

LA VOCE

OF CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.



SPRING 2004

La Voce: our voice

All of us at Givens Violins are amazed at the amount of activity our business generates and at the same time are exceedingly grateful for the opportunities it provides. Besides our efforts to help players find the best instruments and bows for their budget, we remain committed to supporting the greater string community. This Spring we are sponsors of both the **Suzuki Association of the Americas 11th Biennial Conference** and **The 32nd International Viola Congress** as well as providing funding for various competitions and a master class series. In the Fall of 2003 we continued research to enhance our understanding of the history of violinmaking through travel to Vienna, Innsbruck and Cremona. In conjunction with our 3rd Annual Cremonese Exhibit we inaugurated a Contemporary Bow Makers Exhibit. We thank our customers for their continued business with us and their many referrals. -CG

Cremona Exhibit Expanded with Bow Show

This past October Claire Givens Violins hosted the popular **6th Annual Cremona Exhibit** featuring instruments made by contemporary Cremonese instrument makers along with our own exhibit of Historical Italian Instruments. For many area string players, these exhibits have become a Fall tradition. This year we added something new to the mix, a Contemporary Bow Makers Exhibit. Some of the most renowned living bow makers sent us beautiful examples of their work. Twenty makers were represented from all over the world. We plan to offer the Bow Exhibition again next fall in conjunction with the instrument exhibits.

Towards the end of our Exhibition, we had the opportunity to host a gathering for members of the MacPhail Center board and faculty. Refreshments that may have typically been found on Antonio Stradivari's table were served.



Andrew Dipper explains the differences between the ff-holes of Cremonese makers to MacPhail boardmembers and faculty

The focus of the evening was Andrew Dipper's presentation on how to develop violin connoisseurship. During his talk, Andrew discussed the basic features of the three great Cremonese violin making families: Amati, Stradivari and Guarneri. Peter McGuire, violinist with the Minnesota Orchestra, played the violins, demonstrating their different qualities.

The exact dates of next year's exhibit are not yet set. As soon as the dates are known they will be posted on our website, <www.givensviolins.com>.

Violins \$20,000-40,000

We are proud of the quality and variety of violins we are offering in this price range. Please check our website <www.givensviolins.com> for a complete up-to-date list. Among my favorites are:

Roger Hargrave 1987 Peter Guarneri copy

Hargrave embodies my personal formula for success in the ongoing competition to be one of the world's greatest contemporary makers: He has professional training and years of restoration experience with the finest instruments of the Italian school and close working relationships with musicians, a keen eye and a great hand. In addition, Hargrave's scholarship in the history of violinmaking is unsurpassed. This violin is stunningly beautiful, powerful and would make a good concert violin for a young professional.

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Jascha Heifetz

Givens Violins Brings Violin Legend Jascha Heifetz to Suzuki Conference

Givens Violins is proud to offer a program of extremely rare film footage featuring the early great string players during **The Suzuki Association of the Americas 11th Biennial Conference, "Excellence From the Start"**. Givens Violins has engaged **Bob DeFlores**, one of the leading film historians in the U.S. today, to present original 16mm footage of these legendary musicians. The program is still being determined at this time, but past programs have included Mischa Elman, Emanuel Feuermann, Jascha Heifetz, Gregor Piatigorsky, William Primrose, Yehudi Menuhin, early Julliard String Quartet and Jack Benny. This event is open to the public at no charge.

We are pleased that the conference will once again be held in Minnesota at the Minneapolis Convention Center from May 28 through May 31. Our shop is located only a few blocks from the Convention Center and across the street from the official conference hotel, the Hilton. Watch the News section of our website for a listing of our extended shop hours during the conference. Givens Violins is also organizing a kickoff dinner for the Conference Planning Committee. More details can be found at the conference website: <www.suzukiassociation.org>.

We look forward to seeing our old friends and making new ones! Please be sure to stop by our booth to say hello. If there are any instruments or accessories you would like to see, give us a call and we will be sure to bring them along to our Conference exhibit at the Convention Center.

Violins \$20,000-40,000 continued from p.1

Carlo Ravizza, Milan 1912

Ravizza's working relationship with Romeo Antoniazzi is evident when you look at this violin. It is in pristine condition and bears his brand on the back and under the fingerboard. It has a powerful voice with clarity and depth.

George Gemunder Jr., New York 1889

Gemunder Sr., who had worked with J.B. Vuillaume in Paris, stopped "making" in 1889 after suffering a stroke and turned his workshop over to his son. This violin bears the striking rich red varnish of his father's work, has a big, interesting sound and is signed in many places internally.

Giuseppe Lucci, Rome 1976

Lucci, who studied with Leandro Bisiach, is considered one of the most important 20th century makers. His work is startlingly accurate and beautiful. This violin bears his well know brand of "two fish" in many places internally and externally. In perfect condition, it has a powerful, focused and charming voice.

John Johnson, London 1759

This violin, being from the 18th century and in near perfect condition, represents a rare find. Johnson was inspired by Stainer, as were most London makers of this period. It has a luscious refined quality, perfect for ensemble performance.

Giovanni Gaida, London 1909

An Italian maker who spent the majority of his career in London, Gaida was known for his fine craftsmanship and ability to choose acoustically superb wood. This violin is the most well documented Gaida in existence, with an article in The Strad 1972 dedicated to it, a W.E. Hill & Son certificate and a signature and date on the violin's interior. It has a rich robust sound capable of unexcelled expressivity for this price range.

