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For Immediate Release  
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**15-YEAR-OLD EVANSTON CELLIST TO APPEAR ON NPR'S  
FROM THE TOP**

***Episode airs nationally and on WFMT 98.7 FM January 23 at 7:00 pm***

**15-year-old cellist Ben Solomonow from Evanston, Illinois** will appear on an upcoming episode of *From the Top*, the hit NPR radio program featuring America's best young classical musicians and hosted by acclaimed pianist **Christopher O'Riley**. Broadcast from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the show will air nationally the week of January 17 and locally on **WFMT 98.7 FM on Sunday, January 23 at 7pm**. The episode was taped before a live audience at the Zoellner Arts Center at Lehigh University in Bethlehem on December 3, 2010.

Ben is a freshman at Evanston Township High School. He started playing the cello at the age of 5 and is currently a student of Hans Jensen. Ben studies with Midwest Young Artists, where he is currently the principal cellist of the Symphony Orchestra, as well as a member of a string quartet. Ben has played in master classes for Lynn Harrell, William Preucil, the Avalon Quartet, and Alice Shoenfeld. In January 2010, Ben won the top prize in the senior division of the Walgreen's National Concerto Competition. Aside from music he enjoys playing sports and video games with his friends.

On the show Ben performs *Variations on a Paganini Theme* by Gregor Piatigorsky, accompanied by Christopher O'Riley, piano

For the past decade, From the Top has been the preeminent showcase for America's best young musicians. Through award-winning NPR and PBS programs, online media, a national tour of live events, and education programs, From the Top shares the stories and performances of pre-collegiate musicians with millions each week.

From the Top is made possible by support from US Trust and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. It is also supported through the generous contributions of individuals and institutions as well as public radio stations.

From the Top on NPR is produced in association with WGBH Radio Boston and New England Conservatory of Music, its home and education partner.

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For a complete listing of repertoire and performance photographs, please contact Eleanor Dowling at [edowling@fromthetop.org](mailto:edowling@fromthetop.org) or 617-437-0707 x103

Please visit [www.fromthetop.org](http://www.fromthetop.org) for more information.