

# LaVoce

OF CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.

SPRING 1998

## Looking Back Over 20 Years!

### LaVoce: our voice *By Claire Givens*

Welcome to a very special issue of *LaVoce*. Givens Violins celebrates twenty years of business this year. It is a great privilege to have been a part of the violin business and string players' lives for the last twenty years. I have tried to offer inventory of the highest quality in all price ranges and also offer musicians choice, reliability and quality. From a staff of one (just me!) in 1977, the business has expanded over the years to a current staff of twelve: six in the workshop and six in support and sales.

Our reputation in the violin business and the good will of the string community are important to us and we work constantly to improve and surpass our previous standards. Our successes, I feel, are due to the guiding principle of 'service to the string community,' and a commitment to fine craftsmanship. Also, I have been fortunate through the years to add staff who have been dedicated, sincere and committed to the world of violin making and string players.

As the business has grown we have been able to give back to the community in the form of prizes for highly respected competitions for serious string students, and by supporting an annual master class series at MacPhail Center for the Arts, as well as two commissions for youth orchestra.

We have helped young players choose their first eighth-sized instruments and have been able to offer them advice and instruments as they have grown. Some have gone on to professional careers in music and others have used their musical talents in community orchestras. We are happy to have helped them make appropriate choices and to have our workshop available for repairs and adjustments.

It has been crucial to our success to establish firm and trusted relationships with vendors and makers who are responsive to our high standards of quality. We have traveled the world to find makers and develop relationships that allow us to offer the finest instruments and bows in all ranges. We enjoy representing the instruments and bows from a variety of current violin makers, especially those from the very fine modern American school.



"Lark" Stradivari 1698

In 1986, Givens Violins sold its first Stradivari violin, the widely documented "Lark" Stradivari.

We have had the opportunity to influence the understanding of the history of violin making and its development. Our contributions in this area include hosting the Eighth International Competition of the Violin Society of America in Minneapolis in 1988; publishing *Violin & Bow Makers of Minnesota* by Thomas Wenberg, a unique book tracing the history of violin making in Minnesota from the late 1800s; and recently, supporting the exhibit, "The British Violin: 400 Years of Violin Making in the British Isles," in London this year.

Good fortune and our work in common brought Andrew Dipper and myself together, and we married in 1989. That same year, Andrew moved his workshop, Dipper Restorations, to Minneapolis and joined Givens Violins. This was a most significant turning point in the growth of the business. Andrew, a highly respected musical instrument maker and scholar of the history of violin making, brought to Givens Violins an impressive body of knowledge, with his highly specialized and rare skills in the area of the conservation and restoration of historic instruments.

Of course, no success would have been possible without the help of family and friends, staff over the years and certainly the many wonderful string teachers in the community, string players and string enthusiasts. Thank you.



**Claire Givens in her first shop, 1979.**  
Claire Givens founded the business in 1977, locating in the Minneapolis warehouse district in 1979. In 1981, Claire Givens moved the business to its present location in downtown Minneapolis, one block from Orchestra Hall.



**1988 Violin Society of America Competition in Minneapolis.** In addition to sponsoring the competition, Claire Givens, with support from the Schubert Club, published *Minnesota Makers* by Thomas Wenberg, which traces the history of violin making in Minnesota from the late 1800s.

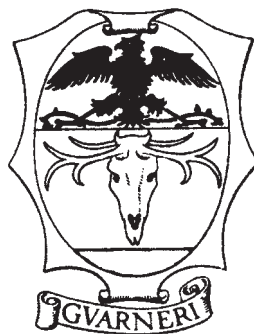


**1988 VSA speakers**  
Andrew Dipper  
Charles Beare  
Vhahn Nigogosian  
Roger Hargrave

## C E L E B R A T I N G T W E N T Y Y E A R S !



**In 1989, Claire Givens & Andrew Dipper married.**  
Andrew Dipper's move, with Dipper Restorations, from Oxfordshire, England, to Minneapolis, greatly broadened the scope of Claire Givens Violins, with museum services, baroque & historical musical instrument restoration, conservation of decorative inlays & other applied arts, & scholarly publications.



**Staff trip to the Guarneri exhibit, NYC 1994.**  
Givens Violins staff Paula Alexander, Jason Swain & NonaMarie Miller on the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC, for the 1994 Guarneri del Gesu exhibit, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the maker's death.

## Claire Givens Violins Staff Today



**Repair Shop:** John Vierow, Bow Specialist; Theodora Wynhoff, Violin Maker; Frank Davis, Violin Maker; Andrew Dipper, Dipper Restorations & Vice President; Douglas Lay, Shop Manager.



**Sales & Support:** Sheila Graves, Sales Assistant; Katy Podolinsky, Administrative Assistant; Claire Givens, President; Jason Swain, Shipping Manager.

# Did You Know?

Every instrument and bow available for sale at Givens Violins is hand-selected and must pass the scrutiny of Claire Givens, Andrew Dipper, and the professionally trained, highly skilled staff of the Givens Violins workshop, headed by Douglas Lay. The standards of Claire Givens Violins are consistent and high to ensure the finest in quality, sound and response from all of our instruments. We strive always to offer the best in quality instruments and complete service.

## INSTRUMENTS & BOWS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

### VIOLINS

#### Rare and Exceptional

J. B. Vuillaume, Paris c. 1850  
**\$20,000 to \$40,000**  
Joseph Hel, Lille 1900  
Leandro Bisiach (wkshp. c. 1895)  
Alfred Contino, Naples 1929  
Antonius Sgarbi, Rome 1897  
G. & L. Bisiach, Milan 1955  
Giovanni Dollenz, Trieste c. 1830  
Cesare Pollastri, Bologna 1953  
**\$12,000 to \$20,000**  
George Gemunder, Jr., NY 1889  
P. Serdet, Paris 1913  
Giuseppe Pedrazzini, Milano 1911  
Gaetano Pareschi, Ferrara 1948  
J. B. Salomon, Paris 1775  
Luiz Bellini, NY 1991  
H. Derazey, Mirecourt c. 1880  
Giovanni Longiaru, New York 1953  
**\$8,000 to \$12,000**  
Lothar Meisel, Owatonna 1994  
Collin-Mezin, Paris 1899  
David Polstein, Boston 1995  
William Robert Scott, Mpls. 1996  
David Folland, Northfield 1991  
Jan Bobeck, Chicago 1991  
Jon Kulik, Prague 1843  
Perry Daniels, Mpls. 1997  
Alvaro Escalante, Guadalaajara 1996  
**\$4,000 to \$8,000**  
A. Delivet, Paris 1924  
Francesco Toto, Cremona 1997  
J. B. Colin, Mirecourt 1906  
Michael Scoggins, Salt Lk. City 1997  
J. Grandjon, Mirecourt  
Christian Brandenburg 1997  
H. Th. Heberlein, Markn. 1924  
Felix Ponziani, Cleveland 1973  
Reinhard Boensch, Erlbach 1991  
E. H. Roth, Markn. 1928  
Philipp J. Glaesel, Markn. 1912  
"Enrico Robella," Markn. c. 1920  
Wenzel Fuchs, Erlangen  
Roman Teller, Erlangen 1972  
Andrew Botti, Chicago 1997  
Karl Wurm, Erlangen 1978  
O. Hausmann, Mittenwald 1966  
**\$2,000 to \$4,000**  
Toshiaki Katsura, Tokyo 1981  
Derazey Wkshp., France  
Louis Lowendall, Berlin 1893  
Roman Teller, Erlangen 1960  
Slavio Domitrovic, Zagreb 1986  
Robert Wenzel, Warroad 1997  
C. Cai, Shanghai 1997  
Ivan Stancov, Bulgaria 1997  
Scott Cao, San Jose 1997  
J. B. Colin, France 1910  
Ji Yuan, Beijing 1996  
Michael Goronok, Cleveland 1995  
Andreas Eastman 1997  
Emil Lupac, Bulgaria 1997  
**\$2,000 and Under**  
Miroslav Tsonev, Sofia 1997  
Shen Long Zhong, Beijing 1995  
Avalon, Beijing 1997  
Andreas Eastman 1997  
Piccard, Chicago 1997

#### Small Violins

7/8 German, Amati Model, c. 1920  
7/8 Avalon, Beijing 1996  
3/4 19th Century, French  
3/4 Rudoulf Doetsch, Germany  
1/2 Alan Blackwood 1895  
1/2 Stradivarius, Czech. c. 1920  
1/2 Juzek, Germany c. 1975  
1/2 Josef Lidl, Prague c. 1990  
1/4 Scott Cao, San Jose 1997  
1/8 J. Aubrey "Finolli," Paris 1890

### VIOLAS

**\$20,000 to \$40,000**  
16.5" Jago Peternella, Venice 1957  
**\$12,000 to \$20,000**  
16.5" Arthur Toman, Boston 1993  
**\$8,000 to \$12,000**  
16.25" Richard Oppelt, New York 1982  
**\$4,000 to \$8,000**  
16.0" Lothar Meisel, Owatonna 1979  
16.5" John Tartaglia, Mpls. 1995  
16.75" Scott Zumberge, Mpls. 1978  
16.0" G. Garavaglia, Chicago 1985  
15.5" Reinhold Schnabl, Germany 1976  
16.25" Joseph Horvath, Cleveland 1968  
16.0" Karl Wurm, Erlangen 1978  
16.5" Petko Stoyanov, Bulgaria 1997  
16.0" Andrew Botti, Chicago 1997  
**\$2,000 to \$4,000**  
16.5" Alois Reidl, Germany 1996  
16.0" G. Raabs, Bubenreuth 1987  
15.5" Erich Werner, Germany 1988  
15.5" L. Todorov, Indianapolis 1993  
16.0" Franz Sandner, Germany 1982  
15.5" Piccard, Chicago 1997  
16.0" Lupac, Bulgaria 1997  
**\$2,000 and Under**  
16.5" Young Zhao, Beijing 1996  
16.0" Rudoulf Doetsch, Germany 1997

### CELLOS

**\$12,000 and Up**  
Carlo de March, Venice 1941  
Perry Daniels, Minneapolis 1997  
**\$8,000 to \$12,000**  
Michael Goronok, Cleveland 1997  
**\$5,000 to \$8,000**  
Andrew Botti, Chicago 1997  
Xue-Chang Sun, Beijing 1997  
Illner/Riedl III, Germany 1996  
David Mahov (Goronok wkshp.) 1997  
**\$3,500 to \$5,000**  
Wkshp. Xue-Chang Sun, Beijing 1997  
Illner/Riedl II, Germany 1997  
**\$3,500 and Under**  
Erich Werner, Bubenreuth 1996  
Anton Kroner II, Franconia 1997  
Rudoulf Doetsch, Germany 1997  
Anton Kroner I, Franconia 1997  
**Small Cellos**  
3/4 Steinhaus, Germany 1991

### VIOLIN BOWS

**Exceptional**  
F. N. Voirin  
A. Lamy a Paris  
C. Thomassin  
Jas Tubbs  
Victor Fétique a Paris  
August Husson  
C. N. Bazin  
**\$2,500 to \$5,000**  
Bazin  
Mathias Thoma  
Francois Lotte  
Marcel LaPierre  
Knopf School c. 1850  
Hill  
D. Raguse, Chicago  
Gustav Prager  
**\$1,500 to \$2,500**  
M. O. Beilke  
French, c. 1920  
El Sarasate  
French Late 19th Century  
"Lubin" Weichold  
Otto Hoyer  
Dodd  
L. Morizot  
German 1880  
Bausch  
E. M. Penzel  
Leon Pique  
Fritz Gutter  
Del Picchia  
**\$1,000 to \$1,500**  
Gerbruder Shuster  
"Sartory"  
Kurt Boehmer Prag  
Otto Durrschmidt  
Francois Orlean  
Bausch  
Albert Nurnberger  
P. F. Riedl  
Carl Fischer  
**\$600 to \$1,000**  
J. P. Gabriel  
Guy Jeandel  
Karel Sedlak  
M. Prell  
DuBois, Mirecourt  
E. H. Roth  
Coda Classic  
Josef Sandner  
Emile DuPre  
Jos. Martin  
Leomar

**\$300 to \$600**  
Coda Conservatory  
Jos. Martin  
Emile Dupree  
Pierre Dumas  
Guy Jeandel  
John Brasil  
Guasti & Bottoni  
Valdecir  
Leomar  
**\$300 and Under**  
Alfred Knoll  
Jos. Martin

