

LaVoce

OF CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.

FALL 1999



Special Announcement!

Givens Violins has
new business hours!

As of September 7, 1999,
our new business hours are
10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.!
Tuesday - Saturday

LaVoce: our voice

Amidst the bustling activity of helping so many wonderful string players find the right instruments and bows this summer, Givens Violins participated in the 1999 International Viola Congress in Guelph, Ontario, and fit in a wonderfully educational and recreational staff field trip to America's Shrine to Music Museum in Vermillion, SD. The pace of fall is proving to be brisk as well, and we welcome the autumnal temperatures and the many new and familiar faces! We have a lovely selection of fine instruments and bows and such friendly and helpful staff. Let us know how we can help you!

News of Note

This summer the staff of Givens Violins visited America's Shrine to Music Museum located on the campus of the University of South Dakota, in the city of Vermillion. The only museum in the country devoted solely to musical instruments, America's Shrine to Music Museum houses a rare and impressive collection of historically significant instruments from many cultures and time periods.

It was an unforgettable experience to visit the museum on a sunny Sunday and view such an incredible variety of instruments, such as the tenor viola by Andrea Guarneri, c. 1664, one of the three known Cremonese instruments to have survived in original condition; the 19th century Burmese tro (spike fiddle); a nine-foot-tall slit drum from Ambrym Island in the South Pacific and a thought-provoking Tibetan



On the steps of America's Shrine to Music Museum
l. to r. top: Andrew Dipper, Claire Givens, Dr. Andre Larson,
Doug Lay, Frank Davis, Kristina Cole, Katy Podolinsky and
Philip Cole. In front: Chris Parker and Benoit Charon.

drum made of skullcaps; a decorated 19th century English serpent as well as the lovely ivory oboe by Klenig, Paris c. 1725-50; a decorated Gibson mandolin from 1905...and truly, more than you can imagine.

The museum's collection is noteworthy in both breadth and depth, and offers incomparable resources to scholars worldwide for the study of music and its instruments. The museum's collection has continued to grow from the Arne B. Larson Collection, donated in 1979, to include the highly sought-after Witten-Rawlins Collection of Italian stringed instruments, bows, tools, labels, and documentary source materials, and many other acquisitions, under the astute leadership of museum director Dr. Andre P. Larson.

Currently the museum is able to exhibit only 10% of its collection and is in the process of a major expansion. A special auditorium is planned for year round concerts performed on many of the museum's masterpieces.

If you visit, be sure to take advantage of the museum's remarkable audio system that carries fascinating information about many of the instruments and includes rare sound recordings. For more information, contact America's Shrine to Music Museum at (605) 677-5306.



Scrolls of Two Viola D'Amores

Left: scroll of viola d'amore by P. Alletsee, c. 1715, from the Schubert Club's Kugler Collection, St. Paul, Minnesota;

Right: scroll of viola d'amore by Andrew Dipper, Mpls. 1999.
See Dipper Restorations on page 4.



7/8 Violin by Gennaro Fabricatore, Naples c. 1810

We have an exceptional 7/8 violin made by Gennaro Fabricatore, Naples 1810. The violin is in excellent condition and has a lovely tonal quality. It would be perfect for a serious player with small hands.

1999 International Viola Congress, Guelph, Ontario

In June, violin maker Frank Davis and sales associate and violist John Peskey represented Givens Violins at the 1999 International Viola Congress in Guelph, Ontario, with an exhibit of violas and viola bows. Both John and Frank had a wonderful time. John Peskey had the following to say about his experience at the Viola Congress.

“Exhibiting our instruments was really gratifying. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for our collection of violas and viola bows, which represented some of the finest examples from a wide range of schools, from modern to old, and from a variety of outstanding makers. The Congress was also educational. Among others, we had the pleasure of talking with

Rich McKenzie of Coda Bows and seeing some of his new lines of carbon fiber bows. Sandy Neill of D’Addario introduced us to the new line of Zyex viola strings, which promise to be as popular as the Zyex violin strings.

“There were many beautiful performances. One of the highlights of the recitals for me was Hartmut Lindemann’s. His manner of playing, musical ideal and sound were emulations of the Kreisler/Heifetz era and his showmanship was unsurpassed. We also heard a recital by Rivka Golani, which was very memorable and full of personality.

