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The Piatigorsky Foundation

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Press Release

THE PIATIGORSKY FOUNDATION PRESENTS A UNIQUE CONCERT EXPERIENCE FOR ALL AGES

Keystone Theatre

Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 2:30 PM

***Performed by Linda Rosenthal, violin, and Bill Blush, actor,
Strings & Stories is an innovative kaleidoscope of music and
theatre***

**Tickets to this event are free to the public. Call 570-268-ARTS (2787) for
tickets**

Last December, a *Nightlife on the Susquehanna* patron, approached the Bradford County Regional Arts Council with an article she had read in the American Profile magazine insert from a local newspaper. The article was an in-depth look at the New York-based Piatigorsky Foundation. The foundation was created by cellist Evan Drachman to bring live classical music to communities that otherwise might not have the opportunity to hear it. Drachman came up with the idea in 1988 while attending the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

For Immediate Release

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While preparing for a recital at the Curtis Institute, Drachman performed at a local retirement community and was overwhelmed by the audience's enthusiastic response. It was a defining moment in his career. Two years later, he created the Piatigorsky Foundation, naming the organization after his late grandfather, famed Russian cellist Gregor Piatigorsky who believed that music should be enjoyed by everyone. "My grandfather urged his students to find ways to be useful musicians and human beings," says Drachman.

The Piatigorsky Foundation is coming to the Keystone Theatre on April 19, 2009 at 2:30pm. Violinist Linda Rosenthal and actor Bill Blush will be performing *Strings & Stories* an imaginative, fast-paced, interactive blend of music and theater, innovative and full of humor. Commissioned in 1995 by the Education Department at the Kennedy Center, Washington DC, *Strings & Stories* continues to delight audiences of all ages. *Strings & Stories* offers a great variety of styles and sounds ranging from classical short stories, insightful letters and prose by Leonard Bernstein and Beethoven to the music of Bach, Paganini and Fritz Kreisler.

Sponsored locally by the Kilmer Insurance Agency Inc., the Piatigorsky Foundation performance is free to the public. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Bradford County Regional Arts Council at 570.268.2787. Additional funding for the Piatigorsky Foundation is obtained through private donations and grants.

Violinist **LINDA ROSENTHAL** performs throughout North America, Europe and Asia in recitals, as a soloist with orchestra and as a chamber musician. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of the annual nationally-acclaimed Juneau Jazz & Classics music festival in Juneau, Alaska, where she makes her home, as well as being the Artistic Director of the Lake Placid Chamber Music Seminar. Linda has commissioned and premiered over a dozen works in the past decade, including pieces for solo violin, violin and narrator, and a concerto for violin and jazz big band. She has recorded five solo CDs and plays on a violin made in 1772 in Turin, Italy by J.B. Guadagnini.

Actor **BILL BLUSH**, a native of Los Angeles, has performed *Strings & Stories* with Linda Rosenthal throughout the United States for over five years. He has long been involved in all aspects of the theater from acting, writing and directing to technical theater and theater arts education. As an actor, Bill has played a variety of roles ranging from the classics to original works...including the kitchen sink. As a playwright, his written works have enjoyed successful Southern California runs including the plays *This Above All*, *About What?*, *Ziggy's Right* and *KENNY!!* He is currently working on the book to a new musical. Bill's love for comedy has inspired him to perform in and direct several improvisational theater troupes and, more recently, to venture into the arena of stand-up comedy where he has performed at The Laugh Factory, The Improv and The World Famous Comedy Store in Hollywood.

About The Piatigorsky Foundation: Evan Drachman established The Piatigorsky Foundation in 1990 in honor of his grandfather Gregor Piatigorsky. Piatigorsky deeply believed in the healing and inspiration power of classical music. He once said, "*Music makes life better. Music is a necessity. It is rich. It is imaginative. It is magnificent. And it is for everyone.*" The Piatigorsky Foundation is

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committed to carrying on Piatigorsky's mission by evoking cultural curiosity through educational and accessible live performances.

Please see attached photos.

More information at <http://www.bcrac.org>

Live programming is a program of the Bradford County Regional Arts Council.

Kilmer Insurance Agency, Inc. is the sponsor of this event.

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