

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VIOLIN VIRTUOSO SALVATORE ACCARDO  
APPEARS AS SOLOIST AND CONDUCTOR WITH THE  
ORCHESTRA DA CAMERA ITALIANA  
IN ITS FIRST AMERICAN TOUR**

*Sunday, October 29, 2000 at 3 pm  
Avery Fisher Hall*

Acclaimed violinist Salvatore Accardo, celebrated for his interpretations of the music of Paganini, returns to the United States to lead the Orchestra da Camera Italiana on a ten-city tour. On Sunday, October 29, 2000, 3 pm at Avery Fisher Hall, Accardo will appear with the Orchestra in a concert featuring the Paganini Violin Concerto No. 4 in D minor. On the occasion, Accardo, music director of the Orchestra da Camera Italiana, will play Paganini's violin on special loan from the City of Genoa, the instrument's owner. The extraordinary event represents three firsts: the first American tour by the Orchestra da Camera Italiana; Accardo's first appearance in the United States as its musical director; and the first time the Paganini violin, made by Giuseppe Bartolomeo Guarneri in 1742, has been allowed to leave Genoa for use in an American concert performance in almost twenty years. The program also includes the Rossini Overture to "L'Italiana in Algeri" and the Schubert Symphony No. 4 in C minor (the "Tragic").

The Paganini violin, known as "Il Cannone" (the Canon), because of the power and sonorous quality of its tone, was of all the instruments owned by Nicolò Paganini his favorite. Made by the renowned Cremona violin maker Guarneri (known as del Gesù) and considered one of his masterpieces, the violin has distinct features that set it apart from modern instruments, including a slightly shorter and thicker sound box, and a markedly curved neck. Its tone is distinctly bright, yet full. The violin has survived intact and whole and belongs to Genoa, a gift made in 1837 by Paganini to his native city. The violin is played monthly in Genoa to preserve it in best condition and on special occasions. "Il Cannone" was last seen in New York as part of an exhibition devoted to Guarneri and his atelier at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1994. Because of the instrument's priceless value a security official from Genoa will accompany the violin to New York and an American guard will escort the instrument to the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro where it will remain until the performance.

Salvatore Accardo gave his first professional recital in 1954, at age 13, in a program that included, prophetically, the Capricci for violin by Paganini. At age 15, Accardo won the

prestigious Geneva Competition, and in 1958, Accardo was the winner of first Paganini Competition. Since then, Accardo has performed as concerto soloist with the world's major orchestras, in recital and chamber music, and, in recent years, has devoted time in his schedule to conducting. He assumed the position of music director of the Orchestra da Camera Italiana in 1996. With the orchestra, Accardo recorded the six complete Paganini concertos for EMI Classics in 1999, and the 3-CD set is due to be released in the United States in the fall. In addition to his specialty of the solo and concert works of Paganini, Accardo's vast repertoire ranges from pre-Bach to post-Berg. Twentieth-century composers who have written works for him include Sciarrino, Donatoni, Piston, Piazzolla, and Xenakis.

The Orchestra da Camera Italiana is based at the Walter Stauffer Academy in Cremona, an institution devoted to classical string playing and advanced music study. The Orchestra da Camera Italiana, established in 1968, took on a new degree of activity, involving international touring and recording, with the appointment of Salvatore Accardo as music director. Successful engagements in Italy in 1997, followed by performances in 1998 in Germany, Spain and Portugal led to the orchestra's first tour in 1999 to South America. It was followed by a series of performances in China, Japan and Vietnam. The performance in New York is part of a ten-city tour of the United States, after which the orchestra is slated to tour Germany. In 2001, the Orchestra da Camera Italiana will appear at the Jerusalem Festival. The ensemble's repertoire ranges from Bach to contemporary composers and, additionally, the orchestra has inaugurated a commissioning program. The Orchestra da Camera Italiana tour is sponsored by Banca di Milano.

Tickets to the performance on October 29 at 3PM are \$45, \$35 and \$25, and can be purchased at the Avery Fisher Hall Box Office or by calling CenterCharge at 212.721.6500.

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