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The online Performing Arts Journal for Bucks County PA and neighboring NJ

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BCPAC opens 35th season with a sold-out concert

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The Bucks County Performing Arts Center has been filling their venue at the Community Centre in Yardley for years and last Saturday night's concert was no exception. The building on Main Street, which has a long history as a theater and movie house, and still has a real "box office", was packed to the gills with chamber music fans, who came to hear virtuoso violinist Elizabeth Pitcairn, and her equally accomplished accompanist, Louise Thomas. Ms. Pitcairn, a Bucks County native with an international solo career, was the first of the "return artists" invited to perform on the 35-year anniversary season of the BCPAC. And an excellent choice it was. Ms. Pitcairn charmed the audience both with her exquisite performance and her congenial manner when speaking to the audience about her famous Stradivarius violin, her musical journey, and the pieces she had chosen for the program. Resembling a Greek goddess in her concert attire, Ms. Pitcairn had an ease of performance style that belied the difficulty of the pieces – even when the violin's shoulder rest slipped off and she

had to perform the entire slow movement of the Beethoven Sonata without it. Visibly enjoying the music she was performing, she was able to draw the audience into the nuances of each particular style, be it Beethoven, Brahms, or Saint-Saens. The acoustics of the hall also supported the lush sounds of both the famed "Red Violin" and BCPAC's Steinway piano. The audience was enthralled and responded with a standing ovation. After the performance Ms. Pitcairn was on hand to sign CDs and speak to her fans. What a treat it was to experience the kind of performance right here in Yardley that one would normally have to travel to concert halls in the cities to hear. For that we have founder and Executive Director Mary Borkovitz to thank, who has tirelessly built up this concert series over the last 35 years. We wish her all the best for the remaining concerts in this exciting anniversary season!

Lynn Fergusson

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