

THE PENDULUM

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Andy Grammer cancels on Homecoming

Michael Bodley
Editor-in-Chief

Rising pop star Andy Grammer has canceled his headlining appearance at Elon University's 2015 Homecoming Concert. Grammer's appearance fee — not disclosed — will be refunded to SGA.

The Student Union Board and SGA joint-sponsored concert will proceed as scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 17 with "The Summer Set," a pop-rock quintet originally slated to open for Grammer.

As of publication, SUB had begun searching for other potential additions to the concert — but another artist isn't definite, according to junior Caroline Blanchard, SUB's performance chair. SUB and SGA may table the refund for possible events later this school year, she said.

"I'm not totally sure which direction we're going in," Blanchard said. "We're looking to have some sort of addition to the show. We don't know what that looks like at this time."

Grammer also canceled all other October concert dates, according to SUB, to focus on his appearance on the 21st season of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

Grammer's cancellation follows months of planning and promotion of the concert to the student body and alumni returning for Homecoming Weekend.

"It's definitely upsetting," Blanchard said. She added, "I hope the student body realizes that this is completely out of our control."

From Acorn to Disney World

Students raise money for employee's dream getaway



Acorn employee Kathryn Thompson cried after hearing she and her family would be going to Disney World, thanks to a GoFundMe campaign that raised thousands of dollars for the cause.

Courtney Campbell
Style Editor

Before starting her shift Monday night, Acorn Coffee Shop employee Kathryn Thompson cried. Her dream had just come true — she would be finally able to take her family to Disney World.

After weeks of fundraising through a GoFundMe page, junior Taylor Zisholtz and freshman Lucy Smith-Williams revealed they had raised more than \$6,000 to fly Thompson and four of her family members to "the happiest place on earth."

Revealing a big surprise

"It was really exciting," Smith-Williams said. "Of course she's really shocked, so she didn't understand at first, but once we explained it to her, she was so surprised. It was everything we hoped for."

Both sporting Mickey Mouse T-shirts, Zisholtz and Smith-Williams showed Thompson a sign with the words, "We wanted to thank

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Itzhak Perlman fills Fall Convocation with classical music

Caroline Fernandez and Courtney Campbell
News Editor and Style Editor

The first time Itzhak Perlman played his icon Yehudi Menuhin's violin, he knew he had found the one.

"I played a couple of notes on that violin and said to myself, I've died and gone to heaven," Perlman said to a packed Alumni Gym Tuesday afternoon, the guest of honor at Elon University's Fall Convocation.

Two weeks later, as the young Perlman negotiated a home purchase, he received an unexpected phone call with news most-welcome: the out-of-reach violin of his dreams was for sale. And he was in no position to afford it.

"It came available right when we didn't have enough money," Perlman said. "But we made another loan because I said, 'Even if I don't play a note on it, it's worth the money just to look at.'"

Perlman, now 70, is one of the world's best classical musicians. He's played opera halls the world over, and he performed at President Barack Obama's first Inauguration in 2009.

The violin, Perlman's prized possession, is far older than he, crafted in 1714 to play a piece composed by Bach. As a child, Perlman learned the same rendition as he played an advertisement for a cookie manufacturing company.



Perlman played a series of renditions throughout Convocation, interspersed with life advice.

"Hopefully, I can play it as well as when I was a child," Perlman said.

For minutes on end, on he played.

Besides the sound of people rummaging in their bags to record the music with their phones, one could hear a pin drop.

"Can you do that some more?" asked Gerald Whittington, moderator and vice president for business, finance and technology.

"It's just one time that works," Perlman said. "The other time, who knows?"

Thrice more, the violin emerged and silenced the audience with a crescendo of notes plucked fast and slow — including the famous score he and Steven Spielberg wrote and produced for the Oscar-winning "Schindler's List."

Perlman took to a combination of wit and

humor to keep the audience on its toes, often at Whittington's expense. As soon as Perlman arrived on stage, he corrected Whittington that he had won 17 Grammy Awards, not the 16 Whittington mentioned in his opening.

It wouldn't be the first snappy retort.

"I believe you were on the 'Ed Sullivan Show' three times," Whittington said.

"Six," Perlman said. "And I count for a living."

Spending long hours perfecting his trade, Perlman has developed a practice regimen all his own. Perlman explained that musicians should only practice for five hours, tops.

Any more, he said, would be like putting a sponge in water and adding a few drops — useless.

"A lot of things about practicing have to do with repetition," Perlman said. "Muscle memory."

Perlman, currently on a worldwide tour, will perform more than 50 times between now and May. Since the summer of 1995, Perlman and his wife have owned and operated a summer camp, The Perlman Music Program, for young, aspiring musicians.

"My goal is to continue to enjoy what I do and not to be bored," Perlman said. "Conducting and teaching and playing. Each one of those things helps each other. When I teach others, I teach myself."

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