

Historic violins, mute for over 50 years, will sing again in Chadds Ford

WHO: Noted violin maker, Teal Wintsch

WHAT: The Sanderson Violins, mute for over 50 years

WHEN: May 12, 2018

WHERE: Chadds Ford Historical Society Barn at 1736 Creek Road

On Saturday, May 12, violin maker Teal Wintsch of Baltimore, Maryland, luthier with David Bromberg, Fine Violins in Wilmington, DE., will give a lecture on the history of violin making using the Sanderson violin collection as illustrations. In addition, he will play two of the instruments that have not been heard in over 50 years. The lecture and demonstration will be presented at 2:00 in the lecture room of the Chadds Ford Historical Society Barn at 1736 Creek Road. Tickets are limited and will be sold only through the Eventbrite at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sanderson-strings-singing-through-history-tickets-44893239889?aff=es2>



The Sanderson Museum in Chadds Ford opened its 51st Year on March 3, 2018 with their exhibit, “The Sanderson Strings, Singing Through History” which features the seven violins and two viola d’amores from the collection of Christian Carmack Sanderson (1882-1966).

Sanderson, a 1901 graduate of the West Chester Normal School (now West Chester University) and for whom the former Sanderson Hall was named, was a teacher and noted fiddler. His teaching career spanned 1901 to 1929 in small country schools.

In 2012, Museum Curator Chuck Ulmann of West Chester, spear-headed the research and fundraising for a state of the art HVAC system to better preserve the museum collection which includes original Wyeth’s, Civil War artifacts and letters as well as the vintage string instruments.

These historic violins have associations with Sanderson’s life as well as noted musicians such as the violin played by 19th century Norwegian concert violinist Ole Bull in Wilmington, DE on January 21, 1845.

Lecture attendees will learn the difference between the terms violin and fiddle and know why the antiqued Stradivarius label in their grandfather’s 19th century violin is nothing to get excited about. They will also see one of Sanderson’s violins which was found in three pieces, covered with dirt in a local barn, now expertly restored by Wilmington Luthier, Teal Wintsch in 2015.

The three- year project and now permanent exhibit was curated by former museum president Sally Denk Hoey of West Chester, who holds a Masters in Music from the School of Music at West Chester University. Hoey, who came to the museum in 1997, has long held the dream of hearing the violins sing again said, “These violins which were once heard by thousands of people were not meant to be mute.”

The eight-room history museum is located at 1755 Creek Road in the heart of Chadds Ford.