



# A Fiddler's Tale: How Hollywood and Vivaldi Discovered Me

*Louis Kaufman, Annette Kaufman*

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**A Fiddler's Tale: How Hollywood and Vivaldi Discovered Me** Louis Kaufman, Annette Kaufman

This fascinating memoir, written by one of the greatest American violinists of the twentieth century, recounts an extraordinary life in music.

Once called by the *New York Times* "a violinist's violinist and a musician's musician," Louis Kaufman was born in 1905 in Portland, Oregon. He studied violin with Franz Kneisl at New York's Institute of Musical Art. He was the original violist of the Musical Art Quartet (1926-1933) and won the Naumburg Award in 1928, the year of his American solo recital debut in New York's Town Hall.

During these early years, he played chamber music with Pablo Casals, Mischa Elman, Jascha Heifetz, Fritz Kreisler, Gregor Piatigorsky, and Efrem Zimbalist, among others. After performing the violin solos for Ernst Lubitsch's 1934 film *The Merry Widow*, Kaufman became the most sought after violin soloist in Hollywood, playing in some 500 films, including *Casablanca*, *Gone with the Wind*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Wuthering Heights*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *Spartacus*. He worked closely with Robert Russell Bennett, Bernard Herrmann, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Alfred Newman, Miklós Rózsa, Max Steiner, Franz Waxman, and Victor Young.

Extraordinary as it seems today, Kaufman was largely responsible for bringing the once-forgotten music of Antonio Vivaldi to its current popularity worldwide among both classical musicians and the general population of music lovers.

The book includes a music CD with Kaufman's performances of Vivaldi's *Concerto 2 of op. 9*, *Havanaise* by Camille Saint Saëns, *Nocturne for Violin and Piano* by Aaron Copland, *Much Ado about Nothing Suite* for violin and piano by Erich Wolfgang Korngold, and *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* by Jerome Kern, among other favorites.

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