

MEDIA RELEASE

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Igor Gruppman, Steven Sharp Nelson Headline 2012 Lyceum Music Festival *Youth Orchestra Music Festival Expands to Two Weeks in Midway, UT*

July 23, 2012 (Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Lyceum Music Festival, a summer youth orchestra music festival is pleased to announce that this year’s guest artists will be GRAMMY® winning violinists Igor and Vesna Gruppman and acclaimed cellist Steven Sharp Nelson. The Lyceum Music Festival provides musicians aged 13 to 21 a sneak-peek into the professional world of orchestral music. Industry leading Guest Artists and [Utah Symphony](#) musicians mentor, perform with, and inspire music students in a way that awakens each student to his or her own potential.

The first week of the festival, July 23-28, features internationally acclaimed violin duo Igor and Vesna Gruppman. Repertory includes Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, Vaughan Williams' *Lark Ascending*, and Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*. Igor Gruppman is the former Concertmaster of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), current Concertmaster of the [Rotterdam Philharmonic](#), and Principal Conductor of the Orchestra at Temple Square.

The second week of the festival, July 30–August 4, features award-winning YouTube sensation Steven Sharp Nelson. Repertory includes [Beethoven's 5 Secrets](#), [Cello Wars](#) and [Bring Him Home](#) from The Piano Guys' wildly successful YouTube channel, as well as Beethoven's entire *Fifth Symphony*, Mendelssohn's *War March of the Priests*, and Bartok's *Transylvanian Dances*.

This year's Lyceum Music Festival celebrates its fifth year and invites the public to "Come Be Part of the Magic". A public Finale Concert culminates each week of the Lyceum Music Festival and each concert will be held on the Festival grounds of the Zermatt Resort in Midway, Utah.

What: *Lyceum Music Festival Finale Concert with Igor and Vesna Gruppman*

When: July 28th, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Zermatt Resort: 784 West Resort Drive, Midway, UT

Tickets: \$5.00 at the door.

What: *Lyceum Music Festival Finale Concert with Steven Sharp Nelson*

When: August 4th, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Zermatt Resort: 784 West Resort Drive, Midway, UT

Tickets: \$5.00 at the door.

About Igor Gruppman

As the current Concertmaster of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and a former Concertmaster of the London Symphony, Igor Gruppman maintains an impressive career as a soloist, conductor, recording artist, chamber musician, orchestral musician, and educator. He is the Principal Conductor of the Orchestra at Temple Square, which performs regularly on national broadcasts and has performed with many of the most esteemed musicians of his generation including Georg Solti, Valery Gergiev, Mstislav Rostropovich, Colin Davis, Simon Rattle, Bernard Haitink and Yannick Nézet Séguin. Mr. Gruppman plays the 1731 "Julles Garcin" Stradivarius violin generously provided by the Erasmus Foundation.

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In 1994, Igor and his wife Vesna recorded the Malcolm Arnold Concerto for Two Violins. The recording won a Grammy. The students of Lyceum Music Festival 2012 will be performing this same work with the award-winning duo. Igor Gruppman's violin solo recordings have met with enthusiastic reception by the international press: Berlioz' Reverie and Caprice (Naxos); Respighi's Poema Autunnale (Koch); Miklos Rosza's Sinfonia Concertante and the Violin Concerto (Koch), which marks the first release of the concerto since the recording by Heifetz for whom this piece was written.

As soloist, Mr. Gruppman received glowing reviews for his performances of the Double Concerto by Brahms under the baton of Valery Gergiev and the Second Violin Concerto by Prokofiev under the baton of Yannick Nézet Séguin, both with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mr. Gruppman is a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory where he studied with Leonid Kogan and Mstislav Rostropovich, followed by studies with Jascha Heifetz in Los Angeles, and now is on the faculty of the Rotterdam Conservatory. Besides serving as the orchestra Concertmaster and soloist, Igor Gruppman has been conducting the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra ever since the 2006/07 season, when he made his conducting debut with the orchestra in a special Easter performance of The Last Seven Words by Haydn and Gubaidulina in the Rotterdam Cathedral. This program was repeated during the Easter Festival in Moscow where Mr. Gruppman shared the podium with Maestro Gergiev.

He also appeared in a critically acclaimed all-Mozart program at De Doelen Great Hall in Rotterdam where in addition to conducting, Mr. Gruppman gave the Netherlands premiere of Mozart's recently reconstructed Concerto for Violin and Piano (Op. 315F) with pianist Ronald Brautigam. From 2005 to 2009 Mr. Gruppman was the Artistic Director and Concertmaster of the Concerto Rotterdam Chamber Orchestra. He since has been asked by the Rotterdam Philharmonic to conduct the 2010/11 Proms concerts opening with two Mendelssohn programs including the Italian Symphony and the Midsummer Night's Dream. In Asia Igor Gruppman has appeared several times as conductor and soloist with the Seoul Philharmonic and will debut with the Tokyo Philharmonic. For more information, please visit www.IgorGruppman.com.

About Steven Sharp Nelson

Steven Sharp Nelson is an award-winning, Billboard-charting, YouTube rock star (in a cellist sort of way). His passion for music is palpable. His music invites people in – people from all different walks of life and tastes in music. He has inspired millions through his music, awakening a new-found love for the cello or classical music, rekindling a forgotten passion, or showing, by example, how to simply smile and enjoy life more fully.

Steven plays many instruments and combines multiple elements from these instruments, most notably guitar and percussion, into an innovative and revolutionary way of playing the cello. He is broadly considered a pioneer in exploring the versatility of the instrument. In addition to his cello prowess he is an award-winning composer, arranger, and entertainer. He has toured the globe performing his works.

In 2011, Steven joined “The Piano Guys” and together they have created one of the fastest-growing channels on YouTube. His videos are watched by more than half a million viewers daily, and since 2011, many have been among the top 10 music videos in the world, including his “Cello Wars” and “Beethoven's 5 Secrets”, both of which debuted at number #1 on the YouTube charts.

Steven subscribes to Johann Sebastian Bach's mantra: music is for the Glory of God and for the enlivening of the soul. His performances are an incomparable mix of soaring melodies, infectious rhythm, and laughter. He doesn't take himself too seriously and insists that no musician should. He draws his inspiration from a firm belief in a loving God, two incredible parents that have sacrificed so much to offer him the opportunities he enjoys today, and most of all an amazing wife and three cute-as-can-be children.

For more information and to understand the impact of Steven's music, visit YouTube and find his videos. Listen, watch, and read the endless comments from people around the world, and become inspired yourself. For more information, please visit www.StevenSharpNelson.com.

About Lyceum Music Festival

Lyceum Music Festival's Mission is to connect young classical musicians with professional performers in a way that awakens the student to his or her own potential. This furthers the mission of our parent organization American Heritage School by using music as an effective method of educating both the heart and mind. By surrounding young musicians with the level of artistry achieved by professional performers, we seek to provide unique insight into both the art form and career of music making. We are committed to offering well-prepared students this extraordinary musical opportunity, regardless of the family's financial means, race, or religion. Sometimes all it takes to inspire a budding young music student is a positive role model who has "made it" and who believes the student can too! For more information, visit www.LyceumMusicFestival.com.

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