

LA VOCE

OF CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.



FALL 2002

Cremona Exhibit Returns to Minneapolis November 23-December 7

If you missed the Cremona Exhibit last year don't make the same mistake twice. Givens Violins will once again host the exhibition, and this year we are the first stop on the tour, ensuring the most extensive selection of Cremonese instruments. We will have over 50 violins, violas, and cellos available to view and play made by some of Cremona's most gifted luthiers. Some of the makers include:

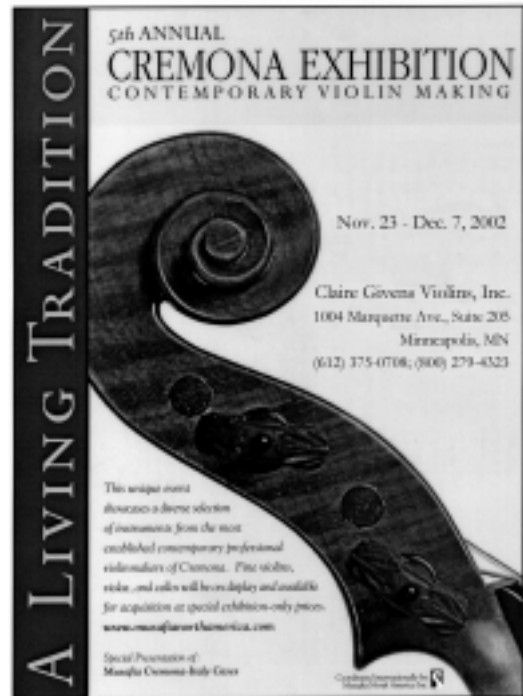
Stefano Conia Jr.	Sandro Asinari
Michele Dobner	Eric Blot
Robert Gasser	Gaspar & Sylvia Borchardt
Stefano Gironi	Alessandro Commendulli
Giorgio Grisales	Hildegard Dodel
Marco Nolli	Marco Maria Gastaldi
Alessandra Pedota	Sebastian Freymadl
Marcello Villa	Luca Salvadori

An exhibit of 25 historical Italian instruments dating back to 1763 will also be available.

If you are in the market for a new instrument this is a great opportunity to view an excellent collection of fine instruments in a wide range of prices starting from \$5,000.

Even if you're not shopping we encourage you to come and enjoy these works of art. We will again be holding the exhibition in Symphony Gallery down the hall from our shop. The instruments will be available to play, view and purchase November 23rd thru December 7th during our business hours, 10-5:30 Tuesday through Saturday. The makers are offering a 20% discount off their prices during this two week exhibit.

November 23rd will be our Opening, replete with an array of Cremonese delicacies to delight the palate. We will be open the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving. We look forward to seeing you there.



Exceptional Viola Bows

Violists take note: We have some wonderful bows in our shop right now.

Our **Louis Piernot** bow is an excellent example of French workmanship and playability. It produces a silky and rich tone, yet has clarity and control to handle faster passages. Piernot worked with C.N. Bazin and A. Vigneron. He is a significant maker in the French Tradition.

The **Andre Chardon** bow handles fast passages with clarity and ease due to its fine workmanship and impeccable design. From a family of instrument and bow makers dating back to the beginning of the 19th century, A. Chardon reaped the benefit of the stockpile of fine pernambuco collected by his father George.

(continued page 3)

Master Classes at MacPhail

Givens Violins is proud to continue supporting the string master classes at **MacPhail Center for the Arts**. This year's masters include: violinists **Joseph Silverstein** (October 5) and **Robert Mann** (February 1), violist **Cynthia Phelps** (November 16), and cellist **Fred Sherry** (March 29). All classes begin at 2 PM. They are free to MacPhail students and \$5.00 for the general public. The classes are a wonderful opportunity for players of all ages to learn tips and techniques from performers who have truly mastered their art.

Teachers in the out-state area may want to consider making a rewarding weekend for their students by combining a master class with a concert. We urge you to take advantage of this fantastic educational experience. For more information on master classes check out MacPhail's website at www.macphail.org or call 612.321.0100.

News of Note

◆ Watch *Strad* magazine's upcoming issues for an "In Focus" article by Claire Givens and Andrew Dipper about a rare viola by Ernst Busch. Made in Nuremberg, in 1641, this rare instrument is a particularly fine and representative example of the founding school of German violin making. An extensive restoration was recently completed by Dipper Restorations, for **America's National Music Museum**, (formerly the *Shrine to Music Museum*). This work reconstructed the rosette and replaced modern viola fittings, and neck with historically appropriate parts.



◆ Claire Givens and Andrew Dipper were invited to participate as musical instrument appraisers in this coming season's **Antiques Roadshow**. They should both be appearing in the Little Rock, Arkansas installment during the 2003 season.

National Suzuki Conference

Givens Violins was excited to be a part of the **National Suzuki Conference** that took place this past May in Minneapolis. The conference takes place every two years bringing Suzuki teachers, students and parents from all over the nation together. The 2002 conference was so successful that the 2004 conference will be held in Minneapolis as well. Ute Zahn, one of our restorers said, "We met a lot of dynamic people. Many conference attendees were thrilled to see Givens Violins represented because for many of them it was their first chance to work with us in person."

