

# VIOLINS OF HOPE

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FAMILY LEGACY SPONSOR: THE EIGER & ZAIDENWEBER FAMILIES

## KLEZMER VIOLIN

Dedicated to the victims of the Ponar Forest



### Klezmer Violin with Star of David

This violin, marked with a single Star of David, is dedicated to the memory of those who perished in the Ponar forest near Vilnius, Lithuania.

Between 1941 and 1944, Ponar became the site of mass executions carried out by Nazi forces and their collaborators. More than 70,000 people—most of them Jews from Vilnius and the surrounding region—were murdered there. Once a place of beauty and quiet woods, Ponar became a killing ground and one of the most tragic symbols of the Holocaust in Eastern Europe.

The Star of David on this violin links it to Jewish life and tradition, particularly klezmer music, which once filled shtetls and cities across the region with song. Today, the instrument serves not only as a representation of Jewish cultural expression but also as a memorial to those silenced at Ponar.

By carrying both music and memory, this violin invites reflection on a vibrant community that was destroyed, and honors the lives that can never be forgotten.

