



National Music Museum Newsletter

VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

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NMM WEBSITE • NMMUSD.ORG

NMM's new director Matt Collinsworth

Matt Collinsworth assumed his executive duties as the new director of the National Music Museum in March. The Kentucky native steps into the role of leading a museum that, while closed to the public for renovation, remains very much alive. Chosen after a nationwide search, Collinsworth comes to the NMM with deep and varied experience in arts administration. His mandate from the NMM Board of Trustees and USD's administration is to oversee the NMM expansion and renovation projects, while guiding the long-term health of the institution and its collection.



Collinsworth will work specifically to raise the funds needed to create more than 15,000 square feet of new exhibitions, to secure ownership of the NMM Center for Preservation and Research, and to enhance the NMM's endowment.

Collinsworth is not new to managing institutional transformations. Most recently, he served as the interim executive director of the Lexington (Kentucky) Art League, where he oversaw the design and implementation of a new strategic plan, fundraising plan, and exhibition program. Prior to that, he served for 15 years as director of the Kentucky Folk

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Reunion in Cremona: NMM masterpieces head to Italy's Museo del Violino

Since the height of the Renaissance, Cremona, Italy, has been synonymous with violins—birthplace of some of the finest stringed instruments ever made and of their historic makers. Antonio Stradivari, the venerable Amati dynasty, and generations of master luthiers maintained their workshops in this pretty northern Italian city. Well over 100 modern makers still ply their trade there today.

This fall, eight Cremonese instruments from the collections of the National Music Museum will journey to Italy for a very special Reunion in Cremona, a year-long exhibit at the famed Museo del Violino. From September 21, 2019, to October 18, 2020, international visitors will have the opportunity to see NMM treasures like the standard-setting 1628 Nicolò Amati violin; the extremely rare Antonio Stradivari Cutler-Challen mandolin; the NMM's 1700 Rawlins guitar (one of five existing guitars by Antonio Stradivari); the circa-1595 King Henry IV violin by the brothers Antonio and Girolamo Amati; the 1609 violin and 1613 violino piccolo by Girolamo Amati; the 1781 viola by Nicola Bergonzi; the 1793 child's ½-size violin by Lorenzo Storioni; and the King Charles IV violin bow, from around 1700, attributed to the workshop of Antonio Stradivari.

"Touring a set of artifacts of this magnitude and at such a distance is a significant undertaking," says NMM Director Matt Collinsworth. "It is also a great honor and opportunity to share the instruments with an even wider audience and at this particular time, when the NMM is closed for construction. The Museo del Violino preserves other priceless Renaissance and Baroque works by these master luthiers and related craftsmen. It is an ideal public setting—uniquely equipped to display the NMM's world-class stringed instruments." The Reunion in Cremona exhibit is expected to draw thousands of visitors, garnering further exposure for the NMM on the international stage.



Museo del Violino, Cremona, Italy

(Collinsworth continued)

Art Center (KFAC) at Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky. Collinsworth helped grow KFAC from a regional institution into a nationally recognized museum with a reputation for producing groundbreaking exhibitions, many of which traveled across America. Under his direction, the museum's collection grew by 400 percent, and programming and facilities were enhanced. Concurrent with his tenure at the Kentucky Folk Art Center, Collinsworth served as Morehead State University's Senior Director of Outreach, Preservation and Education, providing oversight for both Morehead State University Public Radio and the Kentucky Center for Traditional Music.

Collinsworth also brings strong design and exhibition experience, having curated dozens of exhibitions in Kentucky, Nashville, Chicago, and other venues. He is now engaged with NMM's staff, trustees, and external consultants to develop the planning and design for NMM's permanent and changing exhibitions. Collinsworth holds an M.F.A. from Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree from Georgetown College.

Larry Schou, dean of the College of Fine Arts at USD and chair of the advisory committee says, "Matt brings experience in all the areas where the museum is now focused: raising money for operations and capital projects, developing its national board of trustees, involving students and faculty in museum activities, and growing and implementing programs that serve diverse audiences."

Says Collinsworth, "The NMM has the potential to take on ambitious and aspirational projects that will serve and attract audiences in our home region and even across the world—such as the exhibition of Cremonese stringed instruments that we are preparing to travel to Italy this fall.

It is such an honor for me to be invited to join the distinguished staff at the National Music Museum and to work with such a supportive board and university administration. My family and I are greatly enjoying South Dakota."