“The Viola Congress was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the world of violas and violists!”



Frank Davis and John Peskey at the 1999 International Viola Congress in Guelph, Ontario.

INSTRUMENTS & BOWS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

VIOLINS

Exceptional

Giacomo Zanoli, Verona c. 1750
 C. A. Testore, Milan 1733
 Vinaccia Family, Naples 18th c.
 Georges Chanot, Paris 1822
\$20,000 to \$40,000
 Gaetano Chiocci, Padua c. 1870
 Antoniazzi (shop), Milan 1920
 G. & L. Bisiach, Milan 1955
 C. Pollastri, Bologna 1953
 Alfredus Contino, Naples 1929
 G. Fabricatore, Naples c. 1810 (7/8)
\$12,000 to \$20,000
 Luiz Bellini, New York 1991
 Giovanni Cavani, Modena 1903
 Gaetano Pareschi, Ferrara 1948
 J.B.D. Salomon, Paris c. 1770
 Stephen Lohmann, Placerville 1998
\$8,000 to \$12,000
 Albert Claudot, Paris 1926
 Wolfram Ries, Mittenwald 1991
 Celia Bridges, Ann Arbor 1997
 Raymond Melanson, Boston 1997
 K. Lothar Meisel, Owatonna 1994
 Michael Scoggins, SLC 1999
 Giovanni Longiaru, New York 1953
 Perry Daniels, Minneapolis 1998
\$4,000 to \$8,000
 V. Valazquez, Cambridge 1998
 J. B. Collin-Mezin, Paris 1915
 Doug Lay, Salt Lake City 1983
 Densley-Ryan-Kelly, Boston 1996
 F. Delprato, Mirecourt 1922
 Francesco Toto, Cremona 1997
 Perry Daniels, Minneapolis 1996
 Frank Davis, Minneapolis 1982
 "Luigi Fabris," Venice 1886
 Reinhard Boensch, Erlbach 1991
 E. H. Roth, Markn. 1928 (Amati)
 Enrico Robella, Markn. 1930
 Salvatore de Durro, Markn. c. 1925
\$2,000 to \$4,000
 Karl Wurm, Erlangen 1980
 J. Koscielny, Czestochowa 1998
 Robert Wenzel, Warroad 1998
 Jerome Thibouville Lamy
 Ivan Stancov, Bulgaria 1997
 Andreas Eastman, Beijing 1998
 Scott Cao, San Jose 1999
 Givens, Beijing 1997
 Zhong Yuan Shan, Beijing 1993
 E. Lupac, Czech 1995
\$2,000 and Under
 E. H. Roth, Erlangen 1972
 Amadeus, Sofia 1998
 Andreas Eastman, Beijing 1998
 "Johannes Kulik"
 Scott Cao, San Jose 1998
 Karl Hoffman, Chicago 1999
 Santaro Lucci, Chicago 1999

Small Violins

7/8 Avalon, Beijing 1996
 7/8 German c. 1920 (Amati)
 3/4 French c. 1900
 3/4 Strad Copy
 3/4 Suzuki
 1/2 Samuel Eastman
 1/2 Karl Knilling
 1/4 Scott Shangung
 1/8 Joseph Aubrey
 1/8 Samuel Eastman
 1/8 Scott & Huaming 1992

VIOLAS

\$12,000 to \$20,000

16-3/8" G.B. Morassi, Cremona 1973
\$8,000 to \$12,000
 16-3/8" M. Hollinger, Missoula 1991
\$4,000 to \$8,000
 16.0" Erich Schweiger, Seattle 1999
 16-5/8" Frank Davis, Mpls. 1998
 16.5" Leo Aschauer, Mittnwd. 1965
 16.0" Lothar Meisel, Owatonna 1982
 16.0" G. Garavaglia, Chicago 1986
 16.0" Christopher Pu, Chicago 1996
 15.5" R. Schnabl, Bubenreuth 1976
 16.0" Karl Wurm, Erlangen 1989
 16.25" Andrew Botti, Chicago 1998
\$2,000 to \$4,000
 16.5" Petko Stoyanov, Bulgaria 1997
 16.0" Santaro Lucci, Chicago 1999
 16.5" Alois Reidl, Germany 1996
 16.0" Robert Wenzel, Warroad
\$2,000 and Under
 15.5" Luben Todorov, Sofia 1993
 16.0" Andreas Eastman, Boston 1998
 15.5" Andreas Eastman, Boston 1998
 16.0" Scott Cao, San Jose 1998
 16.5" Andreas Eastman, Boston 1998

