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Music and Physics Meet in "Einstein's Universe," Feb 28-March 3

ORANGE, Calif., February 14, 2011 One day, the story goes, Albert Einstein was playing a string duet with his friend Fritz Kreisler, the famous Viennese violinist. Einstein went off the melody at one point. "You know, Albert," said Kreisler, "your trouble is that you can't count."

It's a funny story that brings up a little-known fact: Einstein (1879-1955), the great physicist who changed our view of the universe with his revolutionary theories, was in his spare time an eager amateur violinist and chamber music fan. Now there's a chance to explore the fascinating links between music and physics as exemplified by Einstein, as award-winning British violinist Jack Liebeck and Brian Foster, Oxford professor of physics and himself an amateur violinist, bring their internationally acclaimed Einstein's Universe series of three lecture-performances to Chapman University, February 28 through March 3. All are free and open to the public.

Liebeck, named Young British Classical Performer of 2010, and Foster first conceived of Einstein's Universe as a part of the International Year of Physics in 2005, also known as Einstein Year in celebration of Einstein's lasting influence on our world. Since then, they have won rave reviews around the globe for their compelling lecture-performances, which spotlight the intersection of Einstein's science and his love of music.

A program such as Einstein's Universe provides a reaffirmation that the concerns of physical sciences and the humanities are much the same, said Patrick Quinn, Ph.D., dean of Chapman's Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The pathway to knowledge is intertwined with an appreciation of both approaches. We very much look forward to these illuminating events and hope the public will join us for these unique programs. The series is co-presented by Wilkinson College and Chapman's Office of the Chancellor, College of Performing Arts, Schmid College of Science and Leatherby Libraries.

Monday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall

Opening Lecture-Performance: Einstein's Universe

Physicist Foster will delve into Einstein's groundbreaking ideas, which have shaped our modern view of the universe including the famous Theory of Relativity. Violinist Liebeck will provide melodic interludes, featuring some of Einstein's favorite pieces by Mozart, Bach and other composers. The two will team for a violin duet at the close of the lecture.

Wednesday, March 2 at 11 a.m. in Argyros Forum 202

Physics Colloquium: Superstrings

Foster introduces the audience to Einstein's life, his involvement with music, and his Standard Model of particle physics, in which the evolution of the universe after the Big Bang can be understood by the interplay of fundamental forces on tiny particles, the quarks and leptons, and

their anti-matter equivalents. This leads into a discussion of current String Theory or Superstrings, which predicts that the universe has extra hidden dimensions of space that may be laid out in the form of strings and how that analogy can be easier to understand when demonstrated acoustically on the strings of a violin.

Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in Salmon Recital Hall

Finale Recital: Jack Liebeck, violin and Louise Thomas, piano

Visiting British violin sensation Jack Liebeck and his recital partner, Chapman University piano professor Louise Thomas, perform Beethoven's Sonata No 5 in F Major Op. 24 ("Spring"), Bloch's "Baal Shem Suite," Brahms' Sonata No. 1 in G Major, Op. 78, and Tchaikovsky's "Valse Scherzo," Op. 34.

For more information, the public can call 714-532-7742 or visit www.chapman.edu/150/events/einsteinsuniverse.

Chapman University is located at One University Drive in Orange, Calif. [Parking information for visitors](#)

About Chapman University

Chapman University is one of California's oldest and most respected private universities. Tracing its heritage to 1861 and celebrating that 150-year-old heritage throughout 2011 the university now excels in film and media arts, performing arts, educational studies, business, law, humanities and the sciences.