

# MASTER CLASSES



## Almita Vamos

### VIOLIN

**Sunday, April 6 @ 1:00 pm**

**A**lmita Vamos, a Juilliard graduate, studied with Mischa Mischakoff and Louis Persinger. She has won the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching six times and the ASTA Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award. Mrs. Vamos has been featured on CBS's "Sunday Morning" and in the best-selling book *Battle Hymn of a Tiger Mom* by Amy Chua. She has taught at Western Illinois University, University of Minnesota, Oberlin Conservatory, and Northwestern University, and is currently an artist teacher at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. For over 35 years, she has taught at the Music Institute of Chicago and during summers at the Chautauqua Music Festival. She has also taught at Aspen, Meadowmount, and other renowned programs.

Her students have won top prizes in national and international competitions, including the Tchaikovsky, Menuhin, Paganini, and Montreal competitions. Her former students are members of major orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, and Chicago Symphony, with some holding concertmaster positions. Notable students include Rachel Barton Pine, Ben Beilman, and Simin Ganatra (Pacifica Quartet).

As a performer, Almita Vamos has concertized globally, with performances in prestigious venues like Carnegie Recital Hall and the 92nd Street Y. She was a member of the Lydian Trio and Antioch Quartet and has recorded for Coronet and Rizzoli labels. She continues to perform and collaborate with her husband, Roland, in violin/viola duos.

**M**aster class coaching by guest artists has been part of Hoff-Barthelson's curriculum since the School's founding in 1944. This distinguished tradition continues this season with a roster of world-class musicians and educators including David Madsen, guitar; Chelsea Knox, flute; composers Nils Vigeland and Matt Browne; Almita Vamos, violin; Paul Watkins cello; Victor Rosenbaum, piano and members of the New York Philharmonic.

Master classes provide a transformative experience for both students and audiences. Following meticulous preparation, students showcase their talents, receiving invaluable feedback and guidance from master teachers. This interaction challenges students to approach their pieces in new and critical ways, resulting in inspiring and enlightening performances. Yet the impact extends beyond those on stage—all attendees can learn by observing the creative process firsthand. As iconic performers coach the next generation, the audience gains insight into musical artistry and interpretation. Even developing musicians are granted a rare glimpse into the mastery of world-class artists.



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