
LUTHIER EXHIBITION

PROGRAMME



TERTIS & ARONOWITZ
INTERNATIONAL VIOLA
COMPETITIONS 2025

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OVERVIEW AND WELCOME

Tertis and Aronowitz Viola Competitions Luthier Exhibition 2025

We are thrilled to be hosting an extensive and specialised Luthier Exhibition held alongside the Tertis and Aronowitz International Viola Competitions and 360° Festival. The exhibition is looking forward to welcoming competitors, students, amateurs, professionals, composers and interested members of the public to discover the craftsmanship and artistry of luthiers from across the world. In this all-viola and viola-bow exhibition luthiers will illuminate and showcase the intricate process of crafting fine instruments and bows. Unlike the violin, cello and double bass, the viola does not have a standard size. Hence no two violas are the same. This also means that sound, feel, colour and many other variables make choosing a viola an incredibly personal, complex and challenging experience. We invite you to engage with the exhibition, get advice, try instruments and bows without pressure, meet the luthiers and immerse yourself in the fascinating history and world of viola-making.



Just 1 level below our Luthier Exhibition on the Ground Floor we will be showcasing our sponsors, distinguished instrument dealers and businesses in front of the Cafe. There will be a variety of trade stands to explore, including cases, strings, bespoke chin-rests and instruments.

The Luthier Exhibition has its own concert and tasting sessions (10 in total) where you will be able to hear all of the wonderful instruments and bows that are part of the exhibition being played by H el ene Clement, Timothy Ridout, competitors from both competitions and twenty-one viola students from the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM). This exhibition and concert series has been curated by two RNCM students Matthew Hayes and Kirin Howat.



The repertoire performed by RNCM students will include performances of music originally for solo violin by J.S Bach arranged for four violas by Robin Ireland. The concerts will include modern violas and bows. Also included in the series is a concert in the Barbour Room West on 23 January including a new work by Noah Max "Lemonade in the

Armenian Quarter” and a work for three violas by the late Michael Jon Smith “Bitter-Suite”. Smith was a Newcastle-based violist and composer.

The Luthier Exhibition will be positioned on Level 1, just outside the Northern Rock Foundation Hall. Please communicate with our Luthier Exhibition Coordinators, Kirin and Matthew, who will be happy to assist you if you need help, or anyone else who is on the floor at the time. Everyone involved is a violist! Interested violists are encouraged to try out violas and bows and take them to a private room to explore further. Throughout the festival and exhibition luthiers and bow makers will be available to meet and answer any questions you may have.



We are incredibly proud to include up-and-coming student luthiers in this exhibition, recognizing the importance of nurturing and showcasing the next generation of crafts men and women. These students bring fresh perspectives, innovation and a passion for the craft that will soon offer alternative sounds, models and skills in the instrument-making world. The students from the

Newark School of Instrument Crafts have curated a display that will feature works “in-the-white” to highlight the different stages of instrument making. We also are welcoming students from the BELE, Bilbao (Spain), Mittenwald and Markneukirchen (Germany) Schools of Violin Making. Please look at our student luthier section to find out more.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our celebration of viola and bow making and hope you enjoy all that we have prepared for you to explore.

Kirin Howat and Matthew Hayes

Luthier Exhibition and Trade Stand Coordinators

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Luthier Exhibition and Trade Stand Opening Times

10:00-18:00 each day

Staff Contacts

Alongside Kirin and Matthew there will be a fabulous team of violists from the Royal Northern College of Music on hand at all times to help and support members of the public who visit the exhibition.

Kirin Howat - *Luthier Exhibition coordinator*



Kirin Howat is a Yorkshire-born violist. He is currently in his third year of Bachelor of Music at the Royal Northern College of Music studying the viola with Lucy Nolan and Martin Schaefer. Kirin is immersed in a kaleidoscope of orchestras and chamber ensemble at the RNCM. A few months ago, Kirin acquired a viola made by Antoine Gourdon.

Matthew Hayes - *Luthier Exhibition coordinator*

Matthew is a violist from Whitley Bay in the North East, currently based in Manchester, where he is studying at the Royal Northern College of Music with Lucy Nolan. Matthew plays on a viola made by Bernd Hiller.



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LUTHIER CONCERT SERIES

LUTHIER EXHIBITION CONCERT SERIES

The Luthier Exhibition Concert Series offers a unique opportunity to experience exceptional performances on a selection of the fine instruments and bows on show alongside open discussion and blind instrument tastings. Most concerts take place in the intimate setting of the Barbour Room East, providing an ideal, relaxed environment to enjoy the artistry of both the luthiers and performers. These concerts are all FREE.

Sunday 19 January

16:30 - Barbour Room (East)

Instrument and Bow Tasting performance featuring RNCM viola students hosted by Mark Jennings

J.S Bach - Adagio and Fuga in C Major (arr. Ireland) for four violas

Emma Farnsworth, Celeste Meisel, Estelle Gonzalez and Emily O'Dell - Violas

Monday 20 January

13:00 - Barbour Room (East)

Timothy Ridout performs on instruments and bows from the exhibition hosted by Alan Beavitt

Tuesday 21 January

12:00 - Barbour Room (East)

Hélène Clement performs on instruments and bows from the exhibition hosted by Antoine Gourdon

Wednesday 22 January

13:15 - Concourse

Luthier Exhibition: Surprise

Klengel - Hymnus for 12 violas (arr. Vidulich)

Bizet - L'Arlesienne Suite Mvt. 1 (arr. Dennison)

16:00 - Barbour Room (East)

Instrument and Bow Testing performance featuring RNCM viola students hosted by Chris Halstead

J.S. Bach - Sonata no.2 in A minor BWV 1003 (arr. Ireland) for four violas

Andante

Allegro

Rhiannon Collins, Sijia Zhou, Matthew Hayes, Lily Machin-Bradbury, Yujie Zhang, Lingyun Zhou, Hannah Killick, Hannah Borlase - Violas

Thursday 23 January

13:15 - Barbour Room (West)

"The Workshop" hosted by Ludivine Brouillet

Michael Jon Smith - "Bitter-Suite"