CELLOS

Exceptional

C. A. Testore Wkshp., Milan c. 1740
 Bernard S. Fendt, London c. 1835
\$12,000 to \$25,000
 Wm. Whedbee, Chicago 1999
 Lawrence Wilke, Madison 1992
 William Scott, Minneapolis 1998
 Perry Daniels, Minneapolis 1998
 Michael Scoggins, SLC 1999
\$8,000 to \$12,000
 Albert Lorenzo, Chicago 1998
 Michael Goronok, Cleveland 1999
\$5,000 to \$8,000
 Robert Wenzel, Warroad 1998
 Andrew Botti, Chicago 1999
 David Mahov, Cleveland 1999
\$3,500 to \$5,000
 Joseph Hoffman, Chicago 1999
 Illner Riedl II, Germany
 Young Zhao, Beijing 1996
 Karl Bernard, W. Germany
 Wilfried Leonhardt, Mittenwald
\$3,500 and Under
 Antonio Ramirez 1999 (Amati)
 Erich Hausner, W. Germany 1986
 Peter Steinhaus, Germany
 Antonio Ramirez 1999 (Gofriller)
Small Cellos
 3/4 A. Ramirez, Cleveland 1999
 1/2 A. Ramirez, Cleveland 1999
 1/2 K&L Meisel

VIOLIN BOWS

Exceptional

J. Tubbs
 F. N. Voirin
 F. N. Voirin
 Pajot School
 A. Lamy a Paris
 A. Lamy a Paris
 Charles Peccatte (shop)
 A. Vigneron a Paris
 August Husson
\$2,500 and Up
 Thomassin a Paris
 Garner Wilson
 C. N. Bazin

J. T. Lamy
 Hawkes & Son Tourte
 Wunderlich
 Lee Guthrie
 Richard Weichold
 R&M Millant a Paris
 Bisch (Marcel La Pierre)
 "Cuniot-Hury"
\$1,500 to \$2,500
 "F. N. Voirin" a Paris
 Silvestre Maucotel
 Gustav Prager
 Mirecourt c. 1870
 French c. 1920
 A. Nurnberger
 Sarassate El.
 "Lubin" Weichold
 "Dodd"
 A. Nurnberger
 "L. Morizot"
 German c. 1880
 "E. Sartory" a Paris
 G. Seifert, Leipzig
 Leon Pique
 Spiccato Classique
 Fritz Gutter
 Albert Nurnberger
 H. R. Pfretzschner
 "Tubbs"
\$1,000 to \$1,500
 Carl Fischer
 Kurt Boehmer
 E. Sartory a Paris
 Francois Orlean
 F. C. Pfretzschner
 "Dodd"
 P. F. Riedl
 K. Muller
\$600 to \$1,000
 J. P. Gabriel*
 Alfons Riedl
 Edw. Herrmann
 Karel Sedlak
 Spiccato Arpege
 Coda Classic
 Lubos Odlas*
 E. Dupre*
 Guy Jeandel*
 Bausch (shop)
 F. Vincent a Lyon
\$300 to \$600
 J. P. Gabriel*
 Handorff*
 Silveira*
 Leomar*
 Lefin*
 C. Lozer*
 Martinbaar*
 Andre Delmont*
 Coda Conservatory
 Guy Jeandel*
 Joh. Schneider
 Ritter*

Josef Martin*
 Guasti & Bottoni*
 R. Siquera*
 J. Pereira*
 W. Seifert*
 Erich Steiner*
 John Brasil*
 Alfred Knoll*
Under \$300
 Saldo*
 A. Carlesso*
 Sivori*
 Erich Steiner*
 "Royal"
 Jos. Martin*
 Knoll*

