



**John Welch** is CEO of Consort International, an Indianapolis manufacturer of premium quality musical instruments marketed worldwide under the name *Sofia Violins*. When consort was formed in 1988, a State Department official said that it was the first joint venture company with American and East European (then Communist) partners. Exports account for almost forty percent of the company's revenues.

Welch has a diverse international background beginning with touring Europe and N. Africa as a USO musician when he was 16 years old. His global perspective continued through such positions as Assistant General Manager of the Chicago Symphony, and co-author with Charles Schultz of a series of PEANUTS piano books for children which are available in various foreign language editions.

John is a member of the Indiana District Export Council, a past president of the World Trade Club of Indiana, and was one of the speakers at President Clinton's White House Conference on Eastern Europe.