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Igor Gruppman and his wife, Vesna Stefanovich-Gruppman, the founders of the Gruppman International Violin Institute, will present the lecture "Music Touches Lives Across the World," about teaching children violin through the Internet communication tool Skype at Utah Valley University on March 8 at 10 a.m. in the UVU Library, room 120. The event is free and the public is welcome to attend.

The Gruppman family are world-renowned musicians, and Igor Gruppman has been the principal conductor of the Orchestra at Temple Square since 2003. The couple was invited to speak at UVU about their passion for educating talented violin players and the ability Skype has given them to teach children in remote areas of the world.

The lecture is being hosted by Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU that is partnering with the Gruppman International Violin Institute and the United Nations' Mountain Partnership in the promotion of sustainable mountain development.

"We are thrilled that UVU students are involved in making difference in lives of the mountain people," said Igor Gruppman, "Our Gruppman International Violin Institute contributes to that goal by rising during a long time talented kids from many mountain nations as professional musicians."

In May 2009, Igor Gruppman was appointed music director of the newly formed Mariinsky Stradivary Orchestra in Russia. He currently also is the concertmaster of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. Vesna Stefanovich-Gruppman is a violin and viola professor at the Rotterdam Conservatory in the Netherlands. Gruppman and his wife won a Grammy Award in 1993 for the recording of Malcolm Arnold's Concerto for two violins.

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About UVU

Utah Valley University is located in Orem, Utah, and is home to more than 33,000 students. UVU began as a vocational school during World War II, and in the seven decades since has evolved into a technical school, community college, state college and, finally, a comprehensive regional teaching university. UVU is one of Utah's largest institutions of higher learning and offers programs ranging from career training to high-demand master degrees, with emphasis on undergraduate education.