VIOLA BOWS

Exceptional

James Tubbs
 C. N. Bazin
\$2,500 and Up
 M. O. Beilke
 Lee Guthrie
 French c. 1880
 Roger Zabinski
\$1,500 to \$2,500
 F. K. Mueller
 Bradley Taylor (Finkel)
 Spiccato Soloist
 Jean Bouvin
 K. Gerhard Penzel
 Dean A. Seppelfrick
\$1,000 to \$1,500
 Lothar Herrmann
 J. O. Paulus
 Johannes Kohr
\$600 to \$1,000
 Coda Classic
 Lubos Odlas*
 Karl Wilfer*
 W. V. Leomar*
 Water Violet*
 Valdecir*
 Jos. Martin*
 Guy Jeandel*
\$300 to \$600
 Andre Delmont*
 Pierre Dumas*
 W. Seifert*
 Valdecir*
 Coda Conservatory
 Alfred Knoll*
 K. L. Meisel*
 Erich Steiner*
 Josef Martin*
Under \$300
 Josef Martin*
 Knoll*
 Martin*
 Bausch

CELLO BOWS

Exceptional

E. Sartory a Paris
 Albert Caressa
\$2,500 and Up
 W. E. Hill & Sons
 Lee Guthrie
 Bazin c. 1900
 R. Dotschkail
 Roger Zabinski
\$1,500 to \$2,500
 Richard Grunke
 Spiccato Solo
 Fritz Gutter
 Brownlee
 J. Norwood Lee
 Francois Orlean
\$1,000 to \$1,500
 "E. Sartory"
 Sandner
 Givens Mpls. (Hill)
 J. P. Gabriel
\$600 to \$1,000
 Werner Ernst
 Lubos Odlas
 Coda Classic
 Horst Schicker
 John Brasil*
 Conrad Gotz
 Walter Mettal
 Otto Durschmidt
 Rutherford
 Leon Pique
 Wilhelm Raum
 Alfons Riedl
 John Guerin
 Johannes Kohr
 Josef Martin*
 Jean Marteau*
 Andre Delmont*
 Alfred Knoll*
 W. V. Leomar*
\$300 to \$600
 Pierre Dumas*
 Jean Marteau
 Coda Conservatory
 Ritter
 R. Nonato*
 Silveira*
 Ary France
 W. V. Leomar*
 Lozer*
 Alfred Knoll*
 Josef Martin*
 A. Carlesso*
\$300 and Under
 Alfred Knoll*
 Josef Martin*

* We carry many bows by these makers.

BAROQUE & TRANSITIONAL

Five-string cello, A. J. Kampffens, 1780-1790
 Violin, Leopold Widhalm
 Violin, James & Henry Banks (shop), 1790-1798
 Violin, John Hare, England c. 1700
 Violin bow, Baroque, A. Dipper, Minneapolis
 Violin bow, Early Baroque, clip-in frog, A. Dipper, Mpls.
 Violin bow, Transitional English
 Violin bow, Transitional, Cramer, c. 1780
 Violin bow, Baroque, R. Zabinski
 Other bows made to order.

Please contact us for a complete list of instruments and bows.

CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.
1004 MARQUETTE AVENUE, SUITE 205
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55403

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Claire Givens Violins, Inc.

- 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.

GIVENS VIOLINS HAS NEW HOURS!

10:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

Tuesday - Saturday

PHONE: (800) 279-4323 or (612) 375-0708

cgivens@ix.netcom.com www.givensviolins.com

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 Katy Podolinsky and published periodically.

DIPPER RESTORATIONS

According to historic documentation of the 1700s, the viola d'amore, viola of love, was so named for its alluring harmonic sound, capable of expressing sorrow, gentle sentiments and caresses or "degrees of extrovert joyfulness"—ideas represented everywhere in the instrument's design, as well. The peg boxes (see photograph on page 2) often terminate in a carving of a cherub sporting a blindfold (*love is blind*) which extends across both ears (*love listens to no man*). The sound holes are not the customary ff-hole shape of a violin, but flame shaped (*love is ardent as a flame*).

These instruments are strung with 12 or 14 strings, half of which run under the fingerboard and vibrate in sympathy with the stopped strings that run above. The viola d'amores considered to be the best have body dimensions of between 15.5" and 16.5". Bows for viola d'amores were often much longer than bows for instruments of similar size. The longer length made it easier to play more than two strings at once, one of the instrument's special capabilities.

Vivaldi, Stamitz, Hindemith, Biber, Massenet, Telemann, Puccini, Bach and others composed for the viola d'amore.

Andrew Dipper has just completed a lovely viola d'amore, with an elegant scroll (pictured on page 2) and the requisite, beautiful flame-shaped ff-holes.