

# LA VOCE

OF CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.



FALL 2004

## La Voce: our voice

By Claire Givens

Autumn has a feeling of the New Year about it as schools resume and concert seasons begin anew. At Givens Violins we look back at this year's active spring and summer, punctuated by three major events:

- ◆ A successful European buying trip focused on finding makers whose works reflect exceptional value and who were either not represented or were under represented in the United States.
- ◆ Sponsorship of the 11<sup>th</sup> Suzuki Association's Conference in Minneapolis and the opportunity to meet serious young players and their teachers from across the globe.
- ◆ Sponsorship of the International Viola Congress, a week of glorious concerts, master classes and exhibits

We are also looking forward to the 7<sup>th</sup> **Annual Cremona Exhibit of Contemporary Violin Making** coordinated by Musafia North America. We will be selling 54 Cremonese-made instruments, including cellos and violas, during a special exhibit October 16-30, 2004. This will be combined with an exhibition and sale of the works of **Contemporary Bow Makers** and **Historic Italian Violin Makers**.

Our service to the string community continues to be the focus of our business. Givens Violins was founded on the principle of service and choice with an extensive inventory of violins, viola, cellos and their bows: a workshop of professionally trained and experienced luthiers and our 100% "trade-in" policy. Our commitment to service also includes:

- ◆ Complimentary Insurance Appraisals and future updates with purchases of instruments or bows
- ◆ Knowledgeable and careful Shipping Service
- ◆ Lifetime exchange privilege for chinrests on violins and violas purchased from us
- ◆ Guidance in customizing chin rest/shoulder rest set-ups
- ◆ Large selection of string accessories



Photo courtesy of Nixdorf Studios

Heather Hoff prepares instruments for the Cremona Exhibit

- ◆ Loaner bows during repairs
- ◆ A choice of powdered rosin on your rehair
- ◆ Same-day rehair service with an appointment
- ◆ Complimentary check-ups on instruments and bows purchased from us
- ◆ Parking validation while shopping at Givens Violins
- ◆ A website with useful downloadable information
- ◆ Searchable inventory list on our Website
- ◆ Support of regional music groups
- ◆ Funding for the Macphail Master Class string series
- ◆ Sponsorship funding for competition prizes
- ◆ Specialist museum services
- ◆ Historic instrument sales and restoration

All of us at Givens Violins have a strong commitment and enjoyment in serving our very special string community. We thank you for all the opportunities that you give us.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cremona Exhibit

From October 16 through October 30, Givens Violins will host the 7<sup>th</sup> **Annual Cremona Exhibit**, along with our own exhibit of **Historical Italian Instruments** and the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Contemporary Bow Makers Exhibit**. The three exhibits will be held simultaneously in **Symphony Gallery** (just down the hall from Givens Violins) during our regular business hours, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00am until 5:30pm.

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Ernst Heinrich Roth II of Bubenreuth, Germany poses with Theodora Wynhoff, Heather Hoff and Claire Givens during their recent trip to Europe

## New Makers at Givens Violins

In April, Claire Givens, *President*; Heather Hoff, *Sales Manager* and Theodora Wynhoff, *Instrument Restorer*, travelled to Europe in search of high quality instruments from \$2,000 to \$10,000 and bows up to \$4,000 by respected makers whose work was not well represented in the United States. They were not disappointed. Their efforts yielded several beautiful and responsive instruments and bows by Albrecht Franz, Josef Holpuch, Jan Lorenz, Castello della Musa, Ernst Heinrich Roth, Gerald and Hartmut Knoll, Jens and Gunter Paulus and Josef P. Gabriel.

The violin they procured from **Albrecht Franz** of Leipzig has a sound that is clear, sweet and colorful with an easy response. This instrument is \$9,000 and would be ideal for a serious player. The violins by **Josef Holpuch** and **Jan Lorenz** from a Luby, Czech Republic workshop, are in the \$2,000 to \$4,000 range and have a rich tone and excellent projection. Violins from the Budapest workshop, **Castello della Musa**, are all under \$3,000 and sound like fine dark chocolate tastes: deep and rich. **Ernst Heinrich Roth's** violins have a quick response coupled with excellent projection and a sound that is clear and colorful. These instruments are \$4,000 to \$6,000.

