

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Midori Brings Her Musical Artistry to Children in Two NYC Communities

Midori & Friends—a nonprofit organization that provides music education programs to underserved public school children throughout New York City—announces two special community-based concerts for children performed by renowned violinist and founder of the organization, **Midori**.

Each year, Midori enjoys spending as much time and energy as possible visiting Midori & Friends partner schools and community agencies so that she can personally perform for and speak with children within their communities. On **February 27th**, Midori will visit **P.S. 229 in Woodside, Queens**, and **NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital in Washington Heights**.

The performances are part of a series of *Adventure Concerts* that Midori & Friends presents at its partner schools and community agency sites across New York City's five boroughs, in service of its mission to inspire children through music.

In addition to engaging them with her extraordinary classical violin playing, Midori will provide explanations about her instrument and her playing technique. At P.S. 229, she will also listen to performances by students participating in Midori & Friends programs. Children in both the school and hospital audiences will share the joy of music with Midori as she plays for them and talks about why music is so important.

Midori will visit children on **Monday, February 27th** at the following two locations:

8:00 to 10:00 am

**P.S. 229Q in Woodside, Queens
67-25 51st Road
Woodside, NY 11377**

12:30 to 1:15 pm*

**NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital
3959 Broadway
New York, NY 10032**

*After her concert at the hospital, Midori will make bedside visits to children who are unable to attend the performance.

With these neighborhood concerts on February 27th, Midori reaffirms a commitment of nearly twenty years to engaging underserved communities through music—a commitment for which she

was honored last month with the World Economic Forum's prestigious Crystal Award, presented at their annual conference in Davos, Switzerland.

Increasingly recognized as an educator and music education advocate, Midori has taken extraordinary measures to insure that children in disadvantaged communities have access to music programs and the experience of making music. She recently articulated the philosophy in her acceptance speech at Davos:

"I believe music brings us together, and teaching music to children and providing them with access to creative outlets can, and will, have a beneficial impact on our future as a global society. Music allows us to communicate and express ourselves, enriching our lives in extraordinary and necessary ways."

About Midori

Midori made her debut as a violin soloist at the age of 11 with the New York Philharmonic under the direction of conductor Zubin Mehta, and made her first recording at the age of 14. Today, she is recognized not only for the evolution and scope of her 30-year career as one of the most dazzlingly gifted performers before the public, but increasingly for the prescient and innovative community engagement initiatives to which she devotes a substantial amount of her energies and resources worldwide on an ongoing basis. Named a Messenger of Peace by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2007, she has created a new model for young artists who seek to balance the joys and demands of a performing career at the highest level with a hands-on investment in the power of music to change lives.

Now in her 8th year as Jascha Heifetz Chair at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music and her 5th year as Chair of its Strings Department, Midori thrives amidst the challenges presented by her full-time career as educator and administrator at a major university. To these commitments she adds ongoing, hands-on involvement in the four community engagement organizations she has founded: Midori & Friends, Partners in Performance, Orchestra Residencies Program, and Music Sharing (in Japan).

About Midori & Friends

Founded in 1992 by the concert violinist Midori and a small, committed Board of Directors, Midori & Friends has engaged over 200,000 students and their family members through high-quality music education programs, transforming under-resourced schools in socioeconomically challenged communities into vibrant learning environments.

The mission of Midori & Friends is to inspire children through music. When children are inspired, their experience of learning is transformed and they become passionate learners. This is a transformation that will benefit them throughout the rest of their lives.

The organization offers long-term, school-based programs that provide children with opportunities to play instruments, sing, encounter world-class artistry, discover music traditions from cultures around the globe, and express themselves creatively. All Midori & Friends programs are offered at no cost to participating students. For more information, visit www.midoriandfriends.org.

About New York-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital

New York-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, located in New York City, offers the best available care in every area of pediatrics—including the most complex neonatal and critical care, and all areas of pediatric subspecialties—in a family-friendly and technologically advanced setting.

Building a reputation for more than a century as one of the nation's premier children's hospitals, Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital is affiliated with the Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and is Manhattan's only hospital dedicated solely to the care of children and one of the largest providers of children's health services in the tri-state area with a long-standing commitment to its community. It is also a major international referral center, meeting the special needs of children from infancy through adolescence worldwide. NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital also comprises NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Westchester Division and NewYork-Presbyterian/The Allen Hospital. NewYork-Presbyterian is the #1 hospital in the New York metropolitan area and is consistently ranked among the best academic medical institutions in the nation, according to U.S.News & World Report. For more information, visit www.nyp.org.

CONTACTS

**Caroline Horn, Director of Marketing & Development
Midori & Friends
212-767-1300; chorn@midoriandfriends.org**

**Amy Pietzak, Office of Public Affairs
New York Presbyterian Hospital/
Columbia
212-305-5587; amp9049@nyp.org**