

George F. Thompson Publishing, L.L.C.
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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (6.24.21)

Author (as it should appear on the book): Daniel Levin

Title: *Violins and Hope*

Subtitle: *From the Holocaust to Symphony Hall*

Contributors: Foreword by Franz Welser-Möst and an interview with Assi Bielski Weinstein

Partner: Published in association with the Jewish Foundation of Cleveland, Milton and Tamar Maltz Foundation, and Center for the Study of Place

Book pages: 164

Number and type of illustrations: 84 color photographs by the author, 5 historic black-and-white photographs, 2 author photos, 2 news clippings, and 1 color drawing = 94 illustrations

Trim size: 12.0" x 10.0" landscape/horizontal

List price: \$40.00

Discount: Trade

ISBN (book): 978-1-938086-86-1

ISBNs (electronic): TC

Edition: Hardcover/PLC

E-book? Yes (in future)

Interactive e-book? N.A.

Jacket: Yes

Edition size: 1,000

Publication date: August 2021

Advances due: July 2021

To warehouse: June 2021

Printed in: Singapore

Distributor: Casemate/IPM

Bookstore categories (list three): Photography/Judaica/Music

Audience: Those with an interest in photography, the history of the Jewish people and the Holocaust, and classical music.

Selling points (list three): (1) The *Violins of Hope* project has received worldwide attention, and this is the first book to show in photos and words how Amnon Weinstein has saved and restored violins from the Holocaust and how the restored violins—played by the likes of Joshua Bell—feel like a “victory” in overcoming the tragedy and inhumanity of the Holocaust; (2) anyone interested in the aftermath of the Holocaust; and (3) anyone who

treasures photography, music, and beautiful books.

Tagline: This book chronicles the story of how violins from the Holocaust now sing in symphony halls!

Description of the work:

Amnon Weinstein, a renowned Israeli luthier (violin maker) who was trained by three of the most revered Italian luthiers of the twentieth century, had a vision many years ago to restore violins that survived the concentration camps and ghettos of World War II, even when their owners often did not. His “Violins of Hope” project may be one of the most creative, effective, moving, and magnificent approaches to understanding the Holocaust and how one heals from such pain and loss.

Daniel Levin is the first photographer to depict Amnon’s workshop in Tel Aviv, his one-of-a-kind collection of violins that survived the Holocaust, and his artful process for restoring them. Through hauntingly beautiful photographs and compelling text, *Violins and Hope* becomes both an artful rendering of a very special man and a revelation of the ethereal, as we see how Amnon fulfills his dream of transforming tragedy into triumph in the most incisive and powerful way imaginable: bringing violins of the Holocaust back to life. Under Levin’s care, the ambiance and idiosyncrasies of Amnon’s workshop come alive, and the photographer’s uncanny ability to celebrate both place and process through the beauty of light is nothing short of remarkable.

Amnon has already restored eighty-six violins to their highest playable condition, and they have been used in acclaimed performances by symphonies to packed concert halls throughout the world, beginning in Istanbul in 2001. Purposefully, Amnon makes certain that young violinists as well as the world’s most famous virtuosos perform on his restored violins. In doing so, it’s as if the past owners of the violins come back to life and fill our minds and bodies and hearts with joy and remembrance.

The book’s foreword is written by Austrian-born Franz Welser-Möst, Music Director of the Cleveland Orchestra since 2002 and one of the most acclaimed conductors of the twenty-first century. The book concludes with the author’s interview with Assi Bielski Weinstein, Amnon’s wife and the daughter of Asael Bielski, the famous partisan fighter who, along with his brothers, saved 1,247 Jews in Belarus during World War II. Assi talks about the history of violins in Jewish life and during the Holocaust, the Bielski partisans, and the enduring legacy of the “Violins of Hope” project.

