

# Strings & Stories

*An exciting show blending music and theater*

## **Kudos from Our Audiences:**

*"The highlight of the year for our students."*

*"I have had many phone calls from teachers expressing how dynamic and thrilling you were for their students.*

*The teachers' guides received beforehand were especially helpful and appreciated.*

*Once again, thank you for presenting such an exceptional program to the students.*

*You made a big impact (on the children)."*

*"This duo is providing a very important reminder to us all that good literature enriches our lives when we participate in it and that music adds color to a black and white world when we play it... an otherwise typical Sunday night was turned into an event rich in community and culture."*

*Strings & Stories* is a two-person show, featuring Alaskan violinist Linda Rosenthal and Los Angeles actor Bill Blush in a dynamic pairing of music and theater -- an enjoyable and fun experience that has garnered rave reviews and enthusiastic praise from audiences, both the young and young at heart.

An imaginative and exciting blend of music and theater, *Strings & Stories* appeals to audiences of all ages. It mixes familiar stories with classical music in a program that is educational, interactive, fast-paced, and entertaining. Through its unique format, audiences are exposed to a variety of art forms: music, theater, storytelling, literature, improvisation and comedy.

Since its debut at the 1995 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., *Strings & Stories* programs have been seen by thousands of children and adults across the country in schools, libraries, concert halls and theaters under the auspices of the Piatigorsky Foundation in New York City.

## **MEET THE PERFORMERS**

Violinist **Linda Rosenthal** performs throughout North America, Europe and Asia in recitals, as soloist with orchestra and as a chamber musician. She has commissioned over a dozen works for violin and has earned national acclaim for *Strings & Stories*, which she created in 1995 at Kennedy Center. Linda is Founder and Artistic Director of *Juneau Jazz & Classics*, an annual festival that features internationally renowned jazz and classical artists. She is Professor of Music at the University of Alaska and Artistic Director of the Lake Placid Chamber Music Seminar for Adults. Her five solo CDs feature favorite violin encores, sonatas by American composers, and a lively collection of Americana music for violin and piano. Linda plays a violin made in 1772 in Turin, Italy by J.B. Guadagnini.

**Bill Blush**, a native of Los Angeles, has performed *Strings & Stories* with Linda since 2000. He has been involved in all aspects of theater including acting, writing and directing. His works have enjoyed successful Southern California runs including *This Above All*, *About What?*, *Curse You!* and *Ziggy's Right*. As a performer he has played a variety of roles, including... the kitchen sink. A love for comedy has prompted Bill to perform in and direct several improvisational troupes and, more recently, to venture onstage as a stand-up comedian.

***Strings & Stories* is available for presentation in three different versions, each targeted to a specific audience:**

**Strings & Stories for Schools**

**for Grades K-6**

Run time: 45 minutes

*Sample Program:*

- The Story of Ferdinand
  - The Town Where Sleeping Was Not Allowed\*
  - The Emperor's New Clothes\*
- (\*interactive)

**Strings & Stories Family Program**  
**for children of all ages and adults**

Run time: 50 minutes

*Sample Program:*

- The Story of Ferdinand
  - The Town Where Sleeping Was Not Allowed\*
  - Favorite Poems and Limericks
  - The Emperor's New Clothes\*
- (\*interactive)

**Strings & Stories for Adults**

Run time: 60 minutes

This version of *Strings & Stories* is specially designed for adults. It is well-suited to performances for community theaters, concert series, retirement communities, senior centers, and other special events. It is designed to be lively, innovative and full of variety and humor. Adults will enjoy its delightful mix of music, theater and literature in a program that includes the solo violin music of Bach and Paganini, classic short stories, comedic monologue and --a literary tour-de-force: *Why Beethoven?* by Leonard Bernstein.

*Sample Program:*

- The Story of Ferdinand
- Favorite Poems and Limericks
- Selections for Solo Violin by J.S. Bach and Paganini
- A Comedic Monologue
- Imaginary Conversations: *Why Beethoven?* by Leonard Bernstein

***Strings & Stories* requires only a few basic items to ensure a successful performance.**

- 1 hand-held wireless microphone or 1 microphone with long cord (no lavaliers)
- 1 stool (26-30" high)
- 1 table (4-6' long)
- 1 armless chair

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**To book a performance or to request more information about *Strings & Stories*, please contact:**

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