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RENÉ A. MOREL, FAMED LUTHIER, HAS DIED

November 17, 2011, New York – René A. Morel, famed luthier, passed away yesterday, November 16, 2011 in the company of his loving family after an ongoing battle with cancer. Loved and respected by thousands of friends, customers and colleagues around the globe, René was considered to be one of the finest violin and string instrument restorers in the world. He was 79.

Born in Mattaincourt, France, René began his career in violin making at the age of 12 working for several firms including Amédée Dieudonne of Mirecourt, France, Bossard Bonnél and Marius Didier of Rennes, France.

After service in the French Air Force, René emigrated to the United States, ultimately settling in New York City. In 1955, he began work at Rembert Wurlitzer Co., where, under the tutelage of Simone Fernando Sacconi, it is said he truly mastered his craft. René then partnered with Jacques Français Rare Violins Inc. in 1964, a partnership that would last until 1994 when he opened his own firm René A. Morel Rare Violins. In 2008 he began a collaboration with Tarisio that lasted until present day.

René's passion was not limited to his work -- he was a beloved family man who had a deep appreciation for good food, fine wine, music and travel. At his home in the Catskill Mountains he pursued his love of the outdoors and was an avid hunter.

His loss will be felt by many, though his legacy will live on through his family, the instruments he worked on, the pupils he mentored and the hearts he touched.

René A. Morel is survived by his children, Evelyne, Fran and Pascal, their spouses Dave, Kris and Cheryl, his adoring grandchildren, Christa Nagy his loving companion of many years and her children, Andrea, Sandor, Derek and their families. René is also survived by his siblings Paulette and Jean-Paul who live in France.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in René's memory to the Juilliard School for the support of the rare instrument collection, which René so lovingly cared for.

A memorial service will be held at 4pm on Monday November 21, 2011 at St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church. 145 Mortimer Avenue, Rutherford, NJ

A memorial reception will be held on December 13, 2011 from 2pm-7pm at Tarisio Auctions 244-250 West 54th Street, 11th Floor New York, NY

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