

# Barton Pine foundation given Stradivarius violin



Violinist Rachel Barton Pine (Lisa-Marie Mazzucco/JAG Entertainment)



By **John von Rhein** · Contact Reporter

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**T**he Chicago-based Rachel Barton Pine Foundation has acquired a historic Stradivarius violin dating from 1732.

The instrument, known to rare violin fanciers as the “Arkwright Lady Rebecca Sylvan” Stradivarius, was donated by its current owner, Joseph Sylvan, a violinist, pedagogue and former music professor at New Mexico State University, according to a statement by Chicago violinist Rachel Barton Pine, the foundation’s founder and president.

The statement said the violin will be paired with a yet-to-be-selected recipient through the foundation’s

instrument loan program, which enables deserving young artists to perform on high-quality instruments to which they would not have access otherwise.

Dating from late in the career of master violin maker Antonio Stradivari, who died in Cremona, Italy, in 1737, the “Arkwright Lady Rebecca Sylvan” Strad has passed through the hands of some distinguished musicians and collectors.

Owners have included the 19th century Italian cellist and pedagogue Alfredo Piatti, and collector John Hungerford Arkwright, Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, in Victorian-era England, after whom the violin was originally named.

The instrument came into Sylvan’s possession following the death of his father in 1993. The title “Lady Rebecca” was added in honor of Sylvan’s wife, Rebecca Harriet Halsey, whom he married in 1968.

To date, Pine’s foundation has supported roughly 70 young violinists, violists and cellists through its instrument loan and financial assistance programs.