Abi Hammett, Paula Bowes, Kirin Howat - Violas

Michael Jon Smith (1941-2009) was born and brought up in Newcastle upon Tyne and studied at Leeds University with Herbert Howells and at the Royal College. He then worked as a violinist with the Scottish National Orchestra before taking up the viola and eventually becoming section leader in the North Holland Philharmonic. Smith was also a prolific composer and arranger. He said that for him the viola was possibly the most bisexual of all string instruments and he wrote extensively for it, as well as arranging well-known pieces for viola sextet and even octet (including 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic'!) Smith has lived in the Netherlands since 1976, although he always maintained close links with the UK. Scotland and the Lake District were the chief inspirations in his compositions, which are neo-Romantic, with a strong melodic and rhythmic thrust. His setting of Wordsworth's 'Prelude' was performed last year by the Voices of Hope in Newcastle under conductor Mark Edwards. In his lifetime Smith performed his compositions regularly with colleagues. After his death at the age of 67 in 2009, a Trust was set up to promote his work at concerts in the north of England, as well as in the Netherlands. There exists a CD with works for flute and piano as well as viola, and it is available on Apple iTunes, Spotify, Amazon mp3, Google Music Store, Deezer, 24/7, 8tracks, Akazo, Anghami, Awa, IHeartRadio & Youtube music. Relevant websites are www.mjsmith.eu and www.michaeljonsmith.org. His sister lives locally and can be contacted at hedworth@hotmail.com "Bitter Suite" was originally a work for three cellos, composed for a colleague, Edward Plagge. But it was then transcribed for three violas and has often been performed with this combination. Only after the composer's death has "Bitter Suite" been performed as a traditional string trio for violin, viola and cello, which also proved to be very satisfying. "Bitter Suite" has six short movements which all have their own character. But in all of them, one hears the characteristic rhythms and harmonic changes that are so typical of this composer. They make up a short compact story from beginning to end.

Part One, "Cantilena", forms a quiet introduction, but there are already traces of the passion and whimsicality found in the later movements. Part Two, "Folksong" is reminiscent of music by Sibelius, Smith's

favourite composer. Part Three, "Chorale", is a painful lament; even with the beautiful cadence, pain is still present. Part Four, "Waltz Grazioso", though quite jolly, is not happy. One hears a threat, with even a flicker of hysteria, highlighted by the viola that plays the melody here. Part Five, "Lament " again. This time there is resignation, although this is maybe not wholehearted. Part Six, "Dance Alla Breve". After a short interlude, which shakes off all sombreness, there comes a mad dance, a last struggle with the demons, before peace is found at last

* * *

Noah Max - Lemonade in the Armenian Quarter (world premiere)

Yujie Zhang - Viola, Jessica Conway - Mezzo Soprano

Poet Sarah Mnatzaganian and composer Noah Max met through music. Noah is the same age as Sarah's daughter Ursula Aitchison and a shared love of music, literature and all things creative has brought their families closer over the years.

Sarah's pamphlet *Lemonade in the Armenian Quarter* explores the poet's family, heritage and feelings of human connection. Noah identifies strongly with the collection and has set five of its poems for mezzo-soprano and viola; both these timbres are rich in feeling and colour without excessive brightness, holding much potential for illuminating the subtle shades of family personality as well as the deep pain of the Armenian Genocide.

As an Armenian poet and a Jewish composer, Sarah and Noah both explore identity through their work. Sarah is married to the Anglo-Jewish luthier Robin Aitchison, and she is proud that Armenia provided shelter for Jewish villagers for many centuries; she and Noah both wish for Armenian culture and history to be better - and more widely - understood. Having recently completed an opera about the Holocaust, Noah is well-placed to understand and pay respect to Armenian history through his music.

Noah has explored new areas of his expressive palette in setting some of Sarah's more uplifting, touching poems. This cycle opens with 'Egg Time' and 'Juice', uplifting poems of diaspora childhood. Two powerful pieces follow: an elegy to Sarah's uncle Hagop and 'In Praise of Armenian Cooks' which explores the impact on women of the Armenian genocide while celebrating survival and connection through food and family. The cycle closes with a sensitive song about Ursula which meditates on both her Armenian and her Jewish ancestry

We hope this song cycle will inspire audiences in the direction of knowledge, understanding and peace.

(Programme Notes by Noah Max and Sarah Mnatzaganian)

14:00 - Barbour Room (West)

Tertis and Aronowitz Competitors Showcase Instruments and Bows hosted by William John

Friday 24 January

10:00 - Barbour Room (East)

Instrument and Bow Tasting performance featuring RNCM viola students hosted by William Castle

J.S. Bach - Partita no. 2 in D minor (arr. Ireland) - Chaconne

Paula Bowes, Abi Hammett, Emily O'Dell, Yujie Zhang - Violas

15:15 - Barbour Room (East)

Instrument and Bow Tasting performance featuring RNCM viola students hosted by Kai-Thomas Roth

J.S. Bach - Sonata no.2 in A minor BWV 1003 (arr. Ireland) for four violas - Fuga

Lingyun Zhou, Daria Kurtii, Utor Wong, Rory Africa - Violas

18:00 - Barbour Room (East)

Instrument and Bow Tasting performance featuring RNCM viola students hosted by William John

J.S. Bach - Partita no.3 in E major BWV 1006 (arr. Ireland) - Prelude

Estelle Gonzalez, Matthew Hayes, Eadaoin Drumgoole, Steph Roberts - Violas

J.S. Bach - Sonata no.1 in G minor BWV 1001 (arr. Ireland) - Fuga

Rhiannon Collins, Matthew Hayes, Sophie Combes, Kirin Howat - Violas

VIOLA MAKERS / LUTHIERS

VIOLA MAKERS / LUTHIERS

ALAN BEAVITT



Alan Beavitt (b. 1939) made his first violin while still at school, and on leaving, contemplated an apprenticeship at Hills, but was advised to follow a career in science instead. After graduating he worked as a research physicist in Australia and England. In 1975 he moved to the Highlands of Scotland to pursue his first love, making violins. Later, in 1986, winning the Facta Britannia violin making competition in London. He has used his scientific background to make acoustic research and varnish preparation. To date, he has made well over 100 instruments, which are played by soloists and in orchestras at home and abroad.