Blurbs:

“The violin has for centuries been an important symbol of Jewish culture. Bronislaw Huberman, who owned the Stradivarius upon which I play, used his violin to change the world. Through his influence as a beloved artist and his undying determination, Huberman helped countless European Jewish musicians and their families escape the inevitable fate of the Holocaust by creating a new orchestra in the Jewish motherland. The restored “violins of hope” are connected to the same story and serve as a reminder of human resilience and the truly immense power

of music, which can uplift the soul during even the most dire of circumstances. Daniel Levin, in his magnificent book, *Violins and Hope*, brings the story full circle by showing the world how Amnon Weinstein restores violins that survived such a dark past so they can sing forever.”

—Joshua Bell, violinist and conductor

“The noble and righteous quest of restoring to life and to the concert-hall Jewish violins that survived the Holocaust, although many of their owners perished, is movingly narrated by the insightful commentaries and richly toned, intricately layered photographs of Daniel Levin. Levin’s *Violins and Hope* takes us into the Tel Aviv workshop of the story’s protagonist, renowned Israeli luthier Amnon Weinstein, and conveys not just his tools and methods, but the heart and soul of this extraordinary man and his vision.”

—Barbara Tannenbaum, Chair of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs and Curator of Photography, Cleveland Museum of Art

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“Any violin ever made is the embodiment of birth and hope.

From the shape of its body to the strength of its bow,

the images are rendered with love. To see them is to be informed

by time. The time Daniel Levin took to make the pictures and the time

Amnon Weinstein takes to restore the violin.

Each step is speaking of patience, crescendo, and singular symphonic tone.

Tone is the rapture that embraces us collectively and alone.”

—Larry Fink, photographer and author of *Boxing, The Forbidden Pictures, Night at the Met, Primal Elegance, and Social Graces*

“*Violins and Hope* is a fascinating and moving documentation of how sounds of memory not only connect people and their stories across time and space, but also possess the power to convey the message of hope as an aspect of Holocaust remembrance.”

—Maoz Azaryahu, Director of the Herzl Institute for Zionism, University of Haifa

“Daniel Levin’s careful and compassionate visual documentation of these wonderful artifacts and their preservationist provides a window into both the perseverance of humanity and a reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust.”

—Dr. Kenneth J. Bindas, Professor of History at Kent State University and author of *Modernity and the Great Depression: The Transformation of American Society, 1930–1941*

About the Author:

Daniel Levin, a contemporary artist and documentary photographer whose works primarily address sociological issues, is a tenured Associate Professor of Photography at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio. Levin's works include *Amnon Weinstein: The Luthier who Returned the Violins of the Holocaust to the Living*, *Perspectives Examined via the site-specific Camera Obscura*, *Organizational Successes and Failures of Post-Katrina Mississippi*, *Fatherhood*, *Walls as Metaphor for Divided Philosophies*, and an art film exploring the birth of creative thought entitled *The Root: From Dishes to Synapses*. His film *To The Contrary*, which celebrates the beauties of the mundane in a tumultuous world through high-speed HD cinematography, premiered in 2020 at Spaces Gallery in Cleveland, Ohio. Levin has been commissioned to make portraits of many well-known figures around the globe, including First Lady Barbara Bush and President George H. W. Bush, architect I. M. Pei and actor Martin Sheen, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, violinists Joshua Bell and Gil Shaham and musician Idan Raichel, magazine magnate Jann Wenner and Governor Mario Cuomo, iconic civil rights photographer Matt Herron and U.S. Senator and astronaut John Glenn. He resides in Cleveland Heights, and his Website is levinphoto.com.

About the Contributor:

Franz Welser-Möst, a violinist from Austria who studied under the composer Balduin Sulzer, is among today's most distinguished conductors. Since 2002, he has been Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra, which *The New York Times* has declared "the Cleveland," under Welser-Möst's direction, to be the "best American orchestra" for its virtuosity, elegance of sound, variety of color, and chamber-like musical cohesion. As a guest conductor, Welser-Möst regularly conducts the Vienna Philharmonic and has served as General Music Director of the Vienna State Opera (2010 to 2014) and the Zurich Opera (2005–2008). In 2019, Mr. Welser-Möst was awarded the Gold Medal in the Arts by the Kennedy Center International Committee on the Arts in recognition of his long-lasting impact on the international arts community.