Mark O’Connor’s continued journey from fiddler to composer and concert-hall virtuoso has been called “one of the most spectacular, if underpublicized, journeys in recent American music.” (NY Times) Today with his wife, Maggie, he performs a variety of musical styles – bluegrass, jazz, swing, pop, and classical – in concert halls throughout the U.S. and beyond.

The pair visits the Northwest this fall in a benefit concert for Spokane Public Radio. Mark and Maggie O’Connor – American Classics takes place Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Bing Crosby Theater. Tickets are available through TicketsWest beginning July 20.

O’Connor calls himself the product of America’s rich aural folk tradition. He hails from Seattle and grew up listening to his mother’s classical LP collection and watching The Johnny Cash Show.

“I started begging for a violin, because there was something about the way Doug Kershaw played that struck a chord in me. I could imagine myself holding it and making music with it,” he told writer Geoffrey Himes. “I had an innate sense that if I got hold of a fiddle, the whole music world would open up to me. I begged for three years, and when I finally got one, it turned out to be true.”

His violin teacher also happened to enjoy classical and folk music, and suggested her pre-teen student visit the National Oldtime Fiddlers’ Contest in Weiser, Idaho. That led to legendary Texas fiddler Benny Thomasson (who had retired to Kalama, near the Washington/Oregon border) hearing O’Connor practicing. He invited the impressive kid to learn an old-time fiddle style.

The following year, at age 13, O’Connor became the youngest person ever to win the Grand Master Fiddler Championships competing against all ages, amateur and professional. Forty years later that record still stands.
Coming up with Spokane Public Radio

July Membership Drawing: John Cleese and Eric Idle/Monty Python Package
**Deadline to Enter: Thursday, July 29**
Your pledge to SPR now through July 29 automatically enters you into a drawing to see John Cleese and Eric Idle, Together Again At Last... For The Very First Time live in Spokane this fall, and a DVD of Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Details and full rules are online.

**KPBX Kids' Concert: Meshugga Daddies**
*Friday, July 15, Noon – FREE at the SCC Lair Auditorium, at Greene St. & Mission Ave.*
Klezmer music from Rick Singer, Eugene Jablonsky, Liz Dreisbach, Steve Reich and Larry Weiser.

**SPR at Art on the Green**
*Friday, Aug. 5 - Sunday, Aug. 7 – FREE at the North Idaho College Campus in Coeur d'Alene*
Look for the SPR booth to meet with station staff and volunteers, find out about upcoming fall events, and enter the drawing for one of the following: John Cleese and Eric Idle, Together Again At Last... For The Very First Time, Blue Waters Bluegrass Festival, and SPR Presents: Mark and Maggie O'Connor – American Classics.

**SPR at the Season Arts Preview**
*Monday, Sep. 5, 4-7:30 p.m. – FREE at Comstock Park*
Join SPR staff and board members at this fun, family-friendly arts showcase before the Spokane Symphony's free Labor Day concert. Enter the drawing for either The Chinese Lantern Festival or SPR Presents: Mark and Maggie O'Connor – American Classics.

**2nd Annual Chinese Lantern Festival**
*Sep. 23 - Oct. 30, 2016 at Riverfront Park, Spokane*
The cultural event features all-new light displays, live performances and authentic food. Tickets available at TicketsWest. Spokane Public Radio is proud to be a media sponsor of the five-week event.

**KPBX Kids' Concert: Heartbreak Pass**
*Saturday, Oct. 1, 1 p.m. – FREE at Riverpark Square, 808 W. Main Ave.*
Spokane-based bluegrass band with Bonnie Bliss.

**SPR Presents: Mark and Maggie O'Connor – American Classics**
*Thursday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague Ave.*
Grammy-winning violinist/fiddler Mark O'Connor and virtuoso violinist wife Maggie perform a mix of American classics, swing jazz, classical music and more. Tickets available at TicketsWest beginning July 20.

More Event Information Online at SpokanePublicRadio.org
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<td>Fresh Air with Terry Gross</td>
<td>Performance Today</td>
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<td>This American Life</td>
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<td>Jazz for a Friday Night</td>
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<td>Jazz ‘til Midnight Jan Munstedt</td>
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Mark O’Connor  Continued from Front Panel

Soon after, he joined jazz mandolinist David Grisman’s quintet with his second mentor, hot jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli. He joined ‘Strength in Numbers’ with Bela Fleck, Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas and Edgar Meyer. He played hundreds of recording sessions with James Taylor, Paul Simon, Dolly Parton and others.

But as his collaborator and friend Yo-Yo Ma told the NY Times, “This is a person in constant development, hungry to develop.” No one style of music could contain him, and that’s the way he wants to sound.

“When you hear me play, you hear that culture – the blues phrasing, Hispanic polkas, ragtime, Irish jigs, jazz, the American songbook, the Rock ‘n’ Roll, the bluegrass. When people hear me, they can hear those aspects in my playing. That’s something you would not find in other places,” he told No Depression magazine.

