

Violins of Hope

Richmond
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VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE



RICHMOND SYMPHONY

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FAQs

What is Violins of Hope?

[Violins of Hope](#) is a touring exhibit that tells the remarkable stories of violins played by Jewish musicians during one of history's darkest times – the Holocaust. The violins in the exhibit were recovered and lovingly restored by Amnon Weinstein, an Israeli violin shop owner and master craftsman who lost 400 family members in the Holocaust.

When will the Violins of Hope exhibit be in Richmond?

The exhibit will be in Richmond from Aug. 4-Oct. 24, 2021. This is the first time that the exhibit has been in the Mid-Atlantic region of the U.S.

What is the mission of Violins of Hope?

A primary goal of Violins of Hope is to initiate deeper, more meaningful conversations about tolerance and social justice, along with educating non-Jews about the horrors of the Holocaust.

What other U.S. cities have hosted the Violins of Hope exhibit in recent years?

The exhibit has been hosted in Birmingham, Charlotte, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Nashville and Phoenix, among others.

How many violins will be in the exhibit that comes to Richmond?

About 60 violins will be coming to Richmond. Some will be on display at each of three museums listed below, others will be on loan to be played at concerts and community events.

What partners are collaborating to bring the Violins of Hope to Richmond?

After attending a Violins of Hope concert in Nashville in 2018, the executive director of the [Virginia Holocaust Museum](#) organized a collaboration with the [Virginia Museum of History & Culture](#), the [Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia](#) and the [Richmond Symphony](#) to bring the Violins of Hope exhibit to Richmond.

Why is this collaboration so significant?

This is the first time that three museums have partnered with the local symphony to host the exhibit and the first time that a Black history museum has been a partner for the exhibit.

Were the violins played in concentration camps and are they able to be played now?

Some of the violins in the exhibit were played in the ghettos and in concentration camps including Auschwitz; others were played during the period of the Holocaust. Although most of the musicians who originally played the instruments were silenced by the Holocaust, their voices and spirits live on through the violins that have been restored to be played on concert stages worldwide.

Will any of the violins be played in public in Richmond?

Some of the violins will be played at a special concert by the Richmond Symphony on Thurs., Sept. 9 at Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Information about tickets for this event will be posted on violinsofhoperva.com. A number of community events, educational programs and music performances featuring violins in the exhibit are planned and details will be posted on the Violins of Hope website.

Have educational materials been developed about the Violins of Hope exhibit?

Yes, a comprehensive Teacher's Guide can be downloaded at no charge at violinsofhoperva.com.

Is there a charge to see the violins on display at the three museums?

The violins on display at the three museums can be viewed free of charge; a donation of any amount would be greatly appreciated by each museum.

Where can more information about the Violins of Hope be found?

- Details about the exhibit, along with related community events and educational programs can be found at violinsofhoperva.com.
- Another great resource is the book "Violins of Hope" by Dr. James A. Grymes. The book explores the heartbreaking yet inspiring stories behind several violins in the exhibit and also shares details about Amnon Weinstein's passion to have the violins serve as symbols of hope and redemption.