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Viola 1

Year: 2020, Model: Large, Body Length: 16 ½ inches, String Length: 381mm

Viola 2

Year: 2019, Model: Small, Body Length: 41cm, String Length: 358mm

ANTOINE GOURDON

Antoine Gourdon was born in Nantes (France) in 1982. He has settled in Newark-on-Trent (UK) for 19 years and taught at the international Newark School of Violin Making for 13 years (2010-2023). In 2022, he co-founded The Workshop – Newark - with luthiers John-Francis Wright and Carlos Libreros Rios. Internationally rewarded (Paris. Viola's 2016), Antoine is specialized in the making of fine violas, violins, and cellos with the assistance of luthiers Mathilde Baulin and Alina Ehret. His instruments are exhibited internationally such as Ehko in partnership with the Queen Elizabeth Competition in Brussel (Belgium) or Mondomusica with the collective French Touch in Cremona (Italy). In 2023, he co-founded with his friend and colleague Paul Gosling the Collaborative Instrument Making Exchange project - CIME. CIME has been working in South-Africa from the 21st of November 2024 until the 13th of December 2024 in collaboration with violist, researcher, educator and philanthropist Dr. Louise Lansdown, the Mzansi National Philharmonic Orchestra (MNPO) and the ARCO Project to develop educational projects.



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Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: Antoine Gourdon, Body Length: 16 ½ inches, String Length: 376mm

BEÑAT GURAYA



Beñat Guraya (22 of August 1998, Bilbao) studied at BELE (violin making school of Bilbao): construction of violin, viola and cello; restorations and acoustics. He took part in courses at school from renowned luthiers such as: Philip Ihle, Frederic Becker, Silvio Levaggi, Gabor Draskóczy or Sergio Chanquía. He had some work experience with Gianmaria Stelzer and Anxo Cabreira; and an internship of 3 months at Christian Bayon workshop. He did some collaboration work at Cabreira and zum Egen workshop in Vigo. He currently works in Getxo at the workshop of his father, Javier Guraya.

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Viola 1

Year: 2020, Model: G.B.Guadagnini , Body Length: 16,4 inches, String Length: 380mm

Viola 2

Year: 2024, Model: A.Guarneri, Body Length: 16,3 inches, String Length: 380mm

BENOIT BENTON

Benoit Bonten was born in Verviers, Belgium in 1983. Passionate about music and woodworking since childhood, he made his first steps in the instrument making world in Argentina (Buenos Aires) while staying there as a student in 2001-2002. There, he made his first guitar under the supervision of the master guitar maker Omar Nigrelli. Back in Europe, he started studying at the National School of Lutherie in Mirecourt (France), from which he graduated in 2006. He then began working as an assistant in different workshops in Brussels, Maastricht and Barcelona. In 2008 he became Gonzalo Bayolo's assistant in Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle, Spain. Today a member of the GLAAF, he lives in Aveyron, near Conques (France) and works in his own workshop where he devotes his time principally to making fine Cellos and Violas.



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Viola 1 (made with Rolland Belleguic)

Year: 2024/2025, Model: based after the work of Gaspard Da Salo, Body Length: 415mm, String Length: 363mm

CARLOS LIBREROS



Carlos grew up in a musical and artistic environment. He attended music school from a very young age, learning several instruments and developed a passion for music. In 2009, he acted on his passion and began training in woodworking to gain experience in a guitar making workshop in a small town in Colombia. Looking for the best options to pursue a career in violin making, he attended the International Violin Making School in Newark in 2013 and then graduated in 2017 with an upper-level distinction. During his studies he gained further practical experience working with a variety of people, and began full-time employment at Roger Hansell's workshop for two years where he developed a passion and skill for the art of copying old Italian instruments. With all of his previous education, skills, and 15 years'

experience Carlos has spent two years as a Lecturer in the Violin Making School in Newark and shares 'The Workshop Newark' with Antoine Gourdon and John Francis Wright, a collaboration of 3 Luthiers all former teachers of the International School Of Violin Making in Newark who had joined forces in a space where they enjoy the benefit of a collaborative atmosphere that complements and develops their work as individuals.

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Viola 1

Year: 2025, Model: Andrea Guarneri , Body Length: 16 1/4 inches, String Length: 370mm

CHRIS TAYLER

Chris Tayler concentrates exclusively on making violas and offers copies of instruments by both Amati and Paulo Castello of Genoa, together with models of his own design. His violas are played by celebrated violists such as Robin Ireland and Stella Mahrenholz and have been played in concert venues such as the Wigmore Hall. His instruments have also compared favourably in blind tests to violas by Testore and other famous Italian makers. He usually makes instruments of approximately 16 inches in length, but has also succeeded in producing a slightly smaller model which loses nothing in depth or sonority. If you are looking for a viola with great warmth and depth and a complex palette of tone colour, please visit his website www.taylerviolas.co.uk to see testimonials. His post-graduate studies were into acoustics and vibration, and his research was funded by NASA. This deep understanding of the physics of sound informed his work as a Luthier, together with the study of fine Italian instruments such as Amati, Gofriller, Panormo etc in his workshop. He is fascinated by the particular challenges of making violas. He makes copies of a particular viola by the Brothers Amati circa 1610, together with other models in which he has made small but significant changes to improve the sonority, using his post-graduate acoustic studies to guide him. This has enabled him to make violas with great warmth and depth, together with a complex palette of tone colour. He feels honoured to discover that celebrated players are choosing his violas for recordings (recently including a CD of the Bach cello suites arranged for viola) and for chamber concerts at venues such as the Wigmore Hall.



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Viola 1

Year: 2022, Model: Brothers Amati copy, Body Length: 16 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches, String Length: 375 mm

Viola 2

Year: 2024, Model: Paulo Castello copy, Body Length: 16 inches, String Length: 375 mm

CORRIE SCHRIJVER



Cornelia Annigje Schrijver was born in Arnhem, in 1957. At the age of four, she followed in the footsteps of her grandfather and father, when she started to attend woodworking classes. After completing her HAVO exams including all the sciences, she studied woodworking, construction and technology, at a local technical college before moving to South Wales to learn violin making at the Welsh School of Violin making in Abertridwr. Corrie Schrijver graduated from the Welsh School of Violin Making, with Merit in 1980. Since then she has worked at various locations, notably spending 17 years in the Glasgow area, making and restoring for professional players and also maintaining part of the RSAMD collection of instruments and bows. In 2000 she founded "Bath Violins", which was situated in Widcombe High Street in Bath. In 2012, she left her shop in Bath to join her engineering husband Frank in Brampton near

Carlisle, previously home to the Forster family of violin makers. Here she continues making new instruments and bows, and provides a bow rehair and repair service for the professional and serious string player.

