

# LaVoCE

OF CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.

FALL 1997

## LaVoce: our voice

Summer is a very special time for our business. We meet entire families traveling through on vacation, students anticipating or returning from summer music camps, and professional players whose time is a bit more flexible. For many violin businesses, summer is a slow season, but not for us. Over the course of this summer, every day has been extremely active. In anticipation of an even busier fall, we have an exceptional selection of violins, violas and cellos under \$10,000, as well as a few very choice examples in the higher ranges. There is much to see and we would love to see you. Call or come in anytime.

## News of Note

We are pleased to congratulate **Nicole Hanson**, first place winner of April's **Young Artist String Competition**, sponsored by Claire Givens Violins. Nicole was awarded \$500 and performed with the **Minnesota Sinfonia** in April. Congratulations to all of the fine contestants. • This past spring we welcomed two groups of students for guided tours of our workshop and Dipper Restorations. High school students of **string teacher Ann Johnson** visited from Schofield, Wisconsin, and violin making students of **Lisbeth Nelson Butler** of the **Red Wing Technical School** visited for a close look at our workshop and to talk in depth with our violin and bow makers and restorers. Both groups were a pleasure to have and we welcome others. Just call to make arrangements! • We were happy to offer on loan to the **St. Paul Chamber Orchestra** a lovely **viola d'amore** for **principal violist Sabina Thatcher** to play for a series of spring concerts. Our viola d'amore is a beautiful instrument from the workshop of **Tommaso Balestrieri, Mantua 1773**. • In June, Claire Givens and Andrew Dipper traveled with instruments, bows and accessories to the **Fargo-Moorhead** area to work with teachers, students and parents, and Andrew Dipper gave a lecture on **Violin Making Design and History**. Many thanks to Concordia College and Moorhead State University for the accommodations, and to the dedicated teachers of the Fargo-Moorhead area who foster fine musicianship in developing string players. • Also while in the Fargo-Moorhead area, in response to a request from



## Celebrating Our 20th Year!

top row, l. to r.:

Sheila Graves, Sales Assistant  
Katy Podolinsky, Administrative Assistant  
Paula Alexander, Bookkeeper  
John Vierow, Bow Specialist  
Douglas Lay, Workshop Manager

bottom row, l. to r.:

Jason Swain, Shipping Manager  
Andrew Dipper, Vice President  
Claire Givens, President  
Theodora Wynhoff, Instrument Maker and Restorer  
Frank Davis, Instrument Maker and Restorer  
front and center:  
Lupot, the dog

the **Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra**, Claire Givens and Andrew Dipper offered, at no charge, damage assessments of instruments and bows and set up a "flood fund" to cover repairs and shipping costs. Special thanks is due **artist/violin teacher Mary Horozaniecki**, who contributed generously to this fund. • In August, **sales assistant Sheila Graves** and **violin maker Frank Davis** (*see inside*) attended the **American Suzuki Institute in Stevens Point, Wisconsin**, to show instruments, bows, and accessories and discuss instrument care. It was really a pleasure to be a part of the institute and meet and work with so many teachers, parents and aspiring young musicians.

## Welcome New Staff!

**Frank Davis**, a cellist and professionally trained **violin maker and restorer**, joined the Givens Violins workshop in January. A graduate of the Violin Making School of America, Frank Davis has been making and restoring instruments since 1978. In 1981, Frank Davis established his own workshop, and worked independently until joining Givens Violins this year.

**Sheila Graves** joined Givens Violins in June as our **sales assistant**. Sheila graduated Northwestern University with a bachelor of music in viola performance. She studied violin repair with Hans Nebel and is a former violist with the South Dakota Symphony, Sioux City Symphony, East River String Quartet and the Heidelberg Chamber Orchestra. Sheila's extensive experience includes having owned and managed G & G Violins in Sioux City, Iowa. Sheila also has a great deal of experience instructing viola students at various universities.

We are all thrilled to have Frank and Sheila in the Givens Violins family.



Andrew Dipper and Claire Givens with the new owners of the Cutler-Challen Stradivari Mandolin  
Joan C. Holter, Chair, Bd. of Trustees; Dr. Andre Larson, Director Shrine to Music Museum

## Dipper Restorations

**Claire Givens** and **Andrew Dipper** recently sold one of only two known mandolini made by **Antonio Stradivari**. The instrument required some complex restoration. Andrew Dipper used the original patterns from the Stradivari Museum in Cremona to guide his work.