Museo del Violino, Cremona, Italy

Message from Paolo Bodini CEO, Museo del Violino, Cremona, Italy

The relationship between the National Music Museum and the Italian city of Cremona dates back to 1987, when great celebrations for the 200th anniversary of Antonio Stradivari's birth were held in Cremona. On that occasion the NMM brought to our city their 1693 Stradivari "Harrison" violin and 1700 Stradivari Rawlins guitar.



This good friendship, established over 30 years ago, has remained over the ensuing decades, with reciprocal visits and exchanges of information and documents. It was strengthened yet further in 2005 through 2007 when the Stradivari Foundation, of which I became president at the time, organized celebrations for the 500th anniversary of Andrea Amati's birth (1505). Two of the NMM's Andrea Amati instruments arrived from Vermillion for the first exhibit in 2005, and the entire quartet made by this first Cremonese violinmaker were among the highlights of the Andrea Amati Opera Omnia exhibit here in 2007.

The Museo del Violino's new location opened in 2013. We are very proud that the treasures of the five-century-old violinmaking history of Cremona are displayed together in a stimulating, interactive way and in a completely renovated facility. The NMM's decision to stay 'open' while their own building undergoes metamorphosis and to bring part of their fine stringed-instrument collection to Cremona—the town that gave birth to all these wonderful instruments—is a great joy and satisfaction to us. It will truly be a "Reunion in Cremona."

We are very happy to be considered a trusted partner by as prestigious a museum as the NMM and we hope to continue the collaboration for many years to come.

The NMM's King Henry IV violin by the brothers Antonio and Girolamo Amati, ca. 1595, will be part of the Reunion in Cremona exhibit. Purchase funds gift of Kevin Schieffer, 2010.

I spy an NMM instrument!

And it's not in the Museum...

More NMM 'pop up' displays have gone up around Vermillion, South Dakota, while the NMM is closed to the public for expansion.

Pop in at the smartly renovated Coffee Cup Fuel Stop at the junction of Interstate 29 and SD Highway 50 (Vermillion exit) and you can view two new NMM displays. Currently, the NMM's Vietnam War-era electric guitar and the NMM's B. B. King-autographed "Lucille" electric guitar grace two levels of that building. It's great exposure for the NMM and Vermillion: Travelers learn about the museum and are inspired to return when it reopens. (The NMM thanks proprietor Tom and Jane Heinz for making this pop-up site available.)

LEGO® "Tofukulele", 2013

The NMM's sky-blue Vietnam guitar was made in-country during the war, in 1965. It features not one but four pickups (maybe to exceed the expectations of the American soldier who was in the market for an affordable but good quality electric guitar in the specialty shops of wartime Saigon, or maybe built to the aspirational specifications of a particular player). Whatever the reason, this supersonic Stratocaster-lookalike sounds amazing. There are no overt brand labels on the guitar. Its maker's identity hinges on a handwritten note inside the guitar's pickup cavity: "Tuesday on 21st September / 1965 / 114, Bùi Viện Street SAIGON / Southern part of Việt Nam / Viễn-Phương." No further information has been found about Viễn-Phương.

Always a draw at the Museum, and now in pop-up, is the "Lucille" Gibson electric guitar (Nashville, 1997), autographed by B.B. King in 2000 for the NMM. This modified Thin Series ES-355 was first introduced in 1980 as the B. B. King Custom model in the Gibson Artist Collection. It was designed without soundholes because King stuffed the soundholes of his earlier hollow-bodied electric archtops with cloth to reduce feedback. The NMM's model features a sleek ebony finish and gold-plated hardware.

Meanwhile, on pop-up at the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library is the LEGO® "Tofukulele" from the NMM's Geoffrey Robert Rezek Collection. This soprano ukulele is constructed almost entirely of LEGOs (except for the tension tuners). Created by musician Christopher Hamilton (Lansing, MI, 2013), this playful uke is also quite playable—though it will be safely encased for the duration of its stay at the library.



Electric guitar, Vietnam, 1965.
Gift of Lynn Wheelwright, 2015.



Gibson BB King custom model electric guitar, 1997. Purchase funds gift of T. Wilson King and others, 2001.

FREE SCREENINGS
**COUNTRY
MUSIC**
A FILM BY
KEN BURNS

NMM instruments featured at Public Broadcasting events this fall!

The National Music Museum is partnering with South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB) to promote the upcoming PBS series Country Music, the latest must-see work by acclaimed director Ken Burns. The eight-part, 16-hour documentary explores the history of that uniquely American music genre and art form -- from its deep roots in ballads, blues and hymns performed in small settings, to the phenomenon of its worldwide popularity now. (On SDPB, Country Music will premiere Sunday, September 15 through Wednesday, September 18, and Sunday, September 22 through Wednesday, September 25, 7:00-9:00 p.m. CT.)