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Viola 1

Year: 1979, Model: Slightly proportionally enlarged Guarneri del Gesu, Body Length: 16 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches, String Length: 370mm

Viola 2

Year: 2017, Model: Gasparo da Salo model, ca 1580, Body Length: 15 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches, String Length: 360mm

Viola Bow

Year: 2024, Model: Own design, Pernambuco, silver mounted, Length; 75cm/29.1/2", Weight; 71gms, Balance; 238mm

DOUGLAS MACARTHUR



From a very young age, Douglas had a desire to make stringed instruments. Between the ages of 9 and 17, he was taught traditional woodworking and instrument making by the viol maker Richard Jones. He then studied violin making and repair at Glasgow's Anniesland college, London's Metropolitan university (with Shem Mackey) and finally Newark School of Violin Making, graduating with Merit in 2006. Since then, he has been working alongside his wife, Marion Bennardo, from his workshop in Scotland. He primarily makes antiqued instruments, either precise copies of the Cremonese Master's, or personal interpretations informed by close study of the originals. His aim is to create instruments that are beautiful, intriguing, complex and unique, in both tone and aesthetics, and above all that allow musicians to comfortably create the sounds they envision.

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Viola 1

Year: 2023, Model: Copy of Andrea Guarneri 1690, Back length: 41.3 cm, String length: 374mm

Viola 2

Year: 2016, Model: Copy of Brothers Amati "la Stauffer" 1615, Back length: 41.1cm, String length: 373mm

JAVIER GURAYA

Javier Guraya, born in 1964. Graduated in Lutherie from the Bilbao school (www.bele.es) in 1989. He began his work as a teacher at the same school in the same year. Graduated from the NSVM (Newark School of Violin Making) in 2002. He has had instrument construction training courses with F. Becker, S. Zygmuntowicz, P. Gosling, P. Westerlund, among others. He currently continues to teach at BELE, as well as making his own instruments at the workshop together with his son Beñat.



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Viola 1

Year: 2020, Model: Andrea Guarneri, Back length: 16,3 inches, String length: 371 mm

Viola 2

Year: 2024, Model: Vincenzo Rugeri, Back length: 15,8 inches, String length: 367mm

JOHN FRANCIS WRIGHT



John Francis Wright began his professional life as a violinist and has since merged this passion with his love for understanding how and why bowed string instruments work. In 2016, John enrolled at the Newark school and subsequently graduated with first class honours. Soon after establishing his own workshop, John was commissioned consecutively, by three members of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's cello section. His instruments are now in demand from some of the UK's top orchestral and chamber musicians and he has a waiting list of customers ranging from international soloists to award winning folk musicians. John was also recently awarded multiple prizes for tone quality at the 2024 Violin Society of America competition. As well as making and teaching Violin making, John also retains a healthy amount of freelance performing work. That later ensures a sound connection to a pragmatic approach in his making and teaching style. Along with Luthiers Carlos Libreros and Antoine Gourdon, John is a founding member of "The Workshop Newark". The three makers work closely together from their studio in the East Midlands to constantly explore and develop new components of the craft they are so immersed in.

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Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: Andrea Guarneri (inspired by the Josefowitz of 1690), Back length: 16 1/4 Inch, String length: 372mm

KAI-THOMAS ROTH

Kai-Thomas Roth came to the UK from Germany to study violin making at Newark from 1986-89, where he also met his wife Caroline Crowley. He has been making western bowed stringed instruments of all descriptions professionally since 1990, from piccolo violins to double basses, viols and viole d'amore, of any historical period, as well as being a specialist for 'five-string' cellos, including 'da spalla' research. He is a still active founding member of the BVMA.



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Viola 1

Year: 2000, Model: G B Guadagnini, Milano, 1757, Back length: 16 ¼ inches, String length: 371mm

Viola 2

Year: 2015, Model: Andrea Guarneri, Cremona, 1776, the "Conte Vitale", Back length: 16 5/16 inches, String length: 366mm

LOUISE BOISSON



Louise grew up near Frankfurt, Germany. Showing an early interest in music and the visual arts, she spent a lot of time drawing, singing and studying the piano. At 16, she fell in love with the cello. Alongside her cello lessons, she used any excuse to visit violin-making workshops, which fascinate her. After two courses, she was sure she had found her vocation. After obtaining her Abitur (A-levels), she went to France to study at the École Nationale de Lutherie de Mirecourt. After three years of study, she was awarded the Diplôme des Métiers d'Art with the congratulations of the jury. For the next six years, Louise worked alongside renowned luthiers, first in Paris with Bernard Sabatier and Patrick Charton, then in Toulouse with Fabien Peyruc. There, she learned to listen to, analyze, restore and make sound adjustments to the quartet's instruments. In 2019, Louise set up her own business making cellos, violins and violas. She

wanted to focus particularly on arch design. So she turned to Frank Ravatin, who welcomed her into his workshop. She made a cello under his guidance, benefiting from his advice and experience. In 2020, she took part in a training course on violin varnishes with the painter and restorer François Pérégo. There she acquired the chemical knowledge she needed to make her own varnishes. Louise is constantly seeking to deepen her knowledge. She is a member of the ALADFI and regularly takes part in lutherie conferences and advanced training courses. Her work is nourished by the study of the instruments of the Cremonese and Venetian masters of the 17th and 18th centuries. She reinterprets their works rather than copying them. Her instruments are exhibited at national and international events such as the Salon du Violon in Paris, Ekho in Brussels and the Cello Biënnale in Amsterdam

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Viola 1

Year: 2020, Model: based on Stauffer, 1615, Brothers Amati, Back length: 41.3cm, String length: 375mm

Viola 2

Year: 2024, Model: based on Stauffer, 1615, Brothers Amati, Back length: 41.3cm, String length: 370mm

LUDIVINE BROUILLET

Ludivine Brouillet-Smith is a French Violin Maker based in Newark-on-Trent who works in her own workshop in the town centre since 2022. She makes instruments for professional players as well as set-up for several workshops. In 2023, Ludivine started working as a tutor for the Foundation and First Year class at the NVSM and became the First Year coordinator a year later training the next generation of violin makers. After graduation from the Newark Violin Making School, she decided to go to work for several workshops in the Netherlands and after a year, came back to the UK and worked in London essentially focussing on set-ups and repairs. During her studies, Ludivine had the chance to become a Laureate of the Foundation "Marcel Bleustein-Blanchet" which awarded her for her cello making. Few months after this, she received the Collin Garrett prize within the Newark School for "outstanding progress throughout the school years."



