



Pre-eminent classical violinist Gidon Kremer appointed Honorary President of Looking at the Stars Foundation

For Immediate Release

February 20, 2020

For Media Information

Ciarlo Communications

Tel: 416-763-3783

Cell: 416-458-5090

Email: vciarlo@ciarlo.ca

Toronto, ON – Dmitri Kanovich, Founder of Looking at the Stars Foundation, today announced that pre-eminent classical violinist Gidon Kremer has been appointed Honorary President of the organization. Since 2015, Looking at the Stars has delivered classical music to those without access to traditional venues.

Gidon Kremer accepted the honorary appointment following a recent performance for the inmates of Pacific Institution Regional Treatment Centre in Abbotsford, BC. Following this experience, he will continue to endorse the great work that Looking at the Stars continues to do in taking classical music to those living in institutions where they are unable to access and enjoy the arts.

"I was thrilled to share my music with these inmates, they were receptive, enthusiastic and I found them to be more attentive than typical concertgoers I've performed for," said Kremer. "I am pleased to receive this honor and endorse Looking at the Stars for the incredible work they do, because music feeds the soul, it heals, and the positive emotions one feels, opens a part of them that allows them to share their feelings."

Considered one of the world's foremost classical violinists, Gidon Kremer has performed with all of the world's most prestigious orchestras, conductors, and concert halls. He has received many prestigious awards, including international awards for his recordings that now number 120 albums. He plays a violin made by Nicola Amati in 1641 and is the author of four books. In 2016, Kremer received the Praemium Imperiale prize that is widely considered the Nobel Prize of music.

In appointing Kremer as Looking at the Stars Honorary President, Founder Dmitri Kanovich shared, "I am thrilled to have such an acclaimed artist as Gidon Kremer accept the role and endorse our organization. I'm confident that he will continue to share our work after having experienced it as one of our guest performers. I am grateful for his generosity to perform and now share that experience globally, validating the need for such artistic expression."

Looking at the Stars Foundation is a Toronto-based charitable organization that delivers classical music to those without access to traditional venues. Since 2015, the charity has delivered more than 40 musical gifts of live performances to over 3500 recipients in venues in Ontario Quebec, British Columbia and, most recently, a pilot program in the European Union.

They have included long-term care institutions, hospitals and correctional institutions. These intimate presentations include personal interaction between performers and audience members to elevate the recital experience from passive consumption to interactive engagement. Canadian and international performers who have given recitals for Looking at the Stars include: The Toronto Symphony Orchestra Chamber Soloists, students from The Royal Conservatory of Music Glenn Gould School, pianist Lukas Geniušas, violinist Aylen Pritchin, and pianist Darius Mažintas.

For more information on Looking at the Stars, visit www.lookingatthestars.org