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International Violin Competition of Indianapolis loans 1683 Stradivari to Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster

*1998 Gold Medalist Judith Ingolfsson replaces Kyoko Takezawa
Luke Hsu guest harpist Mélanie Laurent forced to cancel U.S. engagements*

INDIANAPOLIS – The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI) announced today that it is loaning its Stradivari violin to Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Kevin Lin until the IVCI's 12th Quadrennial Competition in 2026.

The violin, made by Cremonese luthier Antonio Stradivari in 1683, was acquired by the IVCI in 1999, and was formerly owned by its Artistic Founder, Josef Gingold. Having served on the juries of all major international competitions throughout the world, Gingold performed as Concertmaster of the Detroit Symphony and the Cleveland Orchestra before joining the faculty at Indiana University in Bloomington. He acquired the violin in 1946 and concertized with it until his death a half century later.

"The IVCI is thrilled that for the first time, Indianapolis audiences will have the opportunity to hear Josef Gingold's Stradivari violin played regularly in the hands of ISO Concertmaster Kevin Lin," says IVCI Executive Director Glen Kwok. "I cannot think of a more meaningful opportunity than to have our city's Concertmaster perform on this Strad, which carries the distinctive sound and artistry of Josef Gingold."

Kevin Lin, the ISO's Concertmaster since 2020, was previously Co-Leader of the London Philharmonic, and has appeared as Guest Concertmaster in the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Houston symphonies, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London, and the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

"To be able to perform on a Stradivari violin is to be around a piece of history," says Lin, "but to use the ex-Gingold, a violin with such a meaningful provenance, is incredibly special."

"The Gingold Stradivarius provides Kevin with even more ways to support the artistic growth of the ISO," says Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra CEO James Johnson. "When I think of the lineage of this instrument, especially the glory years of the Cleveland Orchestra when Gingold played Concertmaster for George Szell, I am awestruck at the possibilities for the ISO's musical future."

Since its acquisition, the ex-Gingold has been performed by IVCI Gold Medalists Judith Ingolfsson (1998), Barnabás Kelemen (2002), Augustin Hadelich (2006), Clara-Jumi Kang (2010), Richard Lin (2018), and 2014 Silver Medalist Tessa Lark.

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The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI) recognizes, rewards and promotes the world's finest young classical violinists and encourages understanding, appreciation and support of the violin repertoire by a large and diverse audience. The IVCI utilizes its world prominence to bring international attention to Indianapolis and maintains its efforts to be a visible and collaborative member of the arts communities in Indianapolis and Indiana.

For information about the IVCI, visit www.violin.org.

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