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Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: inspired by the "Archinto" by Antonio Stradivari., Back length: 16 ¼ inches, String length: 375mm

MARK JENNINGS



Mark has been a professional violin maker for 29 years. He studied at Merton College and at the Newark School of Violin Making, graduating from both with Distinctions. All his working life Mark has followed a philosophy of continuous improvement whether by the study of fine instruments (old and new) or by formal masterclasses including Liuteria Parmense in Italy under the tutelage of Samuel Zygmuntowicz, Gregg Alf and Hans Nebel. Recently Mark has teamed up with Peter Greiner to work with players and make instruments for the prestigious International Musicians Seminar, Prussia Cove. To date, the highlight of this project was to have a quartet of 'Jennings/Greiner' instruments play their inaugural concert at Wigmore Hall. Mark's instruments can be taken on approval from his own workshop or alternatively from My Luthier in London. Mark's workshop is

situated on the beautiful Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall, several times a year he takes a satellite workshop in London, Manchester and Cardiff to see clients. Alongside this, Mark often teaches player-based workshops in various conservatoires and music schools around the UK.

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Viola 1

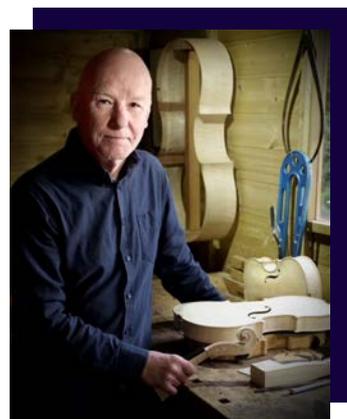
Year: 2024, Model: Loosely based Antonio and Girolamo Amati, Back length: 16 ½ inches, String length: 370mm

Viola 2

Year: 2023, Model: Loosely based on 'Conte Vitale' by Andreas Guarneri, Back length: 16 ¼ inches, String length: 368mm

RALPH PLUMB

After 18 years as a chemistry technician, Ralph Plumb is now a Hexham, Northumberland, based luthier with 33 years experience as a maker and much travelled restorer since finishing a violin making course at the Welsh School of violin making, near Caerphilly, between 1988-1991. He took over the school's violin making evening class in his final year and ran it for 2 years afterwards. He gained experience early on at Sandra Wagstaff violins Hong Kong before starting work as an in-house repairer at Cardiff Violins, Cremona House Bristol, Classic violins Kent and Tim Toft violins Stone. He became a freelance restorer and maker, due to demand, in 1998 after moving back to the North East opening a workshop in Newcastle City centre. He moved to Hexham in 2001 where he is now based working at home focusing on the making of new instruments. Although he makes violins and cellos, violas are what he particularly enjoys making due to the choice of sizes available and the more relaxed interpretation of proportions with a focus on the importance of playability. His violas are inspired by the great past master Italian Luthiers of Brescia in Italy. He accepts commissions and can produce antiqued or "off the brush" varnished instruments.



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Website: www.vivacellomaker.co.uk

Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: Brescian Inspired, Back length: 15 ¼ inches, String length: 341mm

Viola 2

Year: 2024, Model: Brescian Inspired, Back length: 16 ⅝ inches, String length: 380mm

ROLF WAEFLER



Rolf M. Waefler is an independent viola and violin maker based in the East Midlands of England. He is a graduate of the renowned Newark School of Violin Making and a holder of J&A Beare's Diploma in Violin Making. With over 18 years of experience, he crafts high-quality, handmade violins and violas. Drawing inspiration from the great Italian masters—Stradivari, Guarneri, and Guadagnini - his instruments aim to achieve exceptional acoustics and outstanding tonal qualities while respecting traditional workmanship. Although he creates both violins and violas, his specialty lies in the making of bespoke violas. Each instrument is meticulously crafted to deliver responsiveness and projection, seamlessly balanced with ease of playability, expert setup, and optimal weight for the player.

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Website: www.waeflerviolins.com

Viola 1

Year: 2017, Model: "Archinto" Stradivari, Back length: 15 15/16 inches, String length: 360mm

Viola 2

Year: 2014, Model: Conte Vitale Guarneri Viola, Back length: 16 ¼ inch, String length: 376mm

ROLAND BELLEGUIC

Roland Belleguic was born in Quimper, Finistère, in 1990. Motivated by woodwork, he turned to carpentry at the age of sixteen. At the same age, he discovered a real interest in jazz guitar. He discovered the world of stringed instruments by entering the National School of Violin Making in Mirecourt. After graduating with honours, he became a student and assistant to the violin maker Patrick Robin. Seven years later, he decided to devote himself fully to making violins, violas and cellos. At the same time, he studied the viola with François Hetsch. His work is constantly evolving, nourished by the study of 16th and 17th century instruments, exchanges with musicians, violin makers and the invaluable research of the violin maker François Denis. He has won a silver medal and two gold medals at the Internationaler Geigenbauwettbewerb in Mittenwald in 2022 and gold medal at the first international violin and bow making in Mirecourt in 2023.



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Website: www.rolandbelleguic.com

Viola 1 (made with Benoit Bonten)

Year: 2024/2025, Model: based after the work of Gaspard Da Salo, Body Length: 415mm, String Length: 363mm

WILLIAM CASTLE



As a well-established maker, William Castle's many instruments are recognized amongst musicians for their ease of playing and character of tone. Over the last thirty years, William has made more violas than violins or cellos, especially smaller violas under 16 inches. Realizing that many violists struggle with instruments that are too big for them, he has developed models that work well for sound and for playability, paying particular attention to the numerous small differences that make so much difference to players. He wrote a well-received article about viola size in the Strad magazine a few years ago and has both a detailed article and a video on this subject on his web site. William trained as a

violin maker at Newark, then worked for Geigenbau Machold, one of the top restoration workshops in Europe, before setting up on his own in York in 1985. Since moving to Shropshire, he has devoted himself to making new instruments, still enthusiastic about fulfilling the needs of musicians and about the making process, most recently gaining recognition for his research and experimentation with authentic tools and methods of construction. His instruments are played in professional orchestras and by some of the country's leading chamber musicians.