To warm up for the series debut, SDPB is hosting three free country-music events featuring NMM instruments played by popular South Dakota performers.

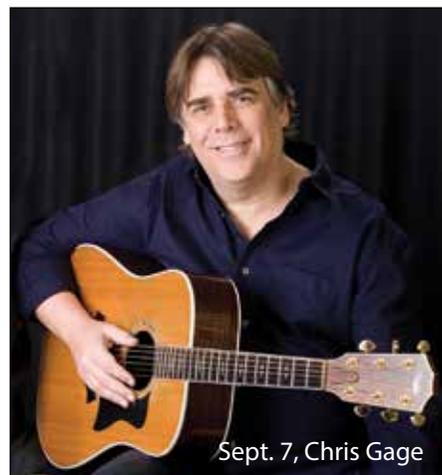
On Saturday, September 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., guitarist/songwriter Chris Gage, Hee Haw and Roy Clark Band alum, will perform a free, live concert and Q&A and at the Ramkota Amphitheater #2 in Pierre. In collaboration with the National Music Museum, Gage will play the NMM's 1969 Martin D-28 guitar customized for country-artist Merle Travis and passed down to Marty Stuart, then to Johnny Cash, and then to Travis' son Thom Bresh.

On Tuesday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m., guitarist/singer/songwriter Boyd Bristow and the husband-and-wife duo of Kaija and Brian Bonde, of the Always, Patsy Cline show and Americana/bluegrass group East of Westville will perform a free, live concert and Q&A at SDPB's Sioux Falls Studios. With the NMM's participation, Bonde will play the NMM's 1971 Martin D-28 'Bon Aqua' guitar, owned and played Johnny Cash. Boyd Bristow and Kaija Bonde will take turns playing June Carter Cash's 1967 Gibson "Hummingbird model" guitar (one of Carter Cash's personal favorites).

On Friday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m., Americana banjoist/songwriter Jami Lynn will perform a free, live concert and Q&A at SDPB's Black Hills Studio in Rapid City. Again, in partnership with National Music Museum, Lynn will play a 1980 Gibson RB-250 banjo given to Johnny Cash by Earl Scruggs, containing the penciled inscription "To my friend, Johnny Cash" on the head.

The respective NMM instruments will be on display prior to and after each of these SDPB's live-music events. Also, at each event, NMM Curator of Stringed Instruments/guitar expert Arian Sheets will discuss the historic significance of the instruments and will field the audience's questions.

More information at SDPB.org!



Sept. 7, Chris Gage



Sept. 10, Kaija Bonde, Boyd Bristow & Brian Bonde



Sept. 13, Jami Lynn

NMM Live! shows — fall 2019



Sтары Olsa

NMM Live! concerts will take place at 7:00 p.m. in Farber Hall in the Old Main Building on the University of South Dakota campus. \$7 general admission. Free to NMM Members, USD students and staff.

- Thurs., Sept. 12: Sтары Olsa — Medieval & Renaissance music from Belarusian troupe
- Fri., Oct. 11: Cameron Crozman — Award-winning Canadian cello virtuoso
- Fri., Nov. 15: JAS Quintet — Cool jazz from South Dakota artists
- Fri., Dec. 13: TBA — NMM's popular annual holiday-music show



Taps – In memory of Joella Utley

The past two years have seen a generation of National Music Museum (NMM) leaders and benefactors pass away—truly great champions of music and our mission. On July 11, 2019, the NMM learned with deep sadness of the death of long-term NMM board member and donor Dr. Joella F. Utley.

In 1999, committed to sharing the world-class brass collection that she and her husband Joe had painstakingly cultivated over the lifetime of their marriage, Joella finalized the donation to the NMM of more than 600 musical instruments that tell the story of high-brass instrument making during the past 400 years. The Joe R. & Joella F. Utley Collection of Brass Instruments, now a point of pride for the NMM, is researched by Dr. Sabine K. Klaus, as Joe R. & Joella F. Utley Curator of Brass Instruments, a position graciously funded by the Utley's foundation. From this warm partnership of patron and scholar, have come three award-winning volumes in a proposed five-book series by Klaus, *Trumpets and Other High Brass*. The Utley Foundation will ensure the completion of that project.

