

The song of the violin is the story of its creation

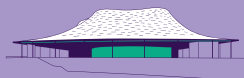


ALONGSIDE
THE
KRONBERG
FESTIVAL

GEIGENBAU BIENNALE KRONBERG

International Violin Making Fair

**29 SEP–
2 OCT 26**



CASALS FORUM

Powered by **SINFONIMA**[®]

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MEDIA PARTNERS



The entry to the International Violin Fair is free.

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A warm welcome to the International Geigenbau Biennale Kronberg!

We are delighted to welcome you back after two years to a special exhibition of modern violin making, presented for the first time under the name “Geigenbau Biennale Kronberg.”

Since its premiere in 2022, it has evolved into a vibrant gathering place: for masters of violin and bow making, as well as for musicians and anyone passionate about stringed instruments.

Over the course of four days, around 30 violin makers, bow makers, string manufacturers, and suppliers of accessories will showcase their craftsmanship and the latest developments in their fields. The Biennale offers plenty of opportunities for personal encounters, professional exchange, and sharing a passion for a time-honoured craft—without which things would be rather quiet at the Kronberg Academy as well...

As a joint project of the Kronberg Academy and SINFONIMA Instrument Insurance by Mannheimer Versicherung AG, the Kronberg Violin Making Fair - Geigenbau Biennale will once again take place concurrently with the Kronberg Festival. Not only does this offer the opportunity to experience the fascinating world of violin making up close, but also experience the sound and intention of this traditional craftsmanship during the festival concerts.

We wish you inspiring days, stimulating encounters, and many new impressions!

With warm regards



A stylized blue ink signature of Raimund Trenkler.

Raimund Trenkler
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF
THE KRONBERG ACADEMY



A stylized blue ink signature of Susanne Rahn.

Susanne Rahn
DIRECTOR OF SINFONIMA AT
MANNHEIMER VERSICHERUNG

PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 29 26

10.30 a.m.
STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Main Hall

OPENING OF THE GEIGENBAU BIENNALE KRONBERG

SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 2 26

Daily 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Main Hall

GEIGENBAU BIENNALE KRONBERG

Daily 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Main Hall

SINFONIMA INSTRUMENT AUCTION (p. 28)

SEPTEMBER 22 – OCTOBER 4 26

Daily 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
STADTHALLE KRONBERG AND
RECEPTURHOF KRONBERG

OPEN WORKSHOP (p. 24)



LECTURES & MORE

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 26

2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.
STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Feldbergsaal

HAYDN'S CELLO CONCERTOS – A CHALLENGE NOT ONLY FOR THE PERFORMERS (p. 26)

Dr. Norbert Gertsch – Managing Director and Head of Publication,
G. Henle Verlage

4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.
STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Herzbergsaal

$\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ CHILDREN'S INSTRUMENT PRESENTATION (p. 26)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30 26

11.15 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Feldbergsaal

INSTRUMENT PRESENTATION (p. 27)

Tutors of the Cello Masterclasses

2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.
STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Feldbergsaal

HOW CAN I OPTIMIZE MY INSTRUMENT? (p. 27)

Dr.-Ing. Thomas Zwieg, Head of Development at stringed
instrument manufacturer Larsen Strings A/S

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1 26

11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Feldbergsaal

SOUND SAMPLE (p. 27)

Quartet of professional artists with selected instruments from
exhibiting violin makers

2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.
STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Feldbergsaal

BETWEEN CONSERVATION AND THE CONCERT HALL – PERNAMBUCO BOWS UNDER NEW CITES REGULATIONS (p. 28)

Thomas M. Gerbeth (Master Bow Maker)

SINFONIMA[®]

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EXHIBITORS

VIOLIN MAKERS & BOW MAKERS

- p. 8 Sergio Chanquía
- p. 8 con-takt Junior e.V.
- p. 9 Jessica de Saedeleer
- p. 9 Den Daas Geigenbau
- p. 10 Michele Dobner Cremona
- p. 10 Daniel Engelbach
- p. 11 Franke Geigenbau
- p. 11 Geigenbau Galerie C. Fundateanu
- p. 12 Jonas Gerten
- p. 12 Gawang Jung
- p. 13 Geigenbau Krattenmacher
- p. 13 Geigenbau Lijsen
- p. 14 Lüdke Geigenbau
- p. 14 Urs Mächler
- p. 15 Jörg Meyer
- p. 15 Gonzalo Piarrette
- p. 16 Felix Scheit
- p. 16 Wolfgang Schiele
- p. 17 C. Jochen Schmidt
- p. 17 Geigenbau Schunk
- p. 18 Geigenbau Meisterwerkstatt Seidl
- p. 18 Robin Szombath
- p. 19 Thorsten Theis
- p. 19 Bogenbau Uebel
- p. 20 Junior Violin Maker
- p. 25 C. Daniel Schmidt
- p. 25 Dominik J. Wlk