During their trip, Claire, Heather and Theodora met two well regarded father-and-son teams making superb bows for stringed instruments. The bows made by **Jens** and **Gunter Paulus** produce a full colored and responsive sound. Bows made by **Gerald** and **Hartmut Knoll** tend to be strong and have great projection and warmth. The trio of shoppers also found some impressive master level bows by bow maker **Josef P. Gabriel**. Gabriel's bows are *very* articulate and flexible with a sound that is clean, clear and sweet.

If you are in search of a new instrument or bow, stop by. We would be happy to show you our new acquisitions.

The **Contemporary Cremonese Exhibit** features violins, violas and cellos made by some of the most established and respected makers working in Cremona today. Makers represented in past exhibits include: Riccardo Bergonzi, Alessandra Pedota, Andrea Schudtz, Maurizio Tadioli, Francesco Toto and Vittorio Villa. We expect this year's instruments to be quite exceptional as many of the makers will be entering them in the **Violin Society of America's Biennial International Violinmaking Competition** immediately following the exhibit. This is an excellent opportunity to purchase a potential gold medal violin. The Contemporary Cremonese Exhibit offers players the unique chance to try over fifty instruments not usually accessible at one time and place in the United States. The makers will be offering their instruments at a reduced price during this exhibition. Last year the price ranges for the contemporary Cremonese instruments were \$7,000-18,000 for violins, \$8,000-15,500 for violas and \$25,000-35,000 for cellos.

Our **Historic Italian Instrument Exhibit** will contain 20 to 30 rare and very special instruments that represent more than 250 years of the Italian violinmaking tradition. This year's exhibit will include an exceptional Antonio Gagliano violin, Naples, 1790; a pristine Leandro Bisiach violin, Milan, 1925; a rare Riccardo Antoniazzi violin, Milan, 1900; a Giulio Degani violin, Venice, 1903; a stunning Stefano Scarpampella violin, Mantua, 1915; an early Bissolotti viola and a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Genoa cello. Prices start at \$20,000 for these instruments.

Last year was the inaugural year of our **Contemporary Bow Maker's Exhibit**. This exhibit included almost 60 bows made by 17 of today's most skilled makers. Modern bows are one of the best values in the marketplace in terms of sound and playability. This exhibit affords the opportunity to try many different bows at a time and find the perfect match for your instrument. A new bow can be an economical way to greatly improve the sound and response of an instrument. Prices range from \$2,500 to \$5,500.

We hope you are able to join us for these three exciting exhibits. On our opening day, Saturday, October 16, we will be serving Cremonese and other Italian foods all day, 10:00 to 5:30. Claire Givens Violins is located at 1004 Marquette Avenue, Suite 205 in Minneapolis. If you have any questions or special requests, please feel free to call us locally at, 612.375.0708, or toll-free at, 1.800.279.4323. We can also be reached via e-mail at [cgivens@givensviolins.com](mailto:cgivens@givensviolins.com). Watch our website <[www.givensviolins.com](http://www.givensviolins.com)> for up-to-date details.

## New Accessories

**Spector Violin Mutes** are a perfect blend of history and modern technology. The design of these mutes dates back to the 1700's. They are sliding mutes, which means that they can stay on the strings at all times and they don't rattle! They are made of a state-of-the-art dampening rubber in gold and copper colors. This mute is available for \$7.80.

Another exciting new product is the **Comfort Shoulder Cradle System**. The shoulder rest is ergonomically designed for comfort and stability.

This shoulder rest is unique because the body of the rest is designed to act as a resonating chamber, so it is not only easier and more comfortable to play your instrument, but the sound is enhanced as well. There are three varieties of Comfort Shoulder Cradle: Gold, Silver and Plastic. Violin models are available in two heights: medium or tall. The models for viola only comes in tall. Stop by and try them out.

Violin and Viola Comfort Shoulder Cradle:

Gold Model: \$59.95  
Silver Model: \$49.95  
Plastic Model: \$29.95

We have new adjustable height chinrests in **Guarneri**, **Flat Flesch** and **Paganini** models. The height of these chinrests can be adjusted, much like the height of Kun shoulder rests are adjusted, with a screw mechanism. This allows the height of the chinrest to be adjusted by as much as one-half inch.

