

The Music of a Master

I have a fascination with the violin. I can't play it, but I love the sound of it.

Which leads me to an interesting story about the instrument.

Friedrich (Fritz) Kreisler (1875 – 1962) was an Austrian-born violinist and composer. *Wikipedia* said he was “one of the most noted violin masters of his or any other day, and regarded as one of the greatest violin masters of all time ... known for his sweet tone and expressive phrasing.”



Kreisler told how he once came across a beautiful instrument he wanted to acquire. When he finally raised the money for the violin, he returned to buy it and learned that it had already been sold to a collector.

He went to the new owner's home in order to try to persuade him to sell the violin. But the collector said it was one of his prized possessions and he could not let it go. The disappointed Kreisler turned to leave, but then asked a favor. “May I play the instrument once more before it is consigned to silence?”

Permission was granted, and the great musician began to play. The violin sang out a quality of music so beautiful that the collector himself could only listen in wonderment. “I have no right to keep that to myself,” he said after the musician finished. “The violin is yours, Mr. Kreisler. Take it into the world, and let people hear it.”

What a fitting gesture!

William Arthur Ward, one of America's most quoted writers of inspirational maxims, said: “If you believe in prayer, pray; if you believe in serving, serve; if you believe in giving, give.”

Think about it: For you and me – workers in health care and hospitality – we are exquisite violins and our music is meant to be heard. We are truly instruments in the hands of the Great Master, our Lord Himself. And our love and service become a sweet symphony in His ear.

Happiness is found in investing our lives in others. And letting our music be heard.

My heart, O God, is steadfast ... I will sing and make music (Psalm 57:7 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter