



Rosin the Bow

A Fiddler's Journey through the Fascinating
World of the Violin Family
with Joe McHugh

Spurred by a deep curiosity storyteller, fiddler, and public radio journalist Joe McHugh set out on a quest to explore the many roles the violin family of instruments play in the world today. Traveling throughout the United States and parts of Italy, France, and Ireland, Joe and his wife Paula recorded interviews with gifted musicians who play a variety of musical styles from classical to jazz, folk to rock. They also interviewed violin makers, dealers, collectors, tone wood producers, composers, string designers, museum curators—even FBI agents who helped recover stolen violins. Eighty-six of these interviews are now featured in an exciting public radio/podcast series available wherever you get your podcasts.

Join the McHughs for a lively evening of stories, music, and other “notable” surprises as they share what they learned so far during their travels. They will also perform an assortment of fiddle and banjo duets and Celtic slow airs and share stories drawn from the rich musical folklore of America, Scotland, Ireland, and Scandinavia.



www.rosinthebow.org

www.joemchughstoryteller.com

www.timetravelersmusic.com



Whether referred to as a violin or fiddle, this unique musical instrument has kindled the imagination and lifted the spirits of men and women for hundreds of years. Names such as Amati, Guarneri, and Stradivari are uttered with reverence by musicians and non-musicians alike. The instrument they helped invent is as much at home in a concert hall as it is at a prairie square dance, a Jewish wedding or inside a Parisian nightclub. Its clear melodious tones, so like those of the human voice, have the power to make one laugh or cry, while the graceful curves of its scroll and body and the delicate curl of its maple back and sides bring pleasure to the eye as well as the ear. It is played to worship God and yet has been accused of being the “Devil’s box.” For many, it is a symbol of our longing to find beauty in the world and a talisman of those enduring virtues of craftsmanship and artistry that are increasingly threatened by the dull replication and hustle and bustle of our machine age.

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“We had a wonderful session with Joe and Paula at the University of Kansas. The things he talked about provided our students with a glimpse of how music has been, and continues to be, an important fiber in the American social fabric away from fancy concert halls and highly produced multimedia productions. The responses from both our students and faculty were unusually positive. I encourage any program wanting to explore boundaries beyond the stereotypical traditional Western art music box to take advantage Joe’s vast experience and impressive storytelling skills.”

~ Robert Walzel, Dean, School of Music,

“Rosin the Bow is a wonderful program about the international adventures of Joe and Paula McHugh in their quest to learn more about violin-related instruments and the people who play, create, and treasure them. This live program was very well loved by the large audience that showed up after-hours to enjoy it!”

~ Sara Peté, Director of Adult Services,

“With his dancing eyes, Joe McHugh led the audience spellbound through the tale.”

~ Walt Wiley, Sacramento Bee