



Museo del Violino



Fondazione Museo del Violino Antonio Stradivari

C r e m o n a

2015

*14th International "Triennale" Violin Making Competition
Antonio Stradivari*

Cremona **September 4th - October 11th 2015** Exhibition from September 24th

www.museodelviolino.org



Nicolaus Amatus Cremonen.

Am. Stradivari

Guarnerius fecit Cremonæ sub

Dear Maestros,

the 14th **International Triennale Violin Making Competition** to be held in September 2015 will be of special importance.

On the one hand, it will coincide with the Universal Exposition **Milano EXPO 2015** in which Cremona aims at playing a leading role and being a pole of attraction for a great number of visitors. Cremonese violin making will in fact be significantly represented in the Italian Pavilion; the winners of the Competition will be presented at the Pavilion the day before the official awards ceremony that will be held, as is tradition, in the beautiful Teatro Ponchielli.

On the other hand, it will be the first Competition to be disputed after the opening of the Museo del Violino, a museum where the history of five hundred years of Cremonese violin making is illustrated in a direct and fascinating way. The last room of the exhibition is especially dedicated to contemporary violin making and the history of the Triennale Competition of Cremona. All the gold medal winning instruments are displayed here, in the same place as the great masterpieces of the past made by Stradivari, Amati and Guarneri, just to mention the main ones.

We believe this to be a great honour for those makers who were awarded first prize in this Competition and, at the same time, a great incentive to participate with enthusiasm in a contest which is universally known as “**the Olympics of Violin Making**” for its reputation, number of entrants and the quality of selected instruments. Considering that the instruments will be acoustically tested in the Giovanni Arvedi Auditorium of the Museo del Violino, a venue that is specifically intended for chamber music performances, it is all the more clear why the Cremona Competition is, more than ever before, number one in world.

Therefore, we invite you all to take part in the Competition with one or two instruments that will be selected by a jury with a high international reputation, and also to come to Cremona and enjoy the atmosphere of a rich musical and cultural program connected with violin making.

As usual, the Competition will be documented by a fine colour catalogue of the admitted instruments that will remain as a testimony to your work and achievements.

We look forward to welcoming you in our beautiful and hospitable Cremona.

Gianluca Galimberti

Mayor of Cremona

President of Fondazione Museo del Violino

Paolo Bodini

Executive Director for Violinmaking Affairs

President of “Friends of Stradivari”



- 1** The purpose of the 14th International “Triennale” Competition of Stringed Instrument Making Antonio Stradivari is to compare the standards of contemporary stringed instrument making worldwide and to highlight its best results in a fitting context. The competition will take place in the town of Cremona and will be divided into the following categories:
- a) **Violin**
 - b) **Viola**
 - c) **Cello**
 - d) **Double bass**

Once the jury has completed its deliberations, the instruments will be exhibited to the public in accordance with the jury’s irrevocable decisions. The exhibition of the instruments will take place in Cremona, Museo del Violino, Piazza Marconi 5, from September 24th to October 11th, 2015. During this period it will not be possible to withdraw nor replace the instruments.

- 2** Any full-time professional stringed instrument maker, whether self-employed or not, may participate in the Competition, with no limitation as to nationality, sex or age. Those related by family ties, up to the fourth degree, to any member of the jury and anyone who has been employed by one of those members during the last two years are excluded. The application:
- 1) must be sent no later than 30/05/2015 (in accordance with the postmark);**
 - 2) must be submitted using the attached form;**
 - 3) must be completed, signed and dated.**

Submission of an application implies acceptance of all regulations relating to this Competition. The application must also include the following:

- the VAT registration number for residents of the European Union (residents in Italy may submit their Chamber of Commerce registration number);
- for those resident in non-EU countries and for those who do not have a VAT registration number, comparable documentation as prescribed by law in their countries of residence or a reliable declaration that the applicant in question is a professional maker of stringed instruments, whether self-employed or not.