### VIOLA BOWS

**Exceptional**  
L. Gillet  
C. N. Bazin  
**\$2,500 to \$5,000**  
Collin-Mezin  
Albert Nurnberger  
R. Zabinski  
Dodd  
F. K. Mueller  
**\$1,500 to \$2,500**  
R. Dotschkail  
Jean Bouvin (Finkel)  
K. Gerhard Penzel  
A. Moirier, Mirecourt  
D. A. Seppelfrick  
**\$1,000 to \$1,500**  
Lothar Hermann  
Emil Dupree  
J. P. Gabriel  
J. Kohr  
**\$600 to \$1,000**  
Coda Classic  
Josef Sandner  
Karl Wilfer  
W. V. Leomar  
Valdecir  
Andre Delmont  
Jos. Martin  
Max Wunderlich  
**\$300 to \$600**  
Pierre Dumas  
Seifert  
Andre Delmont  
Alfred Knoll  
Leomar  
Valdecir  
John Brasil  
Erich Steiner  
**\$300 and Under**  
Jos. Martin

### CELLO BOWS

**Exceptional**  
Louis Thomassin  
Albert Caressa  
**\$2,500 to \$5,000**  
Guillaume a Bruxelles  
G. Lucchi, Cremona  
Geza Balint  
Bazin School  
R. Zabinski  
R. Dotschkail  
**\$1,500 to \$2,500**  
Brownlee  
R. Grunke  
Jean Bouvin  
Francois Orlean  
German, c. 1880  
Johannes Kohr  
M. Schicker  
**\$1,000 to \$1,500**  
A. Knoll  
Givens, Mpls.  
J. P. Gabriel  
Sandner  
Horst Schicker  
**\$600 to \$1,000**  
Coda Classic  
Schicker  
John Brasil  
Johannes Kohr  
Leomar  
Otto Durrschmidt  
W. V. Leomar  
J. P. Bernard  
Andre Delmont  
Alfred Knoll  
Wilhelm Raum  
A. Riedl  
Seifert  
Jean Marteau  
**\$300 to \$600**  
Johannes Kohr  
Valdecir  
W. V. Leomar  
Guasti & Buttoni  
Erich Steiner  
John Brasil  
**\$300 and Under**  
Alfred Knoll  
Jos. Martin

### BAROQUE INSTRUMENTS & BOWS

Violin, J. Perry, Kilkenny 1799  
Viola, Widhalm School (15.75")  
Cello, Peter Wamsley,  
London c. 1740  
Viola Bow, Transitional: Edward Dodd  
Cello Bow, Baroque: Strad, Dipper '90  
Cello Bow, Baroque: Walter Mettal  
Violin Bow, Baroque: R. Zabinski  
Violin Bow, Transitional: English  
Other Bows Made to Order

CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.

1004 MARQUETTE AVENUE, SUITE 205  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55403

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BULK RATE

US POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT 1780

MINNEAPOLIS MN

---

---

*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.

---

**HOURS:** Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 - 5:00 CST

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

**E-MAIL:** [cgivens@ix.netcom.com](mailto:cgivens@ix.netcom.com)

**WEB SITE:** [www.givensviolins.com](http://www.givensviolins.com)

---

*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 and designed by Katy Podolinsky and published periodically.*

---

## Dipper Restorations

In preparation for my upcoming lecture series, "History and Construction of the Violin," for the University of Minnesota's Compleat Scholar program, March 18 through April 1, I reviewed many of the major restoration projects completed by Andrew Dipper Restorations over the last nine years and was surprised by the variety of instruments, the kinds of work performed, and the range of dates of manufacture, for example: a viol by Ventura di Linarol, 1582; a lute by Vendelio Venere, 1601; a guitar by Tieffenbrucker, 1630; a mandolino by Antonio Stradivari, 1680; a Peter Wamsley cello, with bone inlay on the fingerboard, 1760; a guitar made by Delaplanque, with ivory edgework and patterns of ebony, mother-of-pearl, and ivory along the neck, around the edges and encircling the sound hole, 1760; and a lavish 1850 Napoleon guitar by Anciume, encrusted with abalone and mother-of-pearl; and many other amazing instruments.

Projects for 1998 include the first translation into English of the violin making notes of N. Lupton, the so-called 'Stradivari' of the French school; the cataloging of our considerable library of violin making literature; the restoration of a beautiful little 18th century French pochette in its original leather case; and the restoration of some very complete and wonderful 18th century violins and violas in original condition.