It’s a quality he shares with his wife, also a violinist and American fiddler who began playing at age 7. Unlike her husband, Maggie had a whole family band to work with – her father on guitar and brother on mandolin. Her mother insisted on cultivating that folk tradition with classical violin lessons with a graduate of
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**World Radio Network**

**BBC World Service**

**NPR’s Morning Edition**

**Local News**

6:06a, 7:06a

**On Point**

**Car Talk**

**Travel w/ Rick Steves**

**Interfaith Voices**

**Native America Calling**

**The Takeaway**

**Science Friday**

**BBC Newshour**

**Movies 101**

**People’s Pharmacy**

**Take Five**

**Innovation Hub**

**This American Life**

**America’s Test Kitchen**

**NPR’s All Things Considered**

**Wait, Wait Don’t Tell Me**

**You Bet Your Garden**

**MPR’s Director’s Choice**

**Men In Charge**

**Fresh Air with Terry Gross**

**For a Friday Afternoon with Brian Flick**

**Marketplace**

**As It Happens**

**Live Wire**

**A Way w/ Words**

**Commonwealth Club**

**Philosophy Talk**

**Humankind**

**Alternative Radio**

**Snap Judgment**

**Selected Shorts**

**On Point - Repeat of 9a hour**

**Science Friday**

**Big Picture Science**

**Wait, Wait Don’t Tell Me**

**TED Radio Hour**

**Interfaith Voices**

**Zorba Paster**

**On the Media**

**City Arts & Lectures**

**Public Forums**

**Public Forums**

**Zorba Paster**

**Men In Charge** hosts Tony Flinn and Kevin Decker are back with their dry, self-deprecating humor for a series of summer episodes, Sundays at 6 p.m.

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the Odessa Conservatory. She was able to combine those styles while continuing her professional training at the Peabody Institute and the Aspen Music Festival/School. Maggie says that the family band was central to her learning improvisation and arrangement. She was a soloist with Atlanta’s top three youth orchestras while performing in various bluegrass and rock bands.

Together, husband and wife recorded the CD Duo, featuring some of the repertoire of Mark’s string music education series, The O’Connor Method. Mark has released more than 40 albums over his career so far, many of them collaborations with some of the world’s most renowned musicians including Appalachian Waltz with Yo-Yo Ma and Edgar Meyer, Heartland with Bela Fleck, and Jam Sessions with Chris Thile (who takes over hosting A Prairie Home Companion this fall). Public radio listeners might remember his mentoring young musicians on From the Top or his guest appearances with Garrison Keillor.

The performance at the Bing Crosby Theater is a fundraiser for Spokane Public Radio and is made possible by event donors The Cleaning Authority, Dodson’s Jewelers, MTR Communications, and Sam Rodell, Architects.
Sue Scott
Spokane Public Radio Annual Membership

Annual or additional contributions to Spokane Public Radio are always welcome.
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SUSTAINING Membership Puts Your Name In ALL Membership Drawings!

Over the past several months, SPR’s Membership department has given several
ticket packages to KPBX, KSFC, and KPBZ donors.*
Bonnie Raitt, James Taylor, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Harry Connick Jr. and many
more have given event tickets to SPR in order to pass them on to our listeners and
members. Every month, SPR continues to unveil a new drawing to thank those
who support public radio financially.

One way to enter EVERY future Membership drawing is to become a Sustaining
Member. Your membership is always current, and you save SPR paper and
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You decide how much you want to contribute. $10, $20, $30 a month, or pick a
custom monthly amount that's right for you. If your life changes, call (509) 328-
5729 or email membership@kpbx.org to make a pledge change.
Print out the form at SpokanePublicRadio.org/sustaining-membership and follow
the instructions there to get started. Then sit back and relax, knowing you've done
your part to keep the radio you love on the air. And thank you for your support!

*Donation not required to enter any drawing. Rules are available online at
SpokanePublicRadio.org/membership-drawing
SPokane PUBLIC RADIO presents
Mark & Maggie O’Connor

American Classics

Tickets through TicketsWest starting July 20
Details at SpokanePublicRadio.org

Oct. 6
7:30 p.m. at the Bing Crosby Theater

One of the most iconic fiddlers in American history!
“Brilliantly original.”
- The Seattle Times

Event Donors
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Sam Rodell, Architects

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Spokane, WA 99201

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Enterprise, OR / 89.3
Grand Coulee, WA / 91.9
Kellogg, ID / KLG 89.3
Omak, WA / KOMQ 88.5
Oroville, WA / KPBG 90.9
Sandpoint, ID / 101.7
South Hill, Spokane, WA / 90.7
Thompson Falls, MT / 103.9
Twisp/Winthrop, WA / KTWP 91.1

KSFC 91.9 fm / Spokane, WA
transmits on the following FM frequencies:
Omak, WA / 88.9
St. Maries, ID / KXJO 92.1

KPBZ 90.3 fm / Spokane, WA

Stream at:
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