

## About the French American Chamber of Commerce in Houston Constance Bost, Executive Director



The French American Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, non-governmental, 100% independent, member-driven organization, made by companies for companies. Our mission: foster the French-American business community, support businesses in their settlement and development in Houston and build bridges for US companies with France. The FACC Houston is a place to exchange, learn and network.

Constance Bost, an early champion of this luncheon series, recently returned to FACC as Executive Director and brings a background as an international entrepreneur to her role at the Chamber.

An exciting array of events is coming up and a complete listing is available on the website.

[info@facchouston.org](mailto:info@facchouston.org)



## About the International Friends of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna

The **Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna** brings together one of the largest, most complex collections in the world, spanning over 5000 years. The collections reflect diverse global cultures. They are housed in a palace of fine arts, which is an artwork in itself and in 2016 celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its grand opening. The wide-ranging accumulation of works, including the Collection of Historical Musical Instruments, is the result of centuries of passionate collecting by a long succession of Habsburg family members and are open to all who wish to be inspired by and enhance their understanding of art.

The **International Friends of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (IFKHM)** is a dynamic group of patrons, collectors, and connoisseurs, joined by their love of the museum's extraordinary imperial collection and masterpieces of European art, with a desire to see them properly cared for and passed on to future generations. [www.khm.at](http://www.khm.at)

International Friends  
of the  
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna

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## Enterprising Variations on a Theme Sergei Galperin, Violinist



*The Art of  
Business*

May 17, 2018  
Chef Soren Pedersen  
2314 Dunlavy  
Houston

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD  
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING



## About Sergei Galperin



A native of Moscow, Russia, Sergei Galperin began violin studies at the age of five and shortly thereafter gave his first public performance in the Concert Hall of the Moscow Conservatory. After moving to the U.S., Sergei received his Bachelor and Master degrees from The Juilliard School, where he was a full scholarship student in the class of Dorothy DeLay and Hyo Kang. He made his American solo orchestral debut in May, 1982 at the age of 16, playing the Wieniawski Violin Concerto with the Symphony Orchestra of New York in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. As a winner of Artist International auditions, Sergei made his New York solo recital debut in March of 1988 at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

A first violinist of the Houston Symphony Orchestra since 1995, Sergei recently returned from the Orchestra's 2018 tour of Europe, which included concerts in Vienna, Hamburg, Warsaw, and Munich. In addition to being a performer and teacher, Sergei has access to the finest musical instruments and advises on the acquisition of violins, violas, and cellos to collectors, players and investors looking to diversify their portfolios in tangible assets. Musical instruments appreciate in value from 5 to 12 percent a year, need little maintenance, and have low insurance premiums. Unlike other investments such as real estate, instruments can be sold in any part of the globe where the art market is hot. [www.sergeigalperin.com](http://www.sergeigalperin.com)

## About the Cover Art

This magnificent *lira da braccio*, a 16<sup>th</sup> century precursor of the modern violin, is from the Collection of Historical Musical Instruments within the purview of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna. It is remarkable to find such intricate decoration on a musical instrument, illustrating a man's face in the style of *grotesque* ornamentation popular at that time in Italy. Renaissance painters, such as Raphael and Pinturicchio, had themselves lowered by rope into the Roman "grottoes" or ruins of the Domus Aurea built for Emperor Nero, a legendary fiddler before the instrument was invented. They copied the frescoes on the walls, including complex patterns of vegetation as well as faces bearing bizarre expressions described as "grotesque." The artists included these elements in their masterworks such as the Villa Farnesina in Rome and the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Spello. So popular were these motifs that they found their way onto furniture, ceramics, and even musical instruments. From the *lira da braccio*, conceived as an instrument for street performers, the modern violin emerged as a concert instrument and the pride of virtuosos thanks to master craftsmen from northern Italy such as Andrea Amati, Antonio Stradivari, and Bartolomeo Giuseppe Antonio Guarneri.

### Next Time...

Our luncheon in the third quarter will feature Helga Kessler Aurisch, Curator of the European Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. She will discuss how past titans of business amassed their great collections of European paintings, including works residing in Houston.

## About *The Art of Business*

*The Art of Business* is a luncheon series featuring business people presenting a topic of interest highlighting how commercial enterprise spurred and funded artistic endeavors. Emphasis is on the history of Europe from Ancient Greece to the mid-20th century with topics at the crossroads of culture and commerce, such as --

- Looted, lost, and stolen art and legal steps to get it back
- Commercial art and design as valuable intangible property protected from counterfeiters
- Commissioning new operas and attracting the businesses who sponsor them
- Managing and planning for private collections of works of art, wines, cars, etc.
- The business of being an international opera star
- Digitally preserving films and TV programs using technology developed for the oil business

Have an idea for a presentation?

Contact Meril Markley at 832.876.7895 or [mbmarkley@mmarkley.com](mailto:mbmarkley@mmarkley.com)

## About RSM



Nancy Wakefield  
Private Client Services  
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We are a world leader in providing audit, tax, and consulting services to middle market enterprises. Our motivation is to help them think ahead and prepare for the future of their business as they grow and expand domestically and abroad. At RSM, we build strong relationships based on deep understanding of what matters most to our clients. [www.rsm-us.com](http://www.rsm-us.com)

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For over 50 years, RSM has been *taking the middle market to the global market.*