STRING MANUFACTURERS

- p. 22 Pirastro GmbH
- p. 22 Larsen Strings
- p. 23 Thomastik - Infeld GmbH
- p. 23 Sinfonima

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SERGIO CHANQUÍA

Sergio A. Chanquía began his studies in 2008 and after 3 years obtained his diploma in violin making from the BELE school of violin making in Bilbao-Basque Country. In 2013, he moved to Paris to begin his exclusive training as a bow maker at the S. RAFFIN workshop, where he worked for almost 8 years. He perfected his skills in restoring antique bows and making modern bows. In 2016, he quickly became workshop manager, pursuing his main activity in this workshop, bow making. In August 2020, he decided to take his evolution a step further and opened his own SACH Archetier workshop, continuing to make bows using the traditional French method, while adding his own personal character. In May 2024, he moved his workshop to Poigny-la-Forêt, France.



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CON-TAKT JUNIOR E.V.

Children usually have to play on simple instruments with substandard bows. Just imagine how much better they could develop their musical and technical skills with high-quality, handcrafted instruments and bows! Unfortunately, the ability to purchase or even rent such instruments often depends on the parents' income rather than on the young musicians' talent. The goal of con-Takt junior is to support young, talented musicians, regardless of their parents' financial means.

The violin and bow makers of the Klanggestalten group and their colleagues would like to provide talented children with outstanding, newly built small instruments and bows on loan, completely free of charge. The focus of their work is normally the construction of new instruments and bows for professional musicians around the world. Many of them now have children of their own, and they've come to realize how wonderful and important it is for talented children to be able to learn their instrument using high-quality, handcrafted equipment.



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JESSICA DE SAEDELEER

Jessica De Saedeleer makes violins, violas and cellos in the traditional Italian style. She strives to find the optimal setup for each instrument, tailoring it to the personality of each musician according to their musical needs. She combines traditional violin-making techniques with modern acoustic technology, with passion and excellence.

De Saedeleer studied violin making at the International School of Violin Making of Cremona, Italy, and also holds a degree in Musicology from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. Awarded a grant by the Fund „Vocatio“ in 2007, she regularly takes part in advanced courses on acoustics, violin design, style and varnishes, among other topics. She has participated in several exhibitions of contemporary violin making in Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Cremona, Sevilla and Riga. In 2018, she took part in the „Bilbao Project“, a European research initiative on violin acoustics. Her shop is currently located in Brussels.



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DEN DAAS GEIGENBAU

Hans-Peter den Daas studied and gained a PhD in chemistry, after which he worked for a printer manufacturer in the Netherlands. An enthusiastic cellist, however, he had always played in orchestras and chamber music ensembles. Over time, the desire to make stringed instruments increasingly grew in him. He eventually learned the craft of violin making with Bernhard Zanders in Nettetal and recognised his passion in the specific challenges of the profession: the intellectual challenge of producing a valuable instrument and the emotional quality of working with wood. In 2017 he finally decided to change career and established his own violin making workshop. He makes violins, violas and cellos from European wood according to old traditions.

MICHELE DOBNER CREMONA



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DANIEL ENGELBACH



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Daniel Engelbach is a contemporary violin maker based in Rotterdam. He divides his time between his own workshop and the W.E. Hill & Sons workshop in London, where he works in collaboration with Robert Brewer Young. A graduate of the International School of Violin Making in Cremona, Daniel's work is deeply rooted in the traditions of the classical Italian masters, their craftsmanship and aesthetic ideals. Daniel takes a deep interest in the varnish techniques of the old masters, which led to a close research collaboration with varnish expert Pierre Flavetta. As a cellist himself, Daniel strives to explore the acoustic possibilities of each instrument through close dialogue with musicians.