A brilliant and vibrant person, Joella was drawn in her lifetime to both music and medicine. Born Joella Faye Jordan in 1935, in a small western Oklahoma town, she started her career with an undergraduate degree in music education from Oklahoma State University. When she and Joe Roy Utley (1935–2001) married in 1956, they moved to St. Louis. Joe encouraged Joella to attend medical school, which she did, at Washington State University, training as a radiation oncologist. From 1972 to 1977, the Utleys were on the staff of the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington, and from 1977 to 1983 at the University of California in San Diego. In 1983, the Utleys moved to Spartanburg, South Carolina, and Joella worked in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Spartanburg Medical Center. In 2007, after retiring from medicine, Joella returned to her other love, completing an MM degree in Music History from Converse College in Spartanburg. Always engaged in the field, Joella invited the American Musical Instrument Society (AMIS) and the Historic Brass Society to her home in South Carolina to admire the instrument collection.



Joella Utley & Sabine Klaus, 2017

Joella was also a long-time member of a number of boards, including the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina and the National Music Museum in Vermillion, where she served for 20 years and regularly attended the board's semi-annual meetings. Up until her death, she was writing program notes for the Spartanburg Philharmonic, the Greenville Symphony Orchestra, and the Tryon Concert Association.

To celebrate Joella's life and to support the Joe R. and Joella F. Utley Brass Instrument Collection, please consider making a monetary memorial gift to the NMM.

NMM's off-site preservation center nears completion!

Less than two miles from the NMM, in Vermillion, the new NMM Preservation and Research Center will be a specialized facility for more than 4,000 musical instruments while the museum addition is under construction. After 2021, the Preservation and Research Center will become a hub for instrument research and photography, and a much-needed space for the consolidation of the NMM's collections.



Honoring the life of NMM Trustee Richard Cutler



The National Music Museum counts itself deeply fortunate to have been among the passions of Richard “Rich” Cutler, whose life

activities and accomplishments packed a truly ‘rich’ life. Lawyer, entrepreneur, executive, philanthropist, community leader—Rich was a transformational force for many projects and institutions. He passed away in Sioux Falls on May 8, 2019, at 77.

Rich served for a record-breaking 38 years on the NMM’s Board of Trustees, during three of which he led the board as its chairman. During his tenure, which started in 1981, he worked with NMM directors André P. Larson and Cleveland Johnson; and interim directors Margaret (Peggy) Banks and Dennis Acrea, helping them all to steer the NMM to further growth and success.

In 1995, the NMM’s Cutler Gallery was opened to honor Rich and his wife Sharon for their leadership and philanthropic gifts to the museum. And one of the museum’s most prized musical instruments, the Antonio Stradivari choral mandolin (1680)—one of only two known to survive—was acquired in 1997 through purchase funds generously donated by Rich and Sharon. In keeping with the tradition of naming Stradivari’s instruments after notable owners and donors, the NMM’s mandolin was appropriately named the Cutler-Challen, in honor not only of the Cutlers, but also of its previous owner, Christopher Challen.

“Rich’s imprint on the NMM’s long-awaited expansion and renovation project is indelible,” said NMM’s Peggy Banks. “His personal financial commitment to the future sustainability and growth of the NMM encouraged his colleagues on the NMM Board of

Trustees and others to commit fully to the NMM building project.”

A true South Dakota original, Rich was born in Mitchell, grew up in Wessington Springs, and attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, for both undergraduate and graduate school, earning his law degree in 1965. Rich went on to serve with the JAG Corps of the United States Army, attaining the rank of major, and was assigned for three years to the U.S. embassy in Bonn, Germany. After his military-law career, Rich returned to South Dakota, joining the firm of Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, where he practiced law for 30 years. In 1997, he formed and grew the Cutler Law Firm with his son Kent.

An equally astute entrepreneur, Rich amassed a portfolio of commercial properties, development land, and farmland. In the early 1970’s, he also founded Satellite Cable Services, Inc., serving 60+ South Dakota communities. Rich purchased Palmer

Gulch Lodge in the Black Hills and developed the Mt. Rushmore KOA campground, the start of Recreational Adventures Co., now the largest KOA franchisee in the United States.

Rich’s community service was no less productive. He served not only as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Music Museum, but also the University of South Dakota Foundation and Dakota Wesleyan University. He was Campaign Chair for the United Way and on the boards of the South Dakota Community Foundation, Children’s Home Society, and more. He was awarded honorary doctorates from Dakota Wesleyan University and USD. In 2007, he was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame.