In addition to instruments and accessories we had our webpage available at our booth as well. We were able to show people our new **Backstage Support** section that's full of great information for parents, students and teachers. We invite you to have a look. www.givensviolins.com/backstage



Claire Givens at the Givens Violins booth, National Suzuki Conference 2002

◆ Our **Inventory Listing**, which had been a feature of LaVoce for many years, can now be found on our webpage, www.givensviolins.com. It is a "live" connection and allows our customers a totally current look at what is available. It is organized by instrument and price range. Just click on "Instruments and Bows", then "Browse".

◆ **December Case Sale:** Don't forget that every December all our new cases are offered with a 25% discount.

Viola Bows, continued from page 1

Our **Emile A. Ouchard** viola bow is a perfect bow for soloistic playing. It is well balanced and beautifully finished. E.A. Ouchard is considered to be among the foremost French bowmakers of the first half of the 20th century. His viola bows are rare and highly sought after.

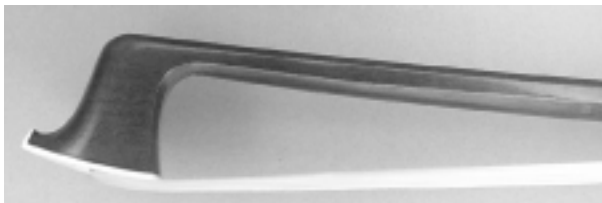
For strength and balance consider our **Etienne Pajeot** workshop bow. It looks like it sounds, silky and dark, with a clarity that gives it an appealing quality of sound. Pajeot is one of the great bow makers from the first half of the 19th century. His materials were always top quality and he is considered to be a great innovator and genius.

Louis Panormo, son of Vincenzo Panormo, worked in the tradition of English bow makers of his era. This bow is reminiscent of Edward Dodd and has its original frog with open hair channel. The bow pulls a rich, colorful sound and is clear and articulate on slow and fast passages.

Several soloists have favored the bows of **Louis Gillet**. He worked for Eugene Sartory and this bow definitely shows the Sartory influence. It produces a controlled bounce and its sound is clear, brilliant and even.



Louis Gillet viola bow, frog



Louis Gillet viola bow, tip, left side

New Accessories

Bam Newtech cello cases are very lightweight (12 lbs) and extremely durable. They have a triple ply composite shell with an Airex skeleton and only five latches. The cases are air and water tight, protecting the instrument from moisture, cold, heat and humidity. Newtech cases are an excellent choice for all cellists, but especially those concerned with protection and ease of use. They come in a variety of colors: mint, black, royal blue, and terra-cotta. List: \$824



Emile A. Ouchard viola bow, frog



Emile A. Ouchard, viola bow, tip, left side

New Faces in Sales

Stop in and say hello to our new sales people Heather Hoff and Tim Herman.

Heather is a recent graduate of Concordia University in St. Paul. She has a BA in viola performance and music education. Heather had a private string studio for seven years, so she is very knowledgeable about helping players choose the appropriate instrument for their skill level and age.

Tim has over fifteen years of sales experience and has specialized in working with fine stringed instruments for the last three and a half years. He enjoys finding out exactly what customers need and helping them obtain it. One of his favorite things about working with stringed instruments is, "being surrounded by works of art all day."

New Accessories, continued

Anderson Portable Wood music stands are the perfect marriage of function and beauty. The stands are made of selected hardwood and solid brass. They can easily accommodate four pages of music and they are sturdy enough to hold heavy books. In addition to being a gorgeous piece of furniture the stands are also portable. Each stand comes with a padded case so it can be easily transported. They are available in Brazilian Cherry Wood, Black lacquer on solid hardwood and White Oak or Hard Maple in a choice of finishes. The stands range in price from \$375 to \$425. The Anderson music stands are definitely worth a look next time you're in the shop.

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Celebrating our 25th 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.

HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday 10:00-5:30
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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 Beth Barsness and published periodically.

Dipper Restorations

Violins and Hurricanes,

Dipper Restorations has recently constructed a Guarneri del Gesu model violin made from wood culled from two natural disasters. The first, a storm in England from October 15th to October 19th 1987, clocked wind speeds of just over 100mph and 15 million trees were uprooted in just 24 hours. *Coincidentally this storm also marked the death of the cellist Jacqueline Du Pre.* An Italian maple tree planted in 1720 that proved to be too large and too exposed to survive this hurricane provided the wood for the neck, back and ribs. In contrast, the wood for the belly came from a 98-year-old spruce tree that fell in the windstorm of July 4th 1999, near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. This storm, with sustained winds in excess of 55mph, caused a vast swath of destruction across an area north of Ely, MN.

It feels apt that the loss of a great musician and two memorable natural disasters should join forces and provide the material and inspiration for a violin. My apprentice Lipo Cole bore all of this in mind when constructing the instrument and decided to christen it "The Perfect Storm".