

News Release

Media-Tech

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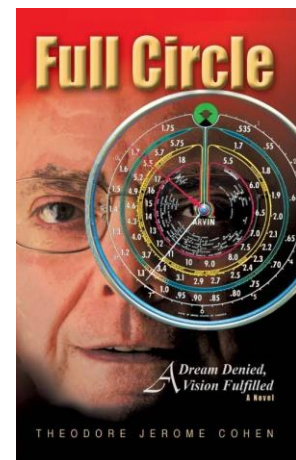
Scientist, Returning to Violin, Launches Debut Novel

Scientist Theodore J. (Teddy) Cohen never expected to return to the violin when he abandoned the instrument after his high school graduation in 1956 and began pursuing a career in engineering and science. A gifted violin student in grade and high school, he was the concertmaster of his high school's orchestra and in 1956, the last time he played the violin for many years to come, was named co-first-chair of the Milwaukee All-City Senior Orchestra. An early encounter with ham radio and a love of communications and electronics resulted in his pursuit of degrees in the physical sciences, including a Ph.D. For the next 40 years, Cohen worked in the defense industry, serving as an engineer, scientist, and officer in several Washington, D.C.-based corporations before moving to Pennsylvania, where he continues to work as a consultant. There, to prepare for the day when he would leave the work-a-day world for good, he once again took up the violin, ironically fulfilling his father's vision that he become a violinist. The story is told in *Full Circle: A Dream Denied, A Vision Fulfilled*, Cohen's new novel from *AuthorHouse*.



"I think it always was my father's dream that someday I would become a violinist. We never discussed it, but then, sometimes, the most difficult conflicts are the ones we keep to ourselves," said Cohen. "I think my father's words and deeds pretty much pointed to the fact that he had a dream ... a dream that someday I would play professionally." But it was not to be, and eventually, his father came to understand and to endure the heartbreak of knowing that the dream never would be realized.

The story is a work of fiction based on real events. "It takes the reader from my early days as a violin student in grade and high school, through my discovery of communications in general and ham radio in particular, to my return to the violin." In the process, the reader is introduced to a variety of interesting and colorful people who played major roles in Cohen's life, including his mother, Myrtle, and father, Solly; his immigrant maternal grandfather, "Grandpa Joe" (who used to take him for his piano lessons after dinner on Monday evenings by bus and streetcar); Herman Miroff (his violin teacher); Dr. Leonardo Cavalieri (his high school orchestra teacher, who reappears later in Teddy's life as a member of the Board of Directors of Milwaukee's North Shore Symphonic Community Orchestra and who invites Teddy to play a violin solo with that orchestra); J. Harvey McCoy (a ham radio operator (W2IYX) and friend of Teddy's who played a major role in curbing the German submarine menace in the Atlantic



during WW II); and of course, his wife, Susan. The women who read this story may well identify with her because of the “trials and tribulations” she experiences as a result of Teddy’s radio experiments, which often had humorous side effects.

“There is something here for everyone from 10 to 100 years of age,” said Cohen. “I’ve tried to make the whole area of communications and ham radio interesting, explaining terms and concepts in footnotes, wherever necessary. In fact, I have provided footnotes throughout the book, not only pertaining to terms and concepts used in communications and electronics, but also, to those used in music.” In many cases, Cohen provides the “backstory” behind some of the compositions cited. Some may surprise experienced musicians. “The more research I did in preparing to write the book, the more *I* learned. For example, one of the pieces that I cite is Mozart’s *Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola in E flat Major*. Readers may not be aware that Mozart wrote the solo viola part in D major instead of E flat major and had the instrument tuned a semitone sharper to add brightness ... a small but interesting fact that musicians and perhaps others can appreciate. And many readers may find it interesting to learn that the producers of the *Lone Ranger* radio program almost always used classical music on the show because they did not have to pay royalties, and as such, were able to keep production costs at a minimum.”

In the end, while his father’s dream may have been denied, *Cohen’s* and his father’s vision *are* realized.

One early reviewer of the book who has a technical and ham radio background called the novel “delightful.” Another, who was the author’s editor on a previous book, said that it was “inspirational” and that she had retrieved her piano music from the basement with the intent of taking lessons again. Still a third reviewer, a professional musician and composer who had begun work a concerto some years ago, only to abandon the task, remarked that he was inspired to finish the orchestration! “If I can inspire people to rekindle the joy they once found in music—the joy, perhaps, they knew as children and teenagers—I will consider my work well worth the effort,” concluded Cohen.

Theodore Jerome Cohen’s *Full Circle* is available for purchase at Web sites such as AuthorHouse.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Amazon.com, Borders.com, Target.com, Books-a-million.com, and Overstock.com as well as over 25,000 retailers who use book wholesalers such as Ingram Book Company, Baker & Taylor, and Bowkers Books in Print.

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