Address: 8 Welsh End, Whixall, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2NU

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Phone: 01948 880 608

Website: williamcastle.co.uk

Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: Bellosio, Back length: 15 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches, String length: 360mm

Viola 2

Year: 2024, Model: Very Small Cornerless, Back length: 14" , String length: 356mm

WILLIAM JOHN

William John started work at Ealing Strings in 1977 restoring and studying instruments of the great Italian masters; Amati, Stradivari, Guarneri etc. He started making violins, violas and cellos in 1980, alongside some of Europe's finest makers. Having left Ealing Strings in 1991 William continues to make and restore instruments for soloists, orchestral musicians and students.



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Phone: 07763 232 397

Telephone: 0208 568 2757

Website: www.williamjohnviolins.com

Viola 1

Year: 2023, Model: GB Guadagnini, Back length: 405mm, String length: 370mm

Viola 2

Year: 2023, Model: GB Guadagnini, Back length: 405mm, String length: 370mm

BOWMAKERS

BOWMAKERS

CHRIS GRAVES



Christopher Graves is a bow maker and cellist. For ten years he was cellist of the Castalian Quartet, with whom he played frequently at many of the world's major music venues and festivals - Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, Konzerthaus Vienna, Berlin Philharmonie, Philharmonie de Paris, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Aldeburgh Festival, and many others. Since he left the quartet he has dedicated himself to the art of bow making, which he studied with Gary Leahy. Inspired by his first-hand knowledge of the formidable demands the string repertoire makes of musicians and their instruments, he endeavours to create bows that meet those demands. Many of his bows are in the hands of eminent musicians around the world. He makes all his bows entirely by hand, using high quality traditional materials, at his workshop in Queen's Park, North London.

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CHRISTOPHER HALSTEAD

With a career now spanning almost 30 years, Chris' bows are in the hands of professional players, amateur musicians, and students across the world. Chris' journey into bow making began under the guidance of Richard Wilson whilst studying music and the violin in Cambridge. Never wanting to be a professional musician, Chris realised he had found his niche in the world of bow making and, after graduating, sought further training from Richard before going on to work with Didier Claudel in London and France, where he learned to make bows in the French tradition. Upon returning to the UK, Chris set up his own workshop and now lives and works in Sheffield. Renowned for his methodical approach, exquisite craftsmanship and deep understanding of both historical and contemporary bow design, Chris's modern bows draw inspiration from the makers of the transitional and



early and modern periods. Chris uses traditional woods for the sound and response but also enjoys incorporating unusual materials such as jet, black oyster shell, acrylic, and lapis lazuli to enhance the beauty of his bows. In addition to making modern bows, Chris also makes period bows, carefully copying and adapting designs from surviving examples. Chris's reputation also extends to the meticulous, sympathetic restoration and repair of old bows where a conservation focussed approach has seen him successfully completing some difficult restorations. Chris's background as a string player and knowledge of the repertoire informs his approach and understanding of player's needs. He values and enjoys collaboration, working closely with musicians to tailor each bow to their individual requirements. Passionate about preserving the future of bow making, Chris actively shares his skills and knowledge. He has recently taught at the Newark School of Violin Making and at workshops run by the British Violin Making Association to help foster new talent and sustain the craft. Chris looks forward to meeting returning and new customers to discuss any issues you may have with your own bow or to explore new commissions

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STUDENT LUTHIERS

STUDENT LUTHIERS

We are honoured to welcome students from several esteemed institutions specializing in instrument making and craftsmanship, all of whom are participating in this year's Luthier Exhibition. These schools are renowned for their contributions to the field of luthiery, fostering the next generation of highly skilled luthiers.

Newark School of Musical Instrument Crafts, Newark, England

Musical Instrument Crafts has been taught at Newark College since 1972. With a global reputation and excellent connections with industry, their students can pursue the craft they love whilst gaining high-quality practical skills from practicing professionals.

BELE School of Violin Making, Bilbao, Spain

The Bilbao School of Violin Making was founded by Jesús Alonso Moral in 1986. It is the only school that still exists among the state conservatories. Their aim is to train professionals prepared for the current context in the field of lutherie

Violin Making School, Markneukirchen, Germany

The degree course in musical instrument making in Markneukirchen combines handicraft instrument making traditions with modern scientific working and research methods to create an efficient and practice-oriented course of study. In a listed art nouveau villa, there are high-quality equipped workshops, modern laboratories and seminar rooms, acoustic measuring stations and an extensive specialist library.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the professors and faculty members at these schools for their support and hard work to make it possible for their students to exhibit in Gateshead. Their craftsmanship and presence has enormously enriched this event.

ALEX TU

Alex Tu is a former architect and acoustic engineer from Sydney, Australia. He first took up lutherie in 2017 as a hobby and it has now become his full-time profession. He moved to the UK in 2023 to attend the Newark School of Violin Making and to formalise his training and skills as a luthier.

Email: alex.f.h.tu@gmail.com

Alex will be partaking in the display by the Newark School of Violin Making, showcasing the stages of viola craftsmanship.

Stage of Viola:

Frame complete, plates arched and hollowed, Model: Horoshi Iizuka viola d'amore model (16 ¼ inch)

MIRANDA BAILEY-SHARAM

Miranda grew up in Manchester, where she studied viola at Chetham's School of Music from the age of 9. When not surrounded by the classical music of her school she was enjoying the non-classical music her family listened to at home, or taking advantage of the many gigs to be seen in Manchester. She moved to Switzerland at 18 to study with Diemut Poppen at the Haute école de musique in Lausanne and then the haute école de musique de Genève to study with Matè Szucs. During this time became more

interested in how the instrument she played was actually made. After returning to the UK she decided to look into violin making courses and found NSVM. Having played on a 15 ¾ inch viola made by Helen Michetschläger all her career which has allowed her to play for long hours and comfortably as a small violist without straining too much or getting too tired, she hopes to create violas which accommodate all types of player.

Email: mirandabaileysharam@gmail.com

Miranda will be partaking in the display by the Newark School of Violin Making, showcasing the stages of viola craftsmanship.

