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For Immediate Release

Black Violin to Headline 2015 Levitt National Tour

*Genre-busting duo of strings meets hip-hop
to stop at six Levitt locations this summer*

"Black Violin works hard, but makes it all look like play." – The New York Times



May 18, 2015—Fresh off last summer's success of the inaugural Levitt National Tour featuring World music sensation Playing For Change, we're counting down the days until **Black Violin, the genre-busting pioneers of urban meets highbrow**, headline the 2015 Levitt National Tour. Named one of the hottest bands at SXSW in 2013, this classically trained, hip-hop duo has wowed audiences across the globe with their unique take on violin/viola playing—from countless concert

arenas to headlining a Broadway show to performing at the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Ball.

"Black Violin's pioneering approach aligns perfectly with Levitt's artistic vision of excellence and inclusivity, creating boundary-busting music that resonates with people of all ages and backgrounds," says Sharon Yazowski, executive director of Levitt Pavilions. "In addition to their incredibly high-energy shows, Black Violin's deep commitment to community outreach will provide meaningful experiences with the duo at every Levitt tour stop."

The 2015 Levitt National Tour kicks off in **Memphis on June 13**, followed by stops at five additional Levitt locations—**Arlington, Texas (June 20); Los Angeles (June 26); Pasadena, Calif. (June 27); Bethlehem, Pa. (July 11); and Denver (July 17)**. Audiences can expect a festive atmosphere at these family-friendly shows, filled with unexpected surprises that will get

everyone on their feet dancing. Following each show, there will be an on-stage Q&A with the artists Wil Baptiste (viola and vocals) and Kevin “Key Marcus” Sylvester (violin), who will share insights on their experiences and inspiration.

In addition to the free concerts and artist conversations in Levitt cities, Black Violin will visit local area schools and perform for students, part of their commitment to reach 50,000 children each year. “The outreach we do, we hold this very close to their hearts,” says Baptiste. “Across the country, schools are cutting arts programs, in particular strings, and we’re trying to raise awareness on their importance.”

About Black Violin

Black Violin’s groundbreaking blend of classical and contemporary has made them in-demand collaborators with many celebrated artists including Kanye West, Tom Petty, Aretha Franklin, The Eagles, Aerosmith and 50 Cent. Appealing to diverse audiences of all generations, they have entertained the troops in Iraq, were featured at the President’s Inaugural Ball, and have wowed audiences at the legendary Apollo and major music festivals.

Along with pushing musical boundaries, Black Violin is committed to turning young fans on to their own potential. “We encourage kids to think creatively...Expand your mind. Once we get their attention with the music, that’s the message we want to deliver,” says Baptiste. This dynamic duo seamlessly bridges the worlds of classical and popular music, inspiring all ages with their creativity and positive message.

About Levitt Pavilions

Levitt Pavilions is a national nonprofit organization that exists to strengthen the social fabric of America. We empower communities to transform neglected public spaces into welcoming destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together and invigorates community life.

In 2015, Levitt concerts will be presented in 16 cities across America, collectively forming America’s largest free outdoor concert series. Each year, more than half a million people of all ages and backgrounds gather to mingle, relax or dance in Levitt’s beautiful green settings.

Levitt’s signature program of six Levitt music venues—in places as diverse as **Los Angeles** and **Pasadena**, Calif.; **Westport**, Conn.; **Bethlehem**, Pa.; **Memphis**, Tenn.; and **Arlington**, Texas—each presents more than 50 free concerts every year featuring acclaimed artists in all music genres. The Levitt AMP Music Series is bringing free concerts to 10 additional towns and cities this summer and fall, following an online grant competition—including **Anchorage**, Alaska; **Bellingham**, Wash.; **Charlottesville**, Va.; **Cleveland**, Miss.; **Denison**, Texas; **Frederick**, Md.; **Lafayette**, La.; **Middlesboro**, Ky.; **Sheboygan**, Wis.; and **Trenton**, N.J.

Due to accelerating interest from cities and engaged citizens, the Levitt program is growing. Developing signature Levitt venues include **Denver** (opening 2016) and **Houston** (opening 2017), amongst other cities. Learn more: www.levittpavilions.org