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FRANKE GEIGENBAU

Jörg Andreas Franke is a master violin maker and the owner of the Franke Violin Making Studio in Darmstadt. Master craftsmen Elisabeth and Ulrich Stieffermann have been working in the workshop for over 35 years. Their son Maximilian has been employed here since 2017, and his wife, Elisabeth Franke, joined the team in 2021. Before establishing his own business, Jörg Andreas Franke worked in several workshops both in Germany and abroad, including Vienna, Munich, and Paris. A key focus of the workshop's work is the repair and restoration of stringed instruments and bows, as well as sound improvement. The building of new instruments has also become an essential part of the workshop's work, particularly since Maximilian and Elisabeth Franke completed their training in England and Mittenwald.



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GEIGENBAU GALERIE C. FUNDATEANU

For master violin maker Constantin T. Fundateanu, music, and in particular the violin, has been an important, if not the most important part of his life from an early age. He attended the music high school in Bucharest and graduated with the highest honours. During his studies at the "Ciprian Porumbescu" Conservatory in Bucharest—now known as the National University of Music in Bucharest—he was a student in Prof. Geanta's violin class. He completed the violin-making studies under master violin maker Willy Pohoriles in Bucharest and passed his master's examination with distinction. In 1985, he opened his violin-making workshop in Frankfurt, which he ran for 25 years. Today, his violin-making gallery is located in Darmstadt.



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JONAS GIERTEN

Jonas Gierten has been running his master workshop for violin-making in Wiesbaden since 2008. His long-standing and trusting relationships with a large and diverse clientele, along with countless instruments and vast experiences in problem-solving, equips him with a valuable foundation for consultation and practical work. The ability to offer a wide range of services – from high-quality new instrument making to restoration, maintenance, and optimisations in both sound and playability, as well as advising on finding, purchasing, and preserving instruments, assessing their value, and handling insurance claims – is ultimately made possible only by a dedicated, well-established team in his workshop.



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GAWANG JUNG

Gawang Jung discovered the violin shortly after finishing high school in 2008. Over the next two years, he studied Italian and the fundamentals of stringed-instrument construction with the aim of enrolling in the world-renowned International School of Violin Making in Cremona. In 2012, he was admitted directly into the third-year class under the guidance of Maestro Massimo Ardoli, and graduated in 2015. He began his formative apprenticeship in the workshop of Maestro Francesco Toto in 2016; upon completing it, he remained with the workshop under formal contract. While working there in 2018, he built a cello independently over the course of a year and entered it into the 15th Antonio Stradivari International Triennial Violin Making Competition (Cremona, 2018) — regarded as the world's most prestigious competition in the field — where he was awarded the Gold Medal (Overall Winner) in the Cello category. From 2019 to 2020, he collaborated with Maestro Francesco Toto as a partner. Since 2021, he has been operating his own atelier at Via Eugenio Beltrami 16, nestled in the historic heart of Cremona, where he crafts, restores, and sells string instruments to a global clientele.



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GEIGENBAU KRATTENMACHER

Born in Tegernsee, Stefan Johann Krattenmacher grew up in his parents' furniture workshop and began playing the double bass at age 14. He completed his training at the Mittenwald School of Violin Making. He then worked for 10 years in Hong Kong, Australia, and England; this period allowed him to evolve both mentally, technically, and stylistically. The combination of his German training and diverse professional experience abroad sets him apart as a violin maker. In 1997, he earned his master's degree and was awarded the gold medal for top academic performance. He has lived in Münchweiler since 2007 and has been directing the chamber orchestra in Ettenheim since 2007. Krattenmacher is the winner of the 2018 Bass Maker's Competition in Lucca, Italy.



Paul Lijzen

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GEIGENBAU LIJSEN

Born in Bad Tölz in 1947, Paul Lijzen attended the violin-making school in Mittenwald and passed his master's examination in the craft of violin making in 1973. Since 1980, his workshop has been located in Türkenfeld on Lake Ammersee. In 2007, he opened his Alpine tonewood warehouse, "Happy Soundwood," where he primarily stores hazel spruce and maple. With his instruments, he has successfully participated in numerous national and international competitions and seminars, such as the International Cremona Triennial, the Mittenwald International Violin Making Competition, and the DVG Viola Days. Paul Lijzen is an active member of the Association of German Violin and Bow Makers (VDG), the German Viola Society (DVG), and the Bavaria South Musical Instrument Guild.



LÜDTKE GEIGENBAU

The Lüdtke family will soon have three master violin makers: Father Uwe and daughter Anja are already masters and play the violin themselves (among other instruments), while son Jan is a master's student and prefers to play the cello. The family has operated its own violin-making workshop in Bolheim since 1995. Building new cellos and enhancing the sound of high-quality cellos have been the workshop's main focuses for many years. The workshop also offers a large selection of violins, violas, and cellos—currently about 200 instruments.