The mandolino has a spruce table with its original rosette of exquisite gothic tracery. The seven back ribs are of native Italian maple. The poplar neck is faced with bog oak and bone in the same style as Stradivari's guitars. Stradivari signed the mandolino on the inside of the central back rib "Antonio Stradivario in Cremona 1680." The mandolino retains its original paper-lined, poplar wood case, which has helped preserve the instrument's spectacular original varnish.

To view the **Cutler-Challen Stradivari**, visit the **Shrine to Music Museum**, in Vermillion, South Dakota, perhaps the finest museum of string instruments of northern Italian origin made between 1550 and 1800, in original condition (phone: 605.677.5306).

## Givens Violins Workshop

Claire Givens Violins serves customers by providing the finest in instruments, bows and accessories; expertise; customer service and attention; and outstanding restoration services. In this issue we take a closer look at the people who make our workshop so exceptional.

The Claire Givens Violins workshop is staffed by four professionally trained, highly skilled and experienced violin and bow makers. The workshop is managed by **Douglas Lay**, who has been with Givens Violins for over 10 years. Doug Lay is a graduate of the Violin Making School of America. In 1986, one of Doug Lay's violins won a certificate for tone at the Violin Society of America Competition held in Portland, Oregon. Doug Lay's repeat customers and frequent referrals are a testament to his outstanding craftsmanship, restoration skills, and sensitivity to string players and their instruments. **John Vierow** is our expert bow restorer. Also a graduate of the Violin Making School of America, Mr. Vierow worked in instrument and bow restoration for many years in both the US and in Germany before joining Givens Violins in 1991. **Theodora Wynhoff** is a native of Kleve, Germany, and received her training at the violin making school in Mittenwald and through a three-year apprenticeship with master violin maker Bernard Zanders in Monchengladbach. Ms. Wynhoff has been a member of the Givens Violins workshop since 1993. The newest member of our workshop is **Frank Davis**, who is introduced above in "Welcome New Staff!"

## Great New Accessories!

**Xeros Endpin Stop:** nylon strap, extra heavy D-ring, metal plate with cap, rubber bottom (\$14.00).

**Atelier D'Estien Endpin Stop:** wooden endpin holder better preserves an endpin's point (\$40.00).

**Konig & Meyer Folding Stand:** lightweight, of tubular black aluminum (\$48.80).

**Atelier D'Estien Wood Folding Stand:** beautiful and masterfully designed of wood, folds into itself, creating its own carrying case (\$380-416.00).

**Seiko Clip Mini Metronome:** clip style (\$25.95).

**Seiko Quartz Metronome:** dial operated, with A440 capability (\$34.50).

**Much more!** (Discounts available; shipping, too!)

# CodaBows

We are pleased to be able to offer the latest in bows! New CodaBows are nearly indestructible, carefully crafted bows made of a graphite fiber composite, with pure sterling silver and ebony frogs, sterling silver windings, and Moroccan leather grips. CodaBows are very competitive in their price range (\$775.00), make ideal back-up bows for professionals, and are perfect for outdoor concert playing and travel.

