

BOWFIRE

**Premieres Saturday, November 24 at 7:30 pm on WLIW21 New York
Public Television**

Nationwide on Public Television Beginning Thanksgiving Weekend

From the traditional fiddle and violin, to the electric violin and exotic Chinese erhu, BOWFIRE will definitely change people's perspective of what a stringed instrument can do! The Canadian-based string performers known as Bowfire have been thrilling audiences worldwide since forming in 2000. Their first television special, BOWFIRE, offers the total string experience with a diverse blend of brilliant, award-winning string players. Recorded May 2007 at Centre in the Square in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, this sizzling concert captures the group's hit live show, taking public television viewers on an incredible journey that moves seamlessly from Jazz to Classical to Bluegrass to Celtic, to Rock and World styles, a performance with appeal that spans genres and generations. A thrilling combination of master musicians, dazzling choreography, soulful vocals, and breath-taking costumes and set design, every song ends with roaring applause and a standing ovation. During the broadcast, WLIW viewers who make a donation to the station in support of music programming (800-767-2121 or wliw.org) will have the opportunity to see Bowfire live when they kick-off their North American concert tour in spring 2008. Bowfire creator and artistic director Lenny Solomon will be live in the WLIW studio with details and behind-the-scenes information about the making of the television special.

Creator and artistic director Lenny Solomon says, "I always wondered what would happen if you put the best fiddle and violin players from around the world into a musical melting pot. The idea has been around for years, but I didn't explore it fully until I was asked to create a show for the 2000 World Exposition in Hannover, Germany - and Bowfire was born." Lenny also plays jazz violin with the group and his wife, Wendy, plays cello.

Taped in high definition with multiple camera angles, this colorful, high-energy performance highlights each string player's specialized musical genre and begins with Bowfire's signature track "Fiddler in the Hood," filled with complex rhythms and shifting musical patterns. The show then moves flawlessly into the jazz number "Blue Moon & I Want To Be Happy" combining two classic songs in one violin, bass, guitar and piano arrangement; "Canty Medley" featuring a friendly fiddle competition and step dancing; "Gallopig Horses" showcasing the melodic sound of the two-stringed bowed Chinese erhu; the world premiere of "The Line" with beautiful vocals; "Orange Blossom Special," one of the best known fiddle tunes of the twentieth century; and a grand-finale cover of Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir," performed like never before.

Bowfire Performers (in alphabetical order):

Stéphane Allard (Quebecois Jazz Violinist), Bill Bridges (Guitar), Stephanie Cadman (Celtic Fiddler), Shane Cook (Fiddler), Bogdan Djukic (Classical Virtuosos / Violinist), George Gao (Chinese erhu), Yi-Jia Susanne Hou (Violinist), Ray Legere (Bluegrass Fiddler), Lew Mele (Bass), Jon Pilatzke (Celtic Fiddler), Ben Riley (Drums), Bernie Senensky (Piano), Wendy Solomon (Cello), Lenny Solomon (Jazz Violinist/Founder/ Artistic Director), and Kelli Trottier (Celtic Fiddler).

Bowfire Song List:

Fiddler in the Hood

Zigeunerweisen

Blue Moon & I Want to Be Happy

Canty Medley

Galloping Horses

The Line

Father Fugue

Klezmer Medley

Wooden Whale

Sally Goodin Medley

The Aire

Clumsy Lover

Orange Blossom Special

Kashmir

A production of Artist Nation, a division of Live Nation, Bowfire Productions LLC and WLIW New York. Creator and Artistic Director: Lenny Solomon. Executive Producer: Barry Avrich. Executive Producer for WLIW: Roy A Hammond. CC and ST.

WLIW New York is an innovator in broadcasting, production and distribution for public television. A leading producer of fundraising programming for PBS, WLIW brings US audiences the popular Visions aerial series, cultural performance specials like Tango: The Spirit of Argentina, and a 15-part series of cultural documentaries that includes profiles of Asian Indian, Mexican and Polish American communities. WLIW's groundbreaking independent distribution model brings US audiences live daily broadcasts of BBC World News, and weekly series including Consuelo Mack WealthTrack and Wild Chronicles. WLIW is also presenting station for the Emmy award-winning PBS KIDS series Jakers! The Adventures of Piggley Winks. In the tri-state area, WLIW's diverse programming schedule earns the distinction of third most-watched in the country, a destination for viewers of all ages, featuring public television favorites from PBS KIDS to celebrity chefs in the kitchen, enhanced by a rich local public affairs lineup. More information about WLIW can be found at wliw.org.

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