© Uwe Lüdtke

Uwe Lüdtke

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URS MÄCHLER

Urs W. Mächler completed his apprenticeship in violin making and bow making in Cremona. He worked in his father Willi Josef Mächler's workshop until opening his own workshop in Verona in 1984. From 1995 to 2016, he ran his violin and bow-making studio in Speyer am Rhein. In January 2017, Urs W. Mächler opened his new studio to build cellos, violins, violas, and bows in Holzhausen am Hünstein. He is a founding member of Henley's, a violin-making shop in Cologne that was founded in 2007.

Urs Mächler

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JÖRG MEYER

Master Violin Maker Jörg Meyer has been building resonant and easy-to-play string instruments in his own workshops since 1982. His services include restorations, repairs, rentals of violins and violas as well as personal consultation. Born in 1962, he spent many years training and studying viola and piano at music schools. In 1979 he decided for an apprenticeship in violin-making under Lothar Sandner in Markneukirchen. He opened his own violin making workshop in 1982 and passed the master's examination in violin making in 1984. In 1991 as well as 2009 he participated in the Cremona Triennale and in 2001 Jörg Meyer won the "2001 German Musical Instrument Award for Violin".



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GONZALO PIARETTE

At the age of 30, Gonzalo discovered his interest in violin making. After completing his studies at the violin-making school in Bilbao, he had the wonderful opportunity to work alongside Philipp Augustin for three years—an experience that completely shaped his understanding of the craft. Since 2020, he has been working as a freelancer, focusing on building new instruments and seeking to create a body of work with its own distinct character. He completed various internships in the workshops of Frédéric Becker in Montpellier, Christof Erichson in Hanover, and Peter Körner in Mainz. After completing his studies, he moved to Mainz to work with Peter Körner where he had the opportunity to work with historical instruments and learn many details about the restoration of old instruments. His passion, however, remains in building new instruments in the historic heart of Cremona, where he crafts, restores, and sells string instruments to a global clientele.

FELIX SCHEIT



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Felix Scheit, born in 1964 in Frankfurt am Main, completed his apprenticeship with Franz Dijk on Lake Constance and with Eugen Sticht in Mainz. Beginning in 1988, he worked in Andreas Kägi's workshop. After passing his master's examination in 1993 in Frankfurt am Main, he founded the workshop Gentges & Scheit, Violin Makers, in Berlin with Kevin Gentges in 1994. Felix Scheit is a prize winner of the violin-making competition sponsored by Mannheimer Versicherung in 1995. In 2001, he was honoured as a four-time prize winner at the Jacobs Stainer International Violin-Making Competition (categories: cello, viola, and violin). He placed among the top competitors at the Cremona Triennale. His instruments are played by soloists and orchestra musicians from all over the world. He has trained and employed numerous young violin makers. Since 2021, he has been running the workshop under his own name.

WOLFGANG SCHIELE



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After completing his training at the vocational school for violin making in Mittenwald and spending seven years in renowned workshops in France, the U.S., and England, Wolfgang Schiele has been working as a violin maker in Munich for over 36 years. Today, his work focuses on building high-quality string instruments from scratch to date, he has crafted more than 110 instruments, each bearing his own distinctive tonal signature. His passion for music has accompanied him since his youth: As an active violinist and violist, Schiele continues to perform today as concertmaster of a Munich amateur orchestra, as well as in various string quartets and chamber music ensembles. Schiele's instruments are characterised in particular by a light response, good tonal modulation, and impressive projection. Today, his instruments are played by freelance musicians as well as by members of renowned orchestras—including the Munich Philharmonic, the Bavarian State Opera, the NDR Orchestra Hannover, and the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.



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C. JOCHEN SCHMIDT

C. Jochen Schmidt, born in 1969 in Klingenthal in the Vogtland region, completed an apprenticeship as a bow maker under his father, C. Hans-Karl Schmidt, in his workshop in Dresden. This was followed by a one-year work experience at Willem Bouman's violin-making workshop in The Hague and several years working in his father's business. In 1993, C. Jochen Schmidt passed his master's examination in Nuremberg. In 1997, he opened his first workshop in Dresden. He has won several medals and honorary awards at national and international violinmaking competitions.