If in subordinate employment, the maker must enclose a declaration to this effect from his/her employer. The Fondazione Museo del Violino “Antonio Stradivari” reserves the right in every case to verify all declarations and exclude applicants as appropriate. Each application must include an attached copy proving payment of the admission fee of € 150.00, excluding any bank charges, which is valid for the presentation of one instrument only. € 100.00, excluding any bank charges, must be paid for a second instrument, if presented. Payment may be effected by bank transfer or Paypal online payment system available on the Fondazione Museo del Violino “Antonio Stradivari” website (www.museodelviolino.org) The admission fee will not be reimbursed if the applicant decides not to participate to the Competition after the application has been accepted by the Organization. Incomplete applications will not be considered, nor will they be returned to the applicant.

Payments by bank transfer are to be made to:

BANCA POPOLARE DI CREMONA Cremona - Fondazione “Museo del Violino Antonio Stradivari”:

IT56	CIN	COD ABI	C.A.B.	N.ro CONTO	CODICE SWIFT
	R	05034	11401	000000001333	BAPPIT21V23

IBAN IT 56R 05034 11401 000000001333

3 Each contestant may submit no more than two instruments in total and no more than one instruments per category. The instruments presented must have been made in or after 2012.

4 The jury will not admit instruments to the Competition that:

- 1) **have already won awards in either national or international competitions;**
- 2) **have been machine-made or varnished by spraying apparatus;**
- 3) **break with tradition by virtue of their particular form, decoration, colour or woods;**
- 4) **constitute imitations of instruments with artificial antiquing of the wood and varnish;**
- 5) **display abnormal dimensions. To this effect it has been determined that violas must have a body length between 400 and 420 mm and double basses must have a string length between 104 and 110 cm;**
- 6) **are unanimously considered by the jury, with their reasons justified in writing, to be incompatible with the level of the competition.**

The maker may set up the instrument with the strings he considers most appropriate. Double basses will be set up with orchestra type strings.

The works presented in the Competition must be submitted absolutely anonymously. Each instrument and relative case or shipping crate must be devoid of any signs or elements which could identify the maker. Labels, brands, stamps or monograms of any sort must not be present on the visible surfaces, internal or external, of the instrument, even if they are covered. Should an instrument be presented with any such identification, it will be excluded from the Competition.

5 No later than the end of June 2015, the Organisation will communicate to the contestant if he/she has been admitted to the competition and will ask for further information if necessary.

At the same time the Organisation will supply each contestant with two envelopes, marked "A" and "B", as well as a tag for each instrument presented and shipping instructions for the instruments.

The envelope marked "A", to be closed and sealed, must contain the following:

- 1) **First name, surname, date and place of birth, nationality and complete address of the maker, as well as the date and place of construction of the instrument;**
- 2) **A brief curriculum vitae and two photographs in colour of the contestant;**
- 3) **Two 10 x 15 cm complete view photographs in colour of the instrument presented, displaying the belly and the back;**
- 4) **A signed declaration by the maker which authorises the Organisation to:**
 - have any minor repair work necessary carried out by a master stringed instrument maker appointed by the Organisation for that purpose;
 - reproduce and publish the photographs of the maker and the instrument in question;
 - publish the complete results of the competition in prints or through the Organization website

The envelope marked "B" will remain unsealed and must contain a set of extra strings identical to those on the instrument. A motto or single word in Roman capital letters must be present on both envelopes in the designated space. This same motto or word must be reproduced, with the same character or font, on the special tag which is to be tied to the scroll of the instrument. Each instrument must have a different motto or word.

- 6** The instruments must be delivered to the Museo del Violino, Piazza Marconi 5, during the following days and times: **September 4th and September 5th, 2015 from 9am to 1pm, September 6th, 2015 from 9am to 6pm.**
- The instruments must be delivered either by a proxy of the maker, with the proxy appearing as the sender, or by a forwarding agency entrusted with the shipment. Upon receipt, each instrument will be examined in the presence of the deliverer in order to ascertain its condition. To this effect, a form will be filled out and signed by the personnel of the reception office and the deliverer of the instrument. This form will include the date and time of delivery, and the wording "ORIGINALE".
- Should an instrument be presented by a forwarding agent, the relative packing cases will be opened subsequently in the presence of three experts appointed for this task by the Organisation.
- The above-mentioned form must be kept until the instrument is collected. The restitution of this form liberates the Organisation from any legal responsibility whatsoever.

- 7** The international jury will be composed by the President, five master violinmakers and five musicians, as specified below:
- President:** *Paolo Salvelli (Italy)*
- Musicians:** *Michael Flaksman (USA), Patrick Jüdt (Germany), Francisca Mendoza (Chile), Massimo Quarta (Italy), Alain Ruaux (Switzerland)*
- Luthiers:** *Andrea Frandsen (Denmark/France), Nicola Lazzari (Italy), Tetsuo Matsuda (Japan/USA), Luca Primon (Italy), Raymond Schryer (Canada)*

All decisions of the jury are final. The President will organize and lead the works of the jury, but does not participate in scoring the instruments.

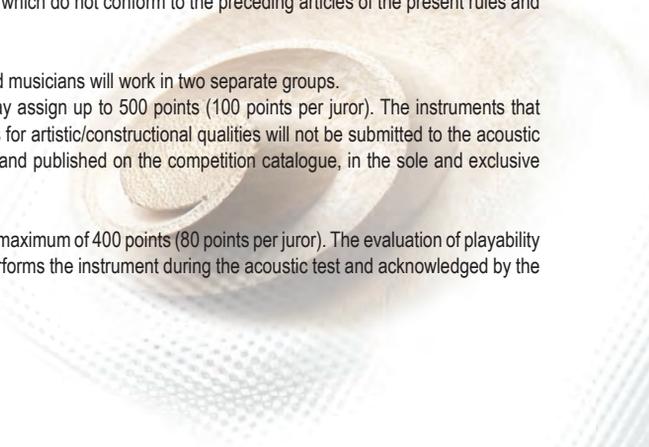
The contestants will be promptly notified of any changes that the Organisation may make in the composition of the jury.

- 8** Before the jury begins deliberation, the Organisation will cover the tag bearing the motto with an opaque, sealed envelope. Each envelope will bear a progressive number that will determine the order of selection. An initial selection will then be made to disqualify the instruments which do not conform to the preceding articles of the present rules and regulations.

Within the jury, stringed instrument makers and musicians will work in two separate groups.

For artistic/constructional qualities, luthiers may assign up to 500 points (100 points per juror). The instruments that will not reach the minimum score of 300 points for artistic/constructional qualities will not be submitted to the acoustic assessment; however, they may be exhibited and published on the competition catalogue, in the sole and exclusive judgment of the jury.

For acoustic qualities, musicians may assign a maximum of 400 points (80 points per juror). The evaluation of playability will be expressed only by the musician who performs the instrument during the acoustic test and acknowledged by the other musicians of the jury.



Each mark - from 1 to 10 for luthiers and from 1 to 8 for musicians – will be multiplied by the following coefficients:

1) Artistic/constructional qualities:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Technical level of work | 26% coeff. of 2.6 |
| b) Set up | 21% coeff. of 2.1 |
| c) Quality of varnish | 22% coeff. of 2.2 |
| d) Overall style and character | 31% coeff. of 3.1 |

2) Acoustic characteristics:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Quality of timbre | 35% coeff. of 3.5 |
| b) Strength of tone | 25% coeff. of 2.5 |
| c) Balance between strings | 20% coeff. of 2.0 |
| d) Playability | 20% coeff. of 2.0 |

The total number of points will determine the order of merit. The instruments which the jury considers eligible in accordance with their score will take part in the final acoustic test, which will be open to the public, during which the instruments will be played both unaccompanied and with piano accompaniment. Each juror will assign up to 10 points and thus the jury as a whole will be able to allocate a total of 100 points to the instruments examined. The total number of points calculated by adding up the points gained by each instrument in the final and the preceding tests will determine the winners of the Competition, the second and third prizes and the honourable mentions.

The list of the instruments admitted to the final acoustic test will be published in due time on the Organization website, listing the motto of each instrument. The President of the Jury will be responsible for this operation, while the tags with the motto will remain covered until the end of the Competition.

9

The “Antonio Stradivari” International Competition offers four indivisible purchase prizes:

- **for the best violin:** gold medal, honours certificate, and purchase of the instrument by the Stradivari Foundation for € 16,000.00
- **for the best viola:** gold medal, honours certificate, and purchase of the instrument by the Stradivari Foundation for € 16,000.00
- **for the best violoncello:** gold medal, honours certificate, and purchase of the instrument by the Stradivari Foundation for € 24,000.00
- **for the best double bass:** gold medal, honours certificate, and purchase of the instrument by the Stradivari Foundation for € 24,000.00

To this effect, please note that the purchase prizes are inclusive of VAT according to European tax laws and inclusive of Customs duties for non-EU countries.

