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Five Acclaimed Local Artists Donate Incredible Painted Violins To Support The Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra

Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra music director Eckart Preu is known around the halls of the CCO for his out-of-the-box thinking. This spring he had an idea that was no exception. He wondered if used and abused violins could be given new life while supporting artistic and educational programming in our community at the same time. His vision was that the violins would be paired with several of Cincinnati's fantastic artists for them to use them as a canvas to tell the stories of the orchestra's four Mainstage concerts for the Summermusik festival. The CCO approached Buddy Roger's Music about donating violins to the cause and they enthusiastically agreed to be the Instrument Sponsor.

As the CCO considered how to begin this project, they approached longtime partner Holly Doan Spraul for advice. The owner and curator at Wash Park Art Gallery, Holly was the perfect connection to the visual arts community. She expertly paired five talented local artists with the concert themes that would most resonate with each artist's style and passions. She also suggested creating a Summermusik violin that would represent the festival as a whole... as well as a project name: MusikArt.

The opening night concert at SCPA on August 4th is British Invasion, followed by An Afternoon with Jane Austen that will take place at the Taft Museum the next day. To represent these concerts **Cedric Michael Cox** created a violin that showcases his distinctive style and musical interests. Cedric's work is exhibited in galleries, museums and private collections from New York to California. His work has been the subject of a solo exhibition at the Taft Museum (March 2017), included in the "30 Americans" exhibit at Cincinnati Art Museum (July 2016), and is in the Contemporary Arts Center's permanent collection. A musician too, Cedric analogizes musical elements in his visual art, "A change in rhythm or pitch can be compared to a shift in line, brushstroke, value, and pattern."

As a student at UC-DAAP (BFA Painting), Cedric was awarded a Fellowship at Glasgow School of Art, Scotland. He since has received grants and commissions from public and private organizations, and, even Congress. Cedric's well-known works are sought after by collectors and museums.

<https://cedricmichaelcox.com>

Nicole Trimble was invited to create a violin for The Seasons: Reimagined and Postcards From the Sky – the concerts that will take place on August 11 and 12. Nicole’s violin appears to be sculpted out of ice, and is beautifully stark, conjuring images of winter. Nicole’s work has been exhibited in galleries throughout the United States and in publications such as Studio Visit and Professional Artist Magazine. She holds a BFA in painting and printmaking from Miami University, and an MFA from UC-DAAP. You have seen her design work in ArtWorks and privately commissioned murals throughout the city. Her studio work appears in public and private collections here and abroad including Miami University, UC-DAAP and Klaus Benden (Galerie Klaus Benden, Cologne Germany). Always pointedly experimental, her current work updates, abstracts and layers classic art tropes with a surrealistic content and unexpected color. "I am always working to capture the flux, a rift, the shift between an interior mental space and exterior physicality." When not in her studio, Nicole can be found designing and painting large scale mural commissions and fine art architectural elements as co-owner of Bright Wall Collective.

www.brightwallcollective.com

The Red Violin (of movie fame) is coming to Cincinnati, and will be played by owner Elizabeth Pitcairn at the CCO concerts on August 18 and 19. This historic violin inspired a sculptural work by **Thomas Hieronymus Towhey, “2E”**. Tom’s unique array of work (line drawings, abstract, fantasy landscape and surreal paintings) is widely exhibited, including shows at the University of Cincinnati, Art Academy, Springfield Museum of Art, Atlanta Art Expo, Art EXPO (NYC), Andrew Vincent Galleries (Australia) and notable solo shows at Miller Gallery and Carnegie Arts Center (Ky). His work is in distinguished corporate collections, such as Proctor & Gamble, Eli Lilly, and Children's Hospital. A well-established artist, Tom continues to shape Cincinnati’s art identity. Tom founded Maintraum, a contributing factor in establishing Main Street as a local hub of creativity, and he participates in other pointed efforts, such as S.O.S. Cincinnati, a group of artists using their work to encourage peace and justice. An educational presenter at UC-DAAP and Taft Museum, Tom also helped develop the after-school art programs for Cincinnati YMCA and its outreach to Children’s Hospital, and he served as a volunteer art teacher for St. Rita’s School for the Deaf. Tom is a self-studied artist with stints at the Art Academy and University of Cincinnati, design work with Gibson Greeting Cards. <https://www.tomtowhey.org>

To create a violin that would speak to the hearts of veterans for The Hero Within concert (August 25), the CCO turned to artist **David Laug**. Dave is a Navy veteran with work in the permanent collection of the National Veterans Art Museum (Chicago). He works from his MoVida Studio at The Essex, producing high energy expressionistic bursts of vivid colors and stories. His work carries the Fauvist torch of giving color priority over line, form, and value. Exhibited in galleries from here to New Orleans, Dave has been featured in juried and invitational exhibits, and his work resides in numerous corporate, public and private collections including the Terrace Park Historical Society Museum. When not in the studio, Dave’s happy energy spills over into programs at The Woman’s Art Club of Cincinnati (“The Barn”) and teaching at other art centers and schools. "I am intrigued by small, everyday moments in life that have the potential to impact others, and society as a whole, in a big way. My life's travels have taught me that some of the simplest expressions can have the most impact." www.davidlaug.com

facebook.com/DaveLaug

The fifth violin was presented to **Sara Caswell Pearce**, who had the task of creating a work of art that would represent Summermusik itself. Her violin evokes idyllic summers, with nature and music coming together in harmony. Sara is a paper collector (fallout from a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science) focused on the early 20th and 19th centuries, with occasional detours into earlier times. Through her company, Paper With A Past, she creates collages, greeting cards and other paper products. These incorporate original antique and vintage papers from an ever-expanding collection, as well as imagery exclusive to her collection. She also recycles modern and contemporary papers, and found objects in mixed-media works of art. Her work has been exhibited at The Art Academy of Cincinnati, Carnegie Arts Center, Mount St. Joseph University, University of Cincinnati, Manifest Gallery, and other galleries. Sara is artist in residence this year at Mercantile Library, sells her print work at the museums, as well as online via her website. www.paperwithapast.com

All five violins will be exhibited at the four CCO concerts held at SCPA in August, and at Wash Park Art gallery from July 13th until August 25th, along with other paintings by the five featured artists. All funds raised will go to support the artistic and educational programs of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. After the violins have been won by their successful bidders, the five artist's paintings will still be on view and for sale at the gallery through September 15th.

Bidding will start at \$300 for each violin, and bids will be taken until midnight, August 25th. Current bids and photos will be available at www.washparkart.com Bidding can be done at the gallery or online at:

<http://www.washparkart.com/MusikArt.html>

For more information – www.ccocincinnati.org

Instrument Sponsor: Buddy Roger's Music – www.buddyrogers.com

Or, call CCO Development Manager Lyndsay Coleman at 513-723-1182 x 101

About the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra: The Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra is an independent ensemble of 32 professional musicians that will celebrate its 45th anniversary season in 2019 and launched the Summermusik festival in August, 2015. Eckart Preu was named as new music director in October, 2016. The CCO offers a vibrant and fresh musical experience in an intimate and informal setting, for both the seasoned and novice concert patron. The CCO's size allows for flexibility and creativity in programming, the ideal ensemble for presenting orchestral works ranging from the Baroque and Classical eras to commissioned works by contemporary composers.

The Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra is supported by the generosity of over 40,000 businesses and individuals who give annually to the ArtsWave Community Campaign, the Ohio Arts Council, The Charles H. Dater Foundation, and The Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund.

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