy has been impacted by COVID-19. This digital concert will take place for Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18 at 7:30pm.

“We hope that this special event and the sounds of Paganini’s violin will serve to remind all of us that we are in this together.” said Jayme Staley, Executive Director Greater Columbus Sister Cities International.

In May 2019, Greater Columbus Sister Cities International partnered with the Columbus sister city of Genoa, Italy to bring Niccolò Paganini’s treasured “Il Cannone” violin to Columbus. This beautiful instrument is more than 276 years old and is considered by many to be the most important violin in the world. The violin had not been in the United States in more than 15 years, but thanks to the strong sister city relationship between Columbus and Genoa, the violin was on display to the public at the Columbus Museum of Art from May 10- 20, 2019.

“The cultural exchange between Columbus and Genoa produced one of the most unique musical experiences for our community that is still reverberating. The partnership between the Columbus Symphony and GCSCI created an event that put Columbus in the international map of cultural destinations. We are very grateful for the support from Columbus City Council!” said Rossen Milanov the Music Director of the Columbus Symphony.

Genoa and Columbus have been sister cities since 1955, and this exchange was the largest in recent history. Constructed in 1743 by Bartolomeo Giuseppe Guarneri, “Il Cannone” is Genoa’s most prized possession and rarely leaves its home at the Palazzo Doria-Tursi. Columbus joined three other U.S. cities, and became the first in the Midwest, to host this coveted violin.

For more information and to access the concert footage, visit the Facebook Event Page <https://www.facebook.com/events/245050636868889/>

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