- **Four silver medals and a prize of € 2,000.00 each for those classified second in each of the four categories (violin, viola, violoncello, double bass);**
- **Four bronze medals and a prize of € 1,000.00 each for those classified third in each of the four categories (violin, viola, violoncello, double bass);**

- **The Jury could award certificates with honourable mention to finalists in each of the four categories (violin, viola, cello, double bass).**
- The Municipality of Cremona will award the “Simone Fernando Sacconi” prize, consisting of a gold medal, to the contestant under 30 years of age on 31/12/2015 who, according to the irrevocable decision of the jury, is considered the most deserving;
- The “Walter Stauffer” Centre of Musicology will award a gold medal to the contestant who has presented the best instrument from an acoustic point of view;
- “Pierangelo Balzarini” award (private): gold medal to the Cremonese maker who has reached the highest score in one of the four categories for artistic/constructional qualities;
- “Sabino Preti” award (offered by Confartigianato Imprese - Associazione Artigiani) Cremona): silver plaque to the best classified Cremonese maker under 30 years of age on 31/12/2015;
- A.L.I. award (offered by Associazione Liutaria Italiana): silver plaque to be given to an Italian maker not classified among the first three of any category, for an instrument with peculiar personality within the Italian tradition and culture;
- “Prize “Cremona Mondomusica” (offered by CremonaFiere) consisting of a stand in Cremona Mondomusica 2016 for each of the gold medals winners.

All contestants admitted to the competition will receive a certificate of participation. A complete catalogue of the instruments admitted will be published by the Organization. The instruments which win their respective categories in the “Antonio Stradivari” Triennial Competition are put on permanent display to the public in the specific collection on the premises of the Fondazione Museo del Violino “Antonio Stradivari” in Cremona, and may, at the discretion of the Foundation, be temporarily entrusted to musicians for closer appreciation.

10

Once the jury has finalized its decisions with regard to the placement of the competing entries, the envelopes containing the names of the contestants will be opened and the results of the Competition will be published within three days. Each contestant will receive a card with the marks allocated.

All the marks will be published on the website of the Fondazione Museo del Violino “Antonio Stradivari”. The envelopes relative to the instruments which were not admitted to the Competition will remain sealed until the results of the Competition have been published. On Thursday, September 24th the jury members will meet the competitors who desire a confrontation, at a time to be communicated before the end of the competition.

11 The award ceremony will take place on Wednesday, September 23rd 2015 at the Amilcare Ponchielli theatre at 8.30 p.m. before the winner instruments concert.

12 After the closure of the Exhibition, the instruments, the spare strings and the remaining documentation contained in the envelope marked "A" may be retrieved by those presenting the consignment receipt marked "ORIGINALE". All instruments must be collected within 3 days of the closure of the Exhibition. Any instruments not collected in time will be stored on the Organisation's premises.

13 The Organisation will insure the instruments against the risks of fire, theft and accidental damage. Conventionally, the insured values are as follows:

- € 8,000.00 for each violin
- € 10,000.00 for each viola
- € 15,000.00 for each violoncello and double bass.

The insurance coverage is valid from the moment the instrument is delivered to the reception office until the time of withdrawal or when instruments not retrieved are deposited on the Organisation's premises as specified in Art. 12.

14 In the event of any controversy arising from the interpretation or the application of the above Regulations, the only court having jurisdiction will be that of Cremona.

15 The English translation of these Regulations is solely for the convenience of the contestants. In the event of controversial interpretation, only the Italian text will be considered valid.

Any requests for information or other correspondence should be addressed to:

FONDAZIONE MUSEO DEL VIOLINO "ANTONIO STRADIVARI" CREMONA
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PIAZZA MARCONI 5 - 26100 CREMONA
Tel. +39-0372-801801 Fax +39-0372-801888
e-mail: info@musedelviolino.org
www.musedelviolino.org



Museo del Violino

An indissoluble and ancient link exists between Cremona and violin making. The opening of the Museo del Violino added a splendid new page to this long history and presents – thanks to the sensitivity and generous contribution of Fondazione Arvedi Buschini – an important structure to the international community that will serve as a museum, auditorium and research centre.