7/8s Violins

We have many teachers and players who recognize the need for a slightly smaller violin. We are pleased to have discovered two 18th century examples, by J.B. Boussu, Brussels and Leonard Maussiel, Nurnberg (prices between \$15,000 and 25,000) We are also able to offer a contemporary 7/8s violin by maker Miroslav Tsonev of Sofia Bulgaria. (under \$4000) -CG

News of Note

◆ **Antiques Roadshow**-Watch for the 2nd installment of the San Francisco Antiques Roadshow. Claire's appraisal of a 19th Century violin by Hippolyte & Pierre Silvestre of Lyon opens the show.

Kim Kashkashian Recital Sponsored by Givens Violins

Givens Violins is thrilled to welcome world renowned violist **Kim Kashkashian** to Minnesota this June during the **32nd International Viola Congress**. Ms. Kashkashian will be performing the final concert of the conference on June 13th. As part of our continued support of the string community, we are pleased to sponsor this concert as part of our contribution to this year's Viola Congress.

The International Viola Congress will be held from June 9-13th on the University of Minnesota's West Bank Campus. Violists and viola enthusiasts from all over the world will gather to celebrate their wonderfully unique instrument. Korey Konkol, this year's host of the International Viola Congress, is a Professor of Viola at the University of Minnesota. Korey was kind enough to answer a few questions about the congress before dashing off with the Minnesota Orchestra for its European tour.

CGVI: What specific aspects of the congress would be of interest to viola students, teachers and professionals?

KK: The Viola Congress has something to offer anyone who is interested in violas. Some of the highlights include master classes that concentrate on specific repertoire such as orchestral excerpts, transcriptions, concerti and the works of J.S. Bach and G.P. Telemann. Early morning ensembles, coached by the celebrated "Four Violas", will be offered each morning for students of various levels culminating in a formal concert on June 13. The congress will also be a great place to discover new repertoire with premiers of new works.

CGVI: How do you think this Viola Congress will differ from past congresses?

KK: From square one, I definitely wanted to showcase the works of many Minnesota composers who have written incredible pieces for the viola including: Libby Larsen, Stephen Paulus, Randall Davidson, John Tartaglia and Janika Vandervelde.

CGVI: Is the public welcome? **KK:** The events that take place during the day are mostly for registered delegates of the Congress. The public is welcome to attend the five evening gala concerts.

Givens Violins is already busy preparing for our exhibit at the Congress. We have found some exciting violas and bows. Check out our inventory on the web, <www.givensviolins.com>.

Please let us know if you are searching for a viola or bow with specific qualities.

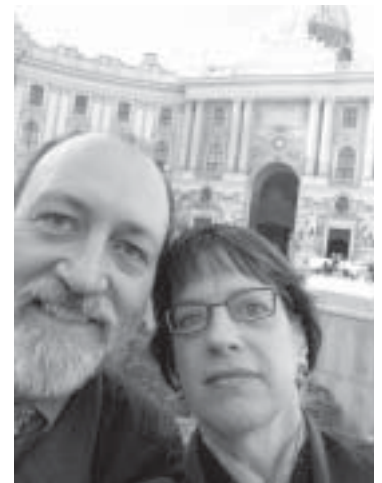
News of Note (continued from p. 2)

◆ Givens Violins continues to be committed to supporting the artistic growth of young string players. Every year, Claire Givens Violins, Inc. sponsors a prize for the **Young People's Symphony Concert Association** Competition. This year's winner of the Givens Prize is **Aaron Brown**, a double bass student of Paul Ousley.

◆ Claire Givens Violins also donated prizes to the winners of the **MNSOTA** competition. This year's Grand prize winner was **Rolf Haas**, violin student of Sally O'Reilly. Junior division winner was **Tallie Brunfelt**, violin student of Mary West. Intermediate winner was **Joshua Kim**, violin student of Sally O'Reilly. The elementary division winner was **Derek Huang**, violin student of Sally O'Reilly.

◆ Aaron Brown, bass student of Paul Ousley, was also the winner of the **Minnesota Sinfonia** Competition's Givens Prize.

◆ Andrew Dipper and Claire Givens spent two weeks of October 2003 in research mode. First they traveled to Vienna to study Viennese instrument makers from 1780 to 1850 at the Kunsthistorisches Museum. They are very grateful to Dr. Rudolf Hopfner, Director of the Musical Instrument Collections, for his generous assistance. Then they went to Innsbruck to visit the exhibit Dr. Hopfner curated on the work of Jacob Stainer. Fifteen works of Stainer, numerous examples of the finest Stainer copies, documentation from his lifetime, works from makers contemporary to him and an excellent catalog made this one of the best violinmaker exhibits to date. For the last leg of the journey they went on to Cremona and the Mondomusic fair where Givens and Dipper had the opportunity to meet many of the makers whose works Givens Violins has been offering for sale.



Andrew Dipper and Claire Givens take time out for a photo in Vienna

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Claire Givens Violins, Inc.
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- 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 Restorations has recently finished the restoration of a solo violoncello piccolo. This instrument is perfect for the Bach cello suites and was made by Conrad Zunterer in Seefeld in the Austrian Tyrol in 1746. It is quite small in relation to a full sized cello and has five strings tuned to 'e,a,d,g,c' with a string length of just 22½ inches.