## INSTRUMENTS & BOWS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

### VIOLINS

#### Rare and Exceptional

Giacomo Zanoli, Verona 1750  
Tomasso Carcassi, Firenze c. 1750  
Vinaccia, Naples c. 1790  
Joseph Hel, Lille 1900  
**\$20,000 to \$40,000**  
Cesare Pollastri, Bologna 1953  
Antonius Sgarbi, Rome 1897  
G. & L. Bisiach, Milan 1955  
Giovanni Dollenz, Triest c. 1830  
**\$12,000 to \$20,000**  
Caressa & Francois, Paris 1913  
P. Serdet, Paris 1913  
Emile Boulangeot, Lyon 1920  
George Gemunder, Jr., New York 1889  
George Mougnot, Bruxelles 1901  
Giovanni Cavani, Spilamberto 1928  
Emile Laurent, Bordeaux 1914  
H. Derazey, Mirecourt c. 1880  
Giovanni Longiaru, New York 1953  
**\$8,000 to \$12,000**  
Lothar Meisel, Owatonna 1994  
Collin-Mezin, Paris 1899  
Wm. Whedbee, Chicago 1995  
William Robert Scott, Mpls. 1996  
Perry Daniels, Mpls. 1997  
Alvaro Escalante, Guadalajara 1996  
**\$4,000 to \$8,000**  
Peter Croll, Birmingham 1990  
George Heintz, Toronto 1953  
A. Delivet, Paris 1934  
Harold M. Hayslett, WV 1972  
Perry Daniels, Mpls. 1996  
J. B. Colin, Mirecourt 1906  
Lothar Meisel, Owatonna 1994  
Late 18th Century Tyrolean  
Reinhold Schnabl, Bubenreuth 1989  
Felix Ponziani, Cleveland 1973  
Reinhard Bonsch, Erlbach 1991  
E. H. Roth, Markn. 1928  
Philipp J. Glaesel, Markn. 1912  
G. A. Pfretzschner, Markn. 1924  
Enrico Robella, Markn. c. 1920  
Roman Teller, Erlangen 1972  
Christopher Pu, Chicago 1996  
Andrei Perkhounkov 1997  
Karl Wurm, Erlangen 1978  
Paris School c. 1900  
O. Hausmann, Mittenwald 1966  
**\$2,000 to \$4,000**  
Helland Bros., Chippewa Falls 1913  
Toshiaki Katsura, Tokyo 1981  
Slavio Domitrovic, Zagreb 1986  
Christopher Pu, Chicago 1996  
Eugen Meinel, Markn. 1926  
Ivan Stancov, Bulgaria 1997  
Ji Yuan, Beijing 1996  
Michael Goronok, Cleveland 1995  
C. Cai, Shanghai 1997  
J. A. Morse, Putnam 1917  
Emil Lupac, Bulgaria 1997  
**\$2,000 and Under**  
Avalon, Beijing 1997  
Scott Cao, San Jose 1997  
A. Eastman, China 1997  
Miroslav Tsonev, Sofia 1997

#### Small Violins

7/8 German, Amati Model, c. 1920  
7/8 Avalon #1, Beijing 1996  
3/4 Gand & Bernardel, Paris c. 1890  
3/4 P. Serdet (wkshp.) Mirecourt c. 1900  
3/4 William's Violins, China 1991  
3/4 Givens, Beijing 1996  
1/2 Stradivarius, Czech. c. 1920  
1/2 Juzek, Germany c. 1975  
1/2 Josef Lidl, Prague c. 1990  
1/2 Suzuki, Nagoya 1986  
1/8 J. Aubrey "Finolli," Paris 1890  
1/8 Scott & Huaming, San Jose 1992

### VIOLAS

**\$20,000 to \$40,000**  
16.5" Jago Peternella, Venice 1957  
**\$8,000 to \$12,000**  
16-3/16" David Folland, 1990  
**\$4,000 to \$8,000**  
16.0" Lothar Meisel, Owatonna 1979  
16.5" John Tartaglia, Mpls. 1995  
16.0" G. Garavaglia, Chicago 1985  
16.0" C. Jean Pique 1993  
16.5" Roman Teller 1981  
16.25" Joseph Horvath 1968  
16.0" Jerome Sen, Chicago 1997  
16.0" Karl Wurm, Erlangen 1978  
16.0" Christopher Pu, Chicago 1996  
**\$2,000 to \$4,000**  
16.5" Alois Reidl, Germany 1996  
16.0" G. Raabs, Bubenreuth 1987  
15.5" Erich Werner 1988  
16.0" Ji Yuan, Beijing 1996  
15.5" L. Todorov, Indianapolis 1993  
16.0" Eastman, China 1997  
15.5" Piccard, Chicago 1997  
**\$2,000 and Under**  
16.5" Young Zhao, Beijing 1996  
16.0" Rudoulf Doetsch 1997

### CELLOS

**Rare and Exceptional**  
George Chanot, Paris 1850  
**\$12,000 and Up**  
Carlo de March, Venice 1941  
Michael Scoggins 1994  
**\$8,000 to \$12,000**  
M. Goronok, Amati, Cleveland 1996  
M. Goronok, Gofriller, Cleveland 1997  
**\$5,000 to \$8,000**  
Illner/Riedl III, Germany 1995  
Xue-Chang Sun, Beijing 1996  
Erich Werner, Bubenreuth 1997  
David Mahov (Goronok wkshp.) 1997  
**\$3,500 and Under**  
Eastman, Andreas 1997  
Anton Kroner II, Franconia 1996  
Erich Werner, Bubenreuth 1996  
Rudoulf Doetsch 1997  
**Small Cellos**  
3/4 Steinhaus, Germany 1991