At the MdV visitors can explore five centuries of violin making in Cremona directly through the great master violin makers and their instruments: Andrea Amati and his descendants; Antonio Stradivari; Giuseppe Guarneri “del Gesù” and his family; Lorenzo Storioni and Francesco Rugeri.

No other museum in Europe can boast such an important and complete display of string instruments from the school of Cremona including the collections owned by the Town Hall and by Fondazione “Walter Stauffer”, the original moulds and tools donated to the city by Giuseppe Fiorini as well as masterpieces on loan from all over the world thanks to the “friends of Stradivari” network.

The 19th and 20th centuries are documented through the work of the



greatest Italian violin makers of the time and the winners of the Triennale Competition, while in a series of dedicated spaces, the museum also pays significant tribute to contemporary violin makers.

Multimedia installations and a wealth of documentary displays allow everyone – from children to the most expert visitors – to enjoy an exciting and enthralling visit in which history and instruments, fragrances, sounds and images converge to give shape to stories, dreams and emotions.



Collezione **P**ermanente *di Liuteria Contemporanea*

In addition to the galleries of historical instruments by Stradivari, the Amatis and the Guarneris, the Permanent Collection of Contemporary Violin Making of the Museo del Violino in Cremona represents a significant testimony to the work of today's finest craftsmen. Here it is in fact possible to admire the instruments that have been awarded gold medal at the "Antonio Stradivari" International Triennale Violin Making Competition, rightly considered as the Olympics of violin making.

Since 1976, the contest and the city hosting it have managed to become a place where musicians and makers can meet, where tradition can be studied or new innovative solutions be suggested, where it is possible to exchange views and draw new causes for reflection.

These masterpieces show the accuracy of research, pay homage to their makers' talent, prove the topicality of looking back to the classical Cremonese school and the liveliness of an increasingly global art. The search for a 21st century Stradivari could indeed start from here...



The Giovanni Arvedi Auditorium, where acoustic tests will take place, is a unique and inspirational venue, a bold and modern project – designed by the architects Giorgio Palù and Michele Bianchi with the collaboration of the acoustical engineer Yasuhisa Toyota for the optimization of the acoustics – that offers the perfect synthesis between aesthetics and functionality. The architecture tries to “capture” sound to translate it into an image; music, ephemeral by nature, becomes form, substance: permanent and ephemeral in a timeless dialogue in the place celebrating string instruments.

Fluidity and organicity of the architectonic spaces, living and pulsating material which is moulded following curvilinear lines, contrasting with the regular and sterile definition of the rectangular hall which contains the Auditorium, like a box opening up its surprises. A basic idea: to build along parallel lines an identity between sound and architecture, in spaces that seem to crystallize sound waves.



A place of many surprises and wonders: mechanisms of an architecture that is built by joining softness and fullness of materials, defined in the fluid concatenations of the spaces highlighting soft curves and tight spokes which make the surfaces vibrate and turn, an architecture which lives on open views and glimpses, concentration and inventive essence.

Concorso 2012 medaglie d'oro: / Competition 2012 gold medalists:

Ulrich Hinsberger (Germania) violino

Marco Nolli (Italia) contrabbasso

Ulrike Dederer (Svizzera - Germania) viola



APPLICATION FORM*14th International "Triennale"
Violin Making Competition
Antonio Stradivari*

Surname _____ Given Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Postal Code _____

Workshop address _____

Tel Home _____ Work _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Vat identity number or must submit comparable documentation, as prescribed by law

I ask to participate in the 14th INTERNATIONAL "TRIENNALE" COMPETITION OF STRINGED INSTRUMENT MAKING ANTONIO STRADIVARI with the following instruments:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Violin | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Viola | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cello | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Double bass | <input type="checkbox"/> |

By signing this application form I confirm that I have read, understood and accepted all the rules and regulations which govern this competition, without exception. I declare moreover that I meet the conditions necessary to take part in the Competition.

signed**N.B.: To be returned no later than May 30th, 2015**

I allow the instrument/s to be submitted to acoustic test in the university laboratories located inside de Museo del Violino. The results will not be consider in the score system of the Competition.

Furthermore I allow the instrument/s to be played, under the control of the Organization, even in my absence, during the time of the exhibition

signed