



SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
Bringing the World's Best to Houston

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Kick off the Holiday Season with the Violin Virtuosos of BOWFIRE

The Fiery Fiddlers Return to Houston for One Night Only with a Holiday Program, Presented by Society for the Performing Arts

HOUSTON (Nov. 13, 2009) – Society for the Performing Arts (SPA), bringing the world's best to Houston, presents some of the finest fiddlers in North America when **BOWFIRE** returns to Houston performing its brand new *Holiday Heartstrings* program on Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Hall.

The evening will be a true celebration of the holidays. Patrons are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy as SPA will be a drop-off point for Toys for Tots, and a very special guest from the North Pole is expected to stop by for pictures with the children in attendance.

BOWFIRE Holiday Heartstrings will feature some of the group's greatest hits mixed with new arrangements of holiday classics including "Sleigh Ride," "Silver Bells," "The Christmas Song," "Winter Wonderland," "Dreydl, Dreydl, Dreydl" and more.

BOWFIRE is the total string experience, made up of the leading names in each genre of modern string playing. The show features some of the top violinists and fiddlers on the continent together in one electrifying performance. The diverse range of music presented serves not only as a testament to the virtuosity of these musicians, but also as a loving tribute to this amazingly versatile, complex and lyrically romantic instrument. The musicians of *BOWFIRE* take their audiences on a musical journey that moves seamlessly from jazz, classical, bluegrass, Celtic, rock, gypsy, world, Texas Swing, Ottawa Valley and Cape Breton styles, and mixes in incredible step and tap dancing and singing.

Formed in June 2000, by founder and artistic director Lenny Solomon, *Bowfire* made its debut performance the following month at Expo 2000 in Hannover, Germany. The ensemble made its American debut in a series of performances during the summer of 2001 in New York City, and embarked on their first U.S. tour during the 2002-03 season. In December 2003,

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Bowfire made its Asian debut with performances in Taiwan. Solomon is a three time winner of the annual Violinist of the Year Award, presented by *Jazz Report* Magazine, and has been awarded a Juno Award (Canada's Grammy). He has recorded two albums for Columbia Records and has been compared to both Joe Venuti and Stephane Grappelli.

Part of SPA's Family Fun Series, this performance is generously sponsored Cooper Industries, Wells Fargo, Continental Airlines, H-E-B, The Brown Hand Center and BMC Software.

Prior to the performance, patrons are welcome to attend the HEB Performance Prelude at 6:30 p.m. in the Jones Hall lobby featuring Elmer Bondy Intermediate School Chamber. Patrons may also attend the BMC Software Arts Talk!, a pre-performance discussion given by BOWFIRE Artistic Director and Performer Lenny Solomon at 7 p.m. in the Jones Hall lobby, balcony level.

Tickets range from \$20-\$60 and can be purchased online at www.spahouston.org, by phone at 713-227-4SPA or at the courtyard level ticket office at Jones Hall located at 615 Louisiana St. Hours of operation: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday. For groups of 15 or more call 713-632-8113.

About Society for the Performing Arts

Founded in 1966, Society for the Performing Arts (SPA) is the largest independent non-profit presenting organization in the Southwest. Since its inception, SPA has sponsored more than 800 performances of the world's finest music, dance and theater events, in adherence to the belief that the arts are fundamental to the overall enrichment and quality of life within the community. In addition to presenting artists, S.P.A. seeks to provide a variety of learning experiences for adults and children through master classes, lectures and special student performances, as well as build relationships between the performing arts and other interests within the greater Houston area and throughout the state of Texas.

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