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GEIGENBAU SCHUNK

Thomas Schunk, born in Neckarsulm in 1958, grew up in a musical family. All six of his siblings learned to play a string instrument. When he began an apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker in 1974, he also took violin lessons from Prof. Rosa Berger in Neckarsulm. During this time, his enthusiasm for violin making grew. In 1981, he switched not only instruments but also careers. While learning to play the viola under Michael Hanko in Karlsruhe, he began an apprenticeship in violin making at Gerriet Groth's workshop in Wiesbaden. In 1988, he honed his skills at Peter Körner's workshop in Mainz. In 1997, he passed the master's examination in the craft of violin making and subsequently worked for several months in Seoul. At the end of 1997, he opened his own violin-making workshop. In addition to his regular work on maintenance and repairs, he has since devoted himself intensively to building new instruments. His primary focus is on researching historical construction methods and refining them to achieve the ideal sound.



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GEIGENBAU MEISTERWERK- STATT SEIDL

For over 40 years, master violin makers Ekkard and Ferdinand Seidl have combined masterful craftsmanship with passionate dedication to building stringed instruments. Their expertise lies in violins, violas, and cellos, which are crafted with the utmost precision—each instrument is one-of-a-kind, with a unique sound and perfectly tailored to the individual playing style of its owner. They offer a wide selection of different models and create custom-made instruments tailored entirely to the customers' wishes. This ensures that musicians will always find the right instrument that perfectly embodies their vision of sound. A special highlight of their master workshop is the patented cello spike, crafted from carefully selected materials. This innovative component significantly enhances the sound and can be tried out and purchased during a visit to Kronberg.



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ROBIN SZOMBATH

Born in 1995, Robin Szombath graduated with distinction at the age of 19 from the School of Art in Hallstatt after completing a four-year training program. His final project—an *alaude*—won the „Best Instrument“ award and solidified his passion for crafting stringed and plucked instruments. During his years as a journeyman, he worked with renowned workshops such as those of Tomáš Kaiser in Bratislava and Jürgen Manthey in Leipzig, where he crafted violins, violas, and cellos. After obtaining his master craftsman's diploma with distinction in Hamburg and Linz in 2020, Szombath was awarded a scholarship to further refine his skills at various workshops in Austria, France, Ukraine, and Portugal. Initially working independently in Burgenland, he subsequently opened his new workshop in Porto as a master violin maker. In 2022, Robin Szombath was honoured with the bronze medal at the XIII Concorso Internazionale di Liuteria di Písnogne.



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THORSTEN THEIS

Thorsten Theis was born in Waldbröl in 1971. His enthusiasm for the precision craft of mold-making, which he learned, is more intellectual in nature, while his passion for wood as a material is emotional: when building stringed instruments, the natural beauty, scent, and warm, pleasant tone of wood can be determined and enhanced particularly well. He therefore became a violin maker and specialised in the cello. Today, he continues to work as a mold maker, because the work on every new line of instruments begins with a precise mold for the body. Thorsten Theis shapes the individual elements of the cello directly by hand from carefully selected materials and assembles them into an instrument designed to meet the highest standards.



Klaus and Andreas Uebel

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BOGENBAU UEBEL

Klaus and Andreas Uebel are now in the fourth and fifth generation of working at the historic Uebel workshop, where high-quality bows for string instruments have been crafted since 1892. They craft bows of the highest quality for discerning musicians, using only carefully selected materials and precise craftsmanship. To meet the highest standards and demands, the two continuously refine and develop their models through close collaboration with various prominent soloists. In 2022, Andreas Uebel was awarded four prizes at the 9th International Violin and Bow Making Competition in Mittenwald. He received gold, silver, bronze, and a special prize from the VDG for the most distinctive craftsmanship.



JUNIOR VIOLIN MAKER 2026

For the first time throughout the still young history of the Kronberg Violin Making Fair – Geigenbau Biennale Kronberg, the Kronberg Academy is proud to introduce a Junior Violin Making call for **under 30-year-old junior violin makers**. The successful applicant amongst the entrants receives the unique opportunity to present his or her craft free of charge at this year's Violin Making Fair – Geigenbau Biennale Kronberg. **Don't miss this opportunity to find out more about the next generation of violin makers!**

Courage!

Follow *your* inner voice.
Shape *your* sound.
Tell *your* story.

Discover new Sovereign
strings for cello & explore
Larsen Strings for violin,
viola & cello.

Discover *your* sound:

Meet us in the Exhibition
Hall and sign up for our
free