Stage of Viola:

Model: Amati 1615 "Stauffer" 16 ¼ Inches, Rib structure: completed, Scroll: Completed, Back/front: Arched and purfled

OISÍN MARCH

Oisín March is a 2nd year student at the Newark School of Violin Making. He grew up playing traditional Irish music and started making folk instruments as a teenager in his home in Ireland, mostly learning from books and other makers' advice. He sold a couple of bouzoukis to fellow musicians and became very interested in learning more about the history and construction of the violin family of instruments. He visited two luthiers in France (Andrea Frandsen and Éric Lourme) who both pointed towards Newark. He came to the school to really delve into the lutherie world and to be around and gain so much valuable knowledge by many people in the trade.

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Instagram: 00353 87 4040 835

Oisín will be partaking in the display by the Newark School of Violin Making, showcasing the stages of viola craftsmanship.

Stage of Viola:

Model: Maggini, 16 ¼ inches, Scroll: carved out of block, Rib structure: completed, Back/front: Arching mostly completed and purfled

PETER HORWICH

Second year student at Newark School of Violin Making. Peter grew up in Dorset and spent his days running around, getting muddy and making things out of scrap in the garage. Not wanting to fall into a future of engineering and CAD, he looked into further courses in woodworking and ended up at Newark. He's currently designing a 16" viola based on the ideas of Barrak Norman and Daniel Parker. His aim is to make a viola with a high air volume for a broad, deep sound whilst still keeping it bright, clear and at a size that is comfortable to play.

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Peter will be partaking in the display by the Newark School of Violin Making, showcasing the stages of viola craftsmanship.

Stage of Viola:

Completed rib structure, completed back, Model: Own model



ADRIAN SANZ

Adrian had a childhood enriched with music, with the great influence of his mother and father, pianist and trombonist. He has studied music all of his life, various instruments, including electric bass, piano, etc. He is currently in the third year of studies at the BELE School in Bilbao, mixing his love for music with his love for wood.

Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: A. Guarneri 1676, Back length: 16,1 inches, String length: 377mm

BENJAMIN JONES



Originally an automotive mechanic, Benjamin Jones is an east-midlands based violin maker currently in his third year of study at the Newark School of Violin Making, focusing mostly on cello making. Raised in a household surrounded by music, classical and modern, He began his lutherie journey in his early teens while looking for an upgrade in instrument to support his interest in violin playing. Discussing potential replacements with a local luthier, he discovered the existence of the Newark School and eventually enrolled in the first year. Throughout his time in the college, he has developed a keen interest in the 18th century English tradition of violin making with influences from families the likes of Forster and Banks. Benjamin is currently making a Benjamin Banks inspired cello and viola, as well as a P-mould Stradivari violin.

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Viola 1

Year: 2023, Model: Benjamin Banks inspired, Body Length: 15 1/2 inches, String Length: 356mm

CANDELA BALLESTEROS

Candela is a student at the BELE Violin Making School in the Basque Country.

Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: Maggini, Body Length: 16,3" inches, String Length: 371mm

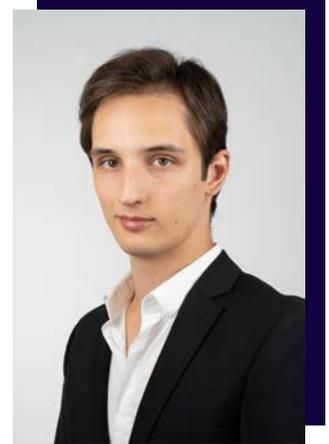
JULIAN RICHTER

Julian Richter was always very interested in music and craftsmanship. His whole life, he worked with his hands and started playing the violin at the age of 12. Naturally, violin making was the best choice for him, which is why, right after he finished high school, he went to Klingenthal to study violin making for 3 years. After that, he decided to stay in Markneukirchen and study for his bachelor's degree to find his way in new instrument making. What he found out now is the fact that he enjoys the making of violas and the copying of old instruments the most.

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Instagram: @violinsbyjulianrichter

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Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: Andrea Guarneri, 1697 'Primrose', Body Length: 16 1/3 inches, String Length: 370mm

KATHARINA STEHLING



Katharina Stehling completed her apprenticeship at the renowned Violin Making School in Mittenwald, Germany, in 2019, earning her journeyman's certificate. Following her graduation, she gained valuable experience working in workshops across Landsberg, Frankfurt, Nuremberg, and Malmö. In 2021, she decided to further her knowledge of violin making and began studying at the University WHZ in Markneukirchen. During her studies, she has been focusing on ergonomic issues, experimenting with unconventional shapes, and is currently researching the design and use of chin rests.

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Phone: +49 1631487815

Viola 1

Year: 2022/23, Model: Own model, asymmetric body, experimental, Back length: 41.5cm, String length: 364mm

"With this project, I designed a viola focused on reducing weight and lever length. To achieve this, I veneered the fingerboard, built a smaller scroll, and chose an asymmetrical design to shorten the lever length."

Viola 2

Year: 2024, Model: Antonio & Girolamo Amati, the Stauffer 1615, with conically tapering ribs, experimental, Back length: 41.5cm, String length: 380mm

"With this project, I designed a viola focused on reducing weight and lever length. To achieve this, I veneered the fingerboard, built a smaller scroll, and chose an asymmetrical design to shorten the lever length."

LOUIS PETERSON

Louis S Peterson is a violin maker currently in his third year at the Newark School. Heralding from the East Midlands Louis entered violin making from a deep appreciation of choral music and crafts heritage tradition, having first been introduced to the trade from a local string shop in Stamford, Lincs. Throughout his time at Newark, Louis has developed a keen interest in new making and the history of the English school from the 17th century onwards, with particular interest in the individuality of its makers, having the opportunity to continue the restoration of a Furber violin. Louis is currently making a F.Ruggeri inspired cello, a P-mould Stradivari violin and an own model viola and violin.



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Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: Jacobus Stainer inspired, personal interpretation, Back length: 40.5cm, String length: 366mm

MARÍA GURRUTXAGA

María is a student at the BELE Violin Making School in the Basque Country.

Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: Gasparo de Salo, Back length: 15,4 inches, String length: 351mm

SEBASTIÁN RIOS

Sebastian has always had a close connection to music. He is the son of an amateur guitar maker and studied classical guitar at the Universidad de Costa Rica. After, Sebastian acquired a business degree at the same University and is now in his third year of instrument making at BELE School where he is developing his passion and love for instrument making and music.