### VIOLIN BOWS

**\$2,500 and Up**  
Jas Tubbs  
W. E. Hill & Sons, Gold,  
Fleur-de-Lis  
Vidoudez Geneve  
C. N. Bazin  
Victor Fetique a Paris  
Mathias Thoma  
W. E. Hill & Sons s/ts  
Louis Bazin  
Lavest  
Marcel LaPierre  
Francois Lotte  
Knopf School c. 1850  
Roger Zabinski, Mpls.  
"Cuniot-Hury"  
Nurnberger-Suess  
D. Raguse, Chicago  
Gustav Prager  
**\$1,500 to \$2,500**  
M. O. Beilke  
Fr. c. 1920, Tourte Model  
"El Sarasate"  
French Late 19th Century  
Otto Hoyer  
Albert Nurnberger  
Weichold  
Bausch  
E. M. Penzel  
Gustav Prager  
Fritz Gutter  
F. K. Muller  
German c. 1880  
**\$1,000 to \$1,500**  
Gerbruder Shuster  
"Sartory"  
William Lewis  
Otto Durrschmidt  
Francois Orlean  
Bausch  
Albert Nurnberger  
John Friedrich & Bro. NY  
P. F. Riedl  
**\$600 to \$1,000**  
Guy Jeandel  
H. R. Pfretzschner  
DuBois, Mirecourt  
Andre Delmont  
Alfred Knoll  
J. P. Gabriel  
Leomar  
Horst John Shop

**\$300 to \$600**  
Jean Marteau  
Emile Dupree  
Alfred Knoll  
Andre Delmont  
Josef Martin  
John Brasil  
Valdecir  
Lozer  
Erich Steiner  
**\$300 and Under**  
Alfred Knoll  
Ary France  
Jos. Martin

### VIOLA BOWS

**\$2,500 and Up**  
C. N. Bazin  
Albert Nurnberger  
Dodd  
F. K. Mueller  
"R. C. Neuville"  
**\$1,500 to \$2,500**  
R. Dotschkail  
Jean Bouvin (Finkel)  
K. Gerhard Penzel  
A. Moinier, Mirecrt.  
D. A. Seppelfrick  
G. Gohde  
K. Gerhard Penzel  
**\$1,000 to \$1,500**  
Lothar Hermann  
Emil Dupree  
J. P. Gabriel  
**\$600 to \$1,000**  
Alfred Knoll  
Karl Wilfer  
Valdecir  
Joseph Martin  
Max Wunderlich  
**\$300 to \$600**  
Pierre Dumas  
Seifert  
Andre Delmont  
Erich Steiner  
John Brasil  
**\$300 and Under**  
Alfred Knoll

### HARDANGER VIOLIN

Helland Bros., Chippewa Falls 1919

## BAROQUE INSTRUMENTS & BOWS

### INSTRUMENTS

Violin, Jos. Hill, London c. 1760  
Violin, J. Perry, Kilkenny 1799  
Viola, Widhalm School (15.75")

### BOWS

Violin, Baroque: Roger Zabinski  
Violin, Transitional: English  
Viola, Transitional: Edward Dodd  
Cello, Baroque: Strad, Dipper 1990  
Cello, Baroque: Walter Mettal  
Other Bows Made to Order

CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.

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*For 20 years*  
**Claire Givens Violins, Inc.**  
*has been providing*

- 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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**HOURS:** Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 - 5:00  
**PHONE:** (800) 279-4323 or (612) 375-0708  
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*LaVoce: OurVoice is the newsletter of Claire Givens Violins, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota: Dealers, Makers and Restorers of Fine Violins, Violas, Cellos and Bows. LaVoce is part of a concerted and continuing commitment to keep our customers informed. LaVoce is edited by Katy Podolinsky and published periodically.*

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**Claire Givens Violins**  
**on the**  
**Web!**  
**[givensviolins.com](http://www.givensviolins.com)**

**C**laire Givens Violins, Inc. now has a Web site! You can find us at <http://www.givensviolins.com>. We hope that our presence on the Internet will foster greater communication with our customers and allow us to serve our customers in yet another way. Visit us often, see what is new and please, let us know what you would most like to see on our site!

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***Musical Instruments of the Violin Family and the Geometry of Positioning and Cutting Out Their f-Shaped Sound Holes***

Andrew Dipper, Dipper Restorations, Minneapolis.

Available from Givens Violins, Minneapolis \$25.00 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling (\$28.50), the Turriss book shop in Cremona, Italy, and Montagnana Books in Evanston, Illinois.