The NMM wishes to thank the Cutlers for thoughtfully directing memorial gifts in Rich’s name to the museum and for allowing the NMM to be an extension of their family during the almost four decades of Rich’s NMM leadership.

Stradivari Cutler-Challen mandolin and case

Although best known today for his violins, Antonio Stradivari (1644-1737) made all kinds of stringed instruments. The NMM’s Stradivari mandolin (Cremona, Italy, 1680) is one of only two in existence. Almost miraculously, it survives with its original wood case.



Purchase funds gift of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Cutler, 1997.



One of Janet's favorite instruments at the NMM: the Andrea Amati 'King' cello (mid 1500s), Cremona, Italy. Witten-Rawlins Collection, 1984.



A Pledge to Music: The Janet L. Wanzek legacy

When the NMM's architectural metamorphosis is complete, the museum's new concert hall will bear the name of Janet L. Wanzek, reflecting her love for musical performance and Janet's commitment to sponsor the NMM's expansion with a generous estate pledge. Janet passed away on March 1, 2019, at 85, but her tenacious and gracious spirit lives on at the NMM. She was a major supporter of the NMM's Adopt-an-Instrument program, sponsoring the top-tier Amati 'King' cello for two years. She was also an honorary member of the NMM's Board of Trustees.

From teaching in a one-room school-house as a young woman to helping

run a major construction business with her husband Leo, Janet Wanzek was a person of action. After Leo, a civil engineer, returned from the Korean War, the two worked together out of their Fargo home to forge the Wanzek Construction Company, while raising their family. Almost 50 years later, Wanzek, Inc. is one of the largest construction companies in the country. From thousands of civil-engineering projects to extensive retail construction projects, Wanzek, Inc. has helped build America.

Janet went beyond the business too, attending North Dakota State University for interior design and cultivating her gifts for decorating, design, art,

and the appreciation of culture. She also volunteered in the leadership of many community organizations. And, as importantly, she instilled the value of civic stewardship in her daughters Juliet Everist (a 10-year trustee of the National Music Museum) and Jantze Haley, and her son Jon Wanzek.

Janet's generosity in sharing her lifetime success will help ensure a bright future for concert programming at the NMM and for the institution overall. The future Janet L. Wanzek Concert Hall will help draw people to the National Music Museum and will delight generations of audiences. The NMM honors Janet and thanks her entire family with heartfelt gratitude.

In memoriam...

Evelyn J. Peterson, Vermillion, SD



The National Music Museum recently received a generous gift from the estate of Evelyn J. Peterson, who lived her full 99 years in the Vermillion community and

took delight in the NMM, her hometown museum: a gracious bequest of \$52,800.00. Before she passed away in 2017, Evelyn planned this estate gift. The sum now is a vibrant legacy, which goes beyond the financial, helping to give joy and pride to future generations of Vermillion citizens.

William Willroth III, Vermillion, SD



Not the final photo credit, but a fond farewell. The Museum celebrates the life of photographer William "Bill" Willroth III, who passed away March 11, 2019, at the age of 87, in Vermillion. Bill picked up his first camera in high school and never stopped shooting photos—as a naval photographer in the Korean War, an aerial photographer with the

Navy's Fleet Air Photo Lab in San Diego, a journalism student at the University of Iowa, nor in his many years of newspapering. A Vermillion fixture since 1963, Bill worked for, managed and eventually owned the Plain Talk newspaper. At the peak of operation, Bill's business printed 22 area newspapers and shoppers.

Bill also did freelance photography for the NMM. His legacy is alive in the thousands of NMM musical-instrument images that carry his photo credit and that have helped enhance the museum's reputation wherever they were shared. It was primarily through Bill's photos that the NMM first came to life in many print publications and on the Internet.

A memorial gift in honor of Bill was received from Ted and Karen Muenster, Vermillion, S.D.



414 E. Clark St
Vermillion, South Dakota 57069-2390



Progress!

Construction on the museum's new addition is well underway. The foundation has been laid. The walls are going up.



Show your love of music and the NMM!
Give online at nmmusd.org/support

Membership application Return to: National Music Museum, 414 E. Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Membership category (see list at right) _____ Date _____

Payment method:

Check (payable to NMM)

Credit Card

VISA/MC/Discover card number _____

Expires _____ / _____ CV2 code (3-digit on back of card) _____

Signature _____

Please indicate:

New Membership Renewal

Choose your NMM membership category

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- Family \$120/year (\$10/month)
- Smithsonian \$180/year (\$15/month)
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- Supporting \$500/year
- Founding \$1000/year

Or become a member via our website:

nmmusd.org