Viola 1

Year: 2024, Model: Guadagnini 1785, Back length: 15,5 inches, String length: 374mm

YAERMIN PARK



Yaerim Park is a skilled luthier who came from Korea to Germany to pursue her passion for instrument making. She graduated from the instrument-making school in Klingenthal, Germany, and is now furthering her studies in instrument making in Markneukirchen, Germany. Yaerim works as an instrument maker in a workshop, focusing on repairs, retouching, and preparing instruments for play. Her professional experience includes internships in Munich and Seoul, which gave her valuable insights into diverse approaches to craftsmanship. While Yaerim has primarily built violins, her recent experiences have sparked a growing interest in viola making. Playing the viola part in a string quartet—despite being a violinist — introduced her to the instrument's unique sound and design challenges. This experience deepened her curiosity about the viola's form, sound, and its impact on the player's comfort and health. Yaerim's work reflects her

dedication to creating instruments that not only look beautiful but also deliver exceptional sound, designed to meet the diverse needs of musicians.

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Viola 1

Year: 2023, Model: Gasparo da Salò, Back length: 15 ½ inches, String length: 355mm

TRADE STANDS AND BUSINESSES

TRADE STANDS AND BUSINESSES

Alexander Accessories *Alexander Accessories*

Alexander Accessories Violin chinrests and tailpieces and Viola chin rests and tailpieces are the choice of many of the world's leading players. They have been making our high quality accessories by hand for over 25 years in rural Leicestershire, England. Using only the highest quality seasoned, fine grained hardwoods that are available; all of their boxwood accessories are stained and finished using the traditional methods.

British Viola Society



The Society was originally founded as the English Viola Society in September 2007 by the late Professor John White and Dr Louise Lansdown (President). The society exists for the benefit of violists and aficionados of the instrument. It has expanded to become the British Viola Society with charitable objectives, aiming to support, promote and encourage every aspect of playing, teaching, composing and research relevant to the viola in Great Britain.

D'Addario



D'Addario is the world's largest manufacturer of musical instrument strings and accessories marketed under several product brands including D'Addario Orchestral. A family-owned and operated business with roots dating back to 17th century Italy, we make bowed strings and accessories for all levels of players and playing styles. Our orchestral range includes Prelude, Ascenté, Pro Arté, Helicore, Zyex and Kaplan. D'Addario now has over 1,100 employees worldwide, and manufactures 95% of its products in the U.S. D'Addario strings and accessories are distributed in 120 countries and are the preferred choice of professional and serious amateur musicians worldwide.

GEWA

GEWA
MUSIC

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GEWA music was founded in 1925 by Georg Walther in the town of Adorf in the Vogtland region of Germany. Following the tradition of the region, a small team of violin makers initially concentrated on the construction and sale handmade instruments and, a short time later, also on the

manufacturing of cases. Georg Walther distributed his products on his own initiative through music retail stores; through the contacts he made, he also succeeded in obtaining distribution rights from a variety of manufacturers. GEWA will be showcasing some of their high quality cases for different stringed instruments.

J & A Beare



J & A Beare offers an extensive range of fine instruments for sale: whether you are a musician, investor or collector, our experts are dedicated to finding the perfect match for you.

PIRASTRO



Because of the quality of both their strings and rosin, PIRASTRO has become the byword for a sound which is both beautiful and reliable. As a result, a great number of string musicians play and recommend PIRASTRO strings. With their tonal flexibility and expressive power, PIRASTRO strings have inspired musicians to create their own unique sound by taking full advantage of their instruments best qualities. Each individual string in the PIRASTRO line has been meticulously crafted to provide musicians with an unsurpassed choice in tonal colors. Musicians can choose from the complete range of gut strings (e.g. Passione and Oliv) to synthetic strings (such as Evah Pirazzi and Tonica) or steel (e.g. Flexocor and Chromcor). Finally, PIRASTRO rosins are designed specifically for use with PIRASTRO strings and this combination is responsible, in no small part, for the excellent world-renowned PIRASTRO sound.

Stamford Strings



A graduate of Newark School of Violin Making, Libby Summers founded Stamford Strings in 2019 to provide Stamford and the surrounding area with servicing, repairs, restoration and sales of violins, violas and cellos. As a violin player and teacher by background, Libby puts the needs of the player at centre stage at Stamford Strings. She carefully selects instruments for playability and sound, not primarily for their looks or investment value. Fine violins, violas and cellos are tools for players, and that is what Stamford Strings is all about - enabling players to reach their potential with the very best string instruments, set up expertly to work for them. Stamford Strings opened

their first shop in Stamford, 3 St Leonards Street, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 2HU on Monday 21st September 2020 and has now moved to 63 High Street, St Martins, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 2LA to expand their workshop activities and focus on new making and professional set ups. Libby will be exhibiting six violas by British and European Makers during the festival and welcomes all players to come and try them and have a chat. She will also have viola accessories, cases and strings on sale.

Stringers of London



Stringers of London offers a comprehensive service for beginners to professionals. Whether you are just starting out or are a seasoned performer, we aim to deliver quality products combined with friendly and professional service. We keep an extensive range of violins, violas and cellos along with all the accessories that a string player might need, from shoulder rests, to strings, rosin and much more. We have an on-site workshop dedicated to repairing and restoring instruments, with a team of experienced luthiers and restorers. Stringers of London has established an outstanding reputation amongst string players within London and the rest of the UK. If you would like to know more, or want to make an appointment to come and experience Stringers of London for yourself, please speak with us at our trade stand.

The Soundpost Ltd.



The Sound Post Ltd was founded in London in 1993 by the late Stephen Jocelyn, a professional cellist, who wanted to improve the quality of student instruments available in the UK. The Primavera range was introduced in 1995 and revolutionised the student violin market, by introducing for the first time styrofoam cases and tailpieces with integral adjusters as part of the outfit as well as a much improved quality of workmanship in the student violin. The Primavera (P200) was chosen as the Best Bowed instrument 2005 & 2013 at the MIA Awards and this achievement has been followed up with the Best Supplier Award for 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012 & 2013. In 2014 & 2015 we were awarded with the Best Customer Service in the UK MI.