

Keynote title: *From the chemistry of the Renaissance to the renaissance of violin making*

Prof. dr. Joseph Nagyvary

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Native of Szeged, Hungary, (1934), he majored in chemistry at Eotvos University, Budapest, 1952-56. From 1957 on, he studied natural products chemistry under Professors P. Karrer and H. Schmid at the University of Zurich. For his PhD dissertation about C-curarin (1962) he received the 12000 sF annual prize of the Swiss Science Foundation. 1963--postdoctoral year in Cambridge with Lord A. Todd. In 1964, immigrated to the USA, and held positions first at the University of Connecticut, then at Creighton University, in Omaha. At the end of 1967, accepted the position of associate professor at Texas A&M University; he was promoted to full professor in 1972. His academic research in nucleic acids chemistry was supported by several grants from the NIH and the NSF. His major achievements were in the field of origin of life chemistry, the explanation of how ribonucleotides came into being. His hobby since 1975 has been violin making and the mysteries of the Stradivarius violins. From the 1980s on, he was first to apply modern techniques of material analysis to the wood and varnish of Cremon violins. After his retirement in 2003, he continued being active in violin research and also set up his Nagyvary Violins Co. to produce top quality instruments.