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Boxford violinist to perform recital

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Concert violinist Joshua Peckins and concert pianist Eliko Akahori will perform a solo recital at 3 p.m. Nov. 19 at the Second Congregational Church of West Boxford, 173 Washington St.

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This continues the new “Art of the Recital” concert series, launched last season by Peckins, a Boxford native.

The “Art of the Recital” series’ mission is to present the most powerful and moving violin recital repertoire in live concerts, to make these accessible and affordable in intimate recital venues, and to stimulate community interest and engagement in attending live classical concerts.

“Attending a great recital can be one of the most meaningful and beautiful concert experiences,” said Peckins. “Fantastic repertoire, performed up close and live, often by a musician the audience knows personally — what could be better than that?”

Peckins has performed as concert artist throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia, from Carnegie Hall to Beijing’s Performing Arts Center. He has also performed local recitals in Boxford for the past 20 years.

The Nov. 19 program, “Passion!” features works by Bach, Strauss, Tartini, and Arvo Part.

Opening with Tartini's tragic "Didone Abbandonata," a sonata inspired by the heartbreaking story of Didone — history and myth often focus on the heroic conquests of Aeneas, while his scorned lover Didone is left to suffer alone, in the wake of his triumphs. This baroque sonata captures her love and suffering.

Bach's Solo Sonata No. 2 is a monumental totem of the violin repertoire, not only because of Bach's expressive genius, but also for the sheer technical difficulty imposed on the violinist.

Arvo Paert, a living composer, wrote "Fratres" in 1980. Accessible and engaging, this short work includes chordal climaxes and calm, peaceful melodies.

The "Strauss Sonata" features arcs of melody, cafe style romances and displays of technique.

"I hope people will come out to hear the first performances this year and will sense that they are not only attending one concert, but also participating in the community's vibrancy and artistic health by buying a ticket and helping to spread the word," Peckins said. "We are blessed with a profound cultural legacy that is Classical Music — having this music performed live, frequently and in the community, accessibly and affordably, adds so much to the richness of our lives."

Tickets are \$17-\$27. Senior citizen and student discounts available. For information, tickets: <http://joshuapeckins.com/projects/recitals>.