**We offer a 20% discount on almost all accessories.**

## See Our Inventory On-line Anytime

Looking for a new instrument or bow? Start the process from the comfort of your own home by visiting our on-line inventory listings at <[www.givensviolins.com](http://www.givensviolins.com)>. We have violins starting at \$500, violas at \$700 and cellos at \$2,200. Our violin bows begin at \$125, viola bows at \$210 and cello bows at \$175.

## News

Andrew Dipper and Claire Givens spent Saturday, June 26, appraising musical instruments for the "**Antiques Roadshow**" in St. Paul, MN. Although they looked at hundreds of instruments throughout the day, Claire "found" nothing and Andrew discovered a 19th century Japanese court koto and and 1890's cimbalom. This program will air sometime in the first half of 2005 on your local PBS station.

Watch for the October, 2004 issue of **MPLS STPAUL** magazine. It will include a story about Andrew Dipper and Claire Givens and Givens Violins.

Visit our website <[www.givensviolins.com](http://www.givensviolins.com)> to see a current list of our inventory



Claire Givens and film historian Bob DeFlores take time for a photo at the 11th Biennial Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference

The summer of 2004 was a busy one for Givens Violins. In May we were a Silver Level Sponsor of **The Suzuki Association of the America's 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference**. The evening before the conference officially began we hosted a dinner for the planning committee. The evening started with appetizers and drinks in our shop, along with a guided tour. A delicious meal followed at **Hell's Kitchen**, just around the corner.

Givens Violins also engaged **Bob DeFlores**, one of the United States' leading film historians, to present original 16mm footage of the most legendary classical music performers. The presentation was very well received and featured **Emanuel Feuermann** performing Dvorák's *Spinning Song*, **Pablo Casals** coaching **Bonnie Hampton** in a master class and **Jascha Heifetz** playing the first movement of Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto in D Major*. The final film filled the room with laughter. It was an episode of *The Jack Benny Program* featuring violin great, **Isaac Stern**.

We had a little over one week to catch our collective breath and prepare for **The XXXII International Viola Congress**. Violists from all over the world attended the congress held on the University of Minnesota's West Bank Campus from June 9<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>. The week was filled with exciting performances and fine master classes by some of the top performers and clinicians in the international viola community. Givens Violins was proud to be a gold level sponsor of the Congress and to host a breathtaking concert by renowned violist Paul Colletti and University of Minnesota piano professor Lydia Artymiw.

Givens Violins is pleased that we were able to support and be a part of these two wonderful events.

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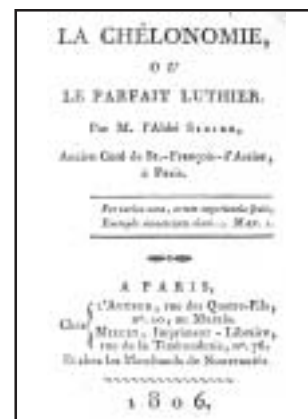
*Celebrating our 28th Year!*  
**Claire Givens Violins, Inc.**  
*provides*

- A complete line of instruments, bows and services for intermediate to professional string players.
- Workshops staffed by professionally trained and experienced violin and bow makers, providing repairs and restoration of the highest quality.
- A complete on-hand inventory of accessories.
- Specialized assistance to families and teachers of string instrument players.
- Nationwide and international shipping service.

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*LaVoce is the newsletter of Claire Givens Violins, Inc., Dealers, Makers and Restorers of Fine Violins, Violas, Cellos and Bows. It is part of a concerted and continuing commitment to keep our customers informed. LaVoce is edited and designed by Julene Flink and published periodically.*

## Andrew Dipper Restorations



Andrew Dipper has translated the book La Chélonomie, by Abbé Sibire from the original, 1806, French edition and added explanatory notes of his own. In 1800, Sibire befriended the young violin maker, Nicolas Lupot and made notes and observations that were based on this violin maker's workshop books.

This important book has never been available before in a complete English translation. We will be accepting orders for copies of the first limited edition in Spring 2005. Watch the "News" section of our website.