

CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.

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Hours: Tuesday – Saturday,  
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*LaVoce is edited by Julene Flink and published periodically. Photos of Roth violins and Alberti violin by Andrew Dipper.*

Andrea Alberti violin:  
a remarkable \$500 violin



## THE IRRESISTIBLE ALBERTI

We are thrilled by the enthusiastic response customers have had to our **Andrea Alberti** model instruments. Alberti instruments are very affordable; the violins are \$500, violas are \$675 and cellos are \$1500. Outfit pricing is also available. The instruments have gained such a reputation with students and their teachers that it is not unusual for customers to purchase one without seeing it in person. We have sold Alberti violins to local professional freelance violinists and to children of SPCO and MN Orchestra members. Many of our customers who are teachers have several students in their studios playing Alberti instruments.

Tim McCollum, director of the high school orchestra and an elementary school string teacher in Marshfield, WI, has two students with Alberti violins. Mr. McCollum believes the instruments are, “well made and attractive. The package deal is fabulous with a violin carbon fiber bow and case. It can’t be beat. It’s a violin for life unless they major in music—in which case they will come and visit Givens Violins.” Lori Carlson, a public school orchestra teacher in Winona, has had three students buy Alberti instruments within the last two months. She believes the Albertis are, “a good use of their money. For the money it’s a

much better instrument than a rental. It’s easy to tell parents it will hold its value, but the main thing is they sound better and students can tell.” Ms. Carlson also likes the fact that students, “have the option to ‘trade up’ to a better instrument” when they become more advanced. Cello instructor, Tina Lamberts, has also been impressed by the Alberti instruments. Ms. Lamberts has been, “very pleased with the sound quality and overall value.” Many of Ms. Lamberts’ students are junior high and early high school students who need a good intermediate instrument. “I used to tell parents they could expect to pay \$3,000-\$4,000 for an instrument, but when I heard the Albertis I thought they sounded great and they are more affordable. My students have been very excited.” Private violin teacher Barbara Molinare thinks, “The value of the Alberti violins is excellent. The sound is rich and the quality of the workmanship is excellent.”

Our Bruno Bertini instruments, which are a step up from the Albertis, have also been quite popular. The Bertini violins are \$750. If you are looking for a quality, hand-carved instrument that sounds great, we invite you to make an appointment to try the Alberti and Bertini for yourself.

# LaVoce

of CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.

SPRING 2007



*LaVoce is the newsletter of Claire Givens Violins, Inc. It is part of a concerted and continuing commitment to keep our customers informed.*

} FAVORITE RECENT ACQUISITIONS: PAGE 02

On a recent European buying trip, Claire Givens and Andrew Dipper discovered several instruments and bows that possess the impeccable craftsmanship, beauty and broad sound palate that our shop requires.

It is our pleasure to highlight some favorite acquisitions from Claire and Andrew’s trip.



**Ernst Heinrich Roth, 1929 (Violins)**  
E.H. Roth began his career in his father’s workshop. He was an accomplished maker often modeling instruments after Stradivari, Guarneri, Guadagnini and Amati and created a varnish similar to that of the Cremonese masters. Our two violins were originally purchased for twin sisters in 1929. The violins are powerful with a quick response and warm colorful sound. The slender upper bouts make it easy and

comfortable to get around in the higher positions. The violins are in pristine condition and were made during the high period of the E.H. Roth Workshop. We would love to find another set of twins to be the new owners.

**Giovanni Gaida, 1909 (Violin)**  
Giovanni Gaida is an Italian maker who immigrated to London and for many years worked for F.W. Chanot before opening his own shop. This violin was made for Chanot and is signed internally by Gaida. It has a beautiful one piece back with a deep, luscious, interlocking flame and the varnish is warm and golden. The violin is very structurally sound and the body of the instrument is in remarkable condition for its age. This violin has a clear, powerful sound that projects magnificently.

Twin 1929  
Ernst Heinrich Roth violins

...MORE RECENT ACQUISITIONS ON PAGE 02



(continued)  
**FAVORITE RECENT ACQUISITIONS**



Luca Salvadori, Cremona maker

**Luca Salvadori, Cremona (Violin)**

Luca Salvadori has been making fine violins, violas and cellos for over twenty years. He received his training, and continues to work, in Cremona, Italy—home to some of the finest violin makers in history. Mr. Salvadori finds his inspiration in the work of Antonio Stradivari and several early 19<sup>th</sup> century Italian makers. The violin we are offering is a fine example of Salvadori's precise attention to detail. His craftsmanship is very crisp with clean margins, elegant corners and delicate purfling. The chamfers on the scroll and ribs are perfectly highlighted in black. The varnish is a rich and transparent red-orange and one of the instrument's most striking features is the lovely deep flamed maple back. This violin produces a free and powerful sound with a large color palette.

**E.F. Ouchard Violin Bows**

We are lucky enough to have acquired two violin bows by **E.F. Ouchard**. Our

Ouchard bow made for "**Lavest**" has a wonderful flexibility that lends itself to excellent responsiveness. This particular bow is a bit lighter than our other Ouchard and it produces a nice warm sound. The other Ouchard bow draws an even sound from the frog to the tip—giving the player a feeling of wrapping around the string. This bow has the ability to maintain a depth of sound even while playing faster passages and can produce a delightful "sizzle" or "pop" to the onset of the note.

**Robert Pierce Viola Bow**

Before becoming a bowmaker, Robert Pierce was a cellist with the Irish National Symphony Orchestra. His experience as a professional performer is evident in the playability of his bows. Our Pierce viola bow produces a sound that is strong, articulate, powerful and clear.

**Robert Pierce Cello Bow**

Our Pierce cello bow is an elegant piece of work made from a beautiful piece of reddish-brown pernambuco. The stick is strong and tracks well with a flexibility that gives it an excellent feel. *Sautillé* and *spiccato* strokes sound very lively and crisp and are extremely easy to manage. Overall this bow generates a fast instrumental response and makes available a wide range of colors and dynamic nuance.

**Blaise Emmelin Cello Bow:** Blaise Emmelin began his career in the internationally renowned workshop of Pierre Guillaume in Belgium. Mr. Emmelin now has a workshop in Toulouse, France where he continues to make fine bows. Our Emmelin bow is an attractive, rich brown color with a handsome, straight grain. It is very supple with a fast response and marvelous sense of balance. It produces a pleasing tone that is warm, yet focused and precise.

**NEW ACCESSORIES**

Lightweight construction and adjustable height make the **Everest Shoulder Rest** an ideal choice. The shoulder rests are particularly well contoured to hug the shoulder providing secure and comfortable support. \$11.99 for 1/2 to 4/4 & \$9.99 for 1/4 and smaller.

**Key Pegs**, also known as "**Posture Pegs**" or "**Krovoza Pegs**", have helped hundreds of cellists worldwide to greatly reduce tension and fatigue while playing. The removal of the heads from the C and G pegs allows the cello to rest in a more close and natural position against the player. The Key Peg is in two pieces: the peg shaft and the key tool. The shaft houses a sleeve that is 2 cm long, into which the square key tool fits. The grip of the key tool is larger than the grip of most normal pegs allowing greater leverage and ease of adjustment. Key Pegs are priced at \$199 plus installation.

In answer to recent strict airline carry-on regulations, BAM has designed the **Overhead Hightech Violin Case**. It is extremely compact and is made using BAM's patented Hightech material which provides ultimate protection with minimal weight (2.3 lbs). The case only carries a single violin; a bow can easily be carried in a small separate case or tube. Priced at \$414 per case.

**Artino** has designed unique sound enhancing **endpin stops** and **shoulder rests**. We have tested these items and find that they do indeed have a positive effect for many instruments. The shoulder rests tend to make violins have a darker sound while the endpin stops seem to add color to the cello sound. The best thing to do is come into the showroom to assess the products with your own instrument. The endpin stops are \$14 and shoulder rests are \$26.50.

**NEWS**

Givens Violins is committed to supporting young people in their musical journeys and we are pleased to be a sponsor of The Second Annual **St. Paul String Quartet Competition**. Student groups advancing to the final round will play for the renowned Miro String Quartet. The finals are open to the public and will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> in Hamline University's Sundin Music Hall. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and be ready to hear some great chamber music.

**Congratulations to the winners of the annual MNSOTA State Solo Competition.** We applaud the hard work of all the participants and their teachers. This year's grand prize winner is **Nicholas Donatelle**, a student of **Tanya Remenikova**. Nicholas was awarded a check for \$250 dollars from **Givens Violins**. Other winners include: **Benjamin Brashear** student of **Nancy Lokken**, **Jennifer Berg** student of **Sally O'Reilly** and **John Belk** student of **Kirsten Whitson**. These students were awarded Givens Violins gift certificates.

**Max Lundgren is the winner** the **Young People's Symphony Concert Association (YPSCA) Competition's Givens Prize**. We thought Max sounded amazing playing the beautiful Daniele Scolari cello he recently acquired from us. Congratulations Max. (Don't worry, we have no influence on the judging.)

**Givens Violins is a proud sponsor of the MN Sinfonia's Young Artist Competition.** Violinist **Nora Ali** is the Senior Division winner. She will receive a \$500 check from **Givens Violins** and perform with the orchestra in an upcoming concert. Cellist **Aaron Wolff** is the winner of the Junior Division.

**You can now schedule your bow repair appointments via e-mail.** John Vierow, our bow restorer, can be reached at [jvierow@givensviolins.com](mailto:jvierow@givensviolins.com), 612.375.0708 Ext. 13, or 1.800.279.4323 Ext. 13. For our out-of-town customers we can arrange same day repairs.

**Givens Violins now offers credit card style gift cards.** These cards make excellent gifts for all of the string players in your life. Money can be added to the cards at any time and the balance is automatically tracked.

**Our workshop manager, Douglas Lay, recently celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** with Givens Violins. Doug's skill, experience, amazing ear and commitment to our customers are appreciated by all of us.



Andrew Dipper and Claire Givens pictured in *The Strad*, August 2006

**Claire Givens and Andrew Dipper appeared in the "Double Acts"** section of the August, 2006 edition of *The Strad* magazine. The article focuses on how Claire and Drew balance their personal and professional lives as a couple. We have a link to the article on the *News* section of our website [www.givensviolins.com](http://www.givensviolins.com).

**Andrew Dipper recently finished an article on the decorated instruments made by Andrea Amati** in the mid to late 1500's. His piece appears in the March 2007 edition of the **Violin Society of America's** journal *VSA Papers*.

**We have a number of rare violin related books for sale.** A list of titles can be found on the *News* section of our website. In the coming months we hope to make the on-line purchase of these books possible.

**Our website has a new look.** The content of our site has remained the same, but we now have a system that will allow you to search for instruments by maker. Important news appears on our home page. In the coming months we plan to add on-line shopping capabilities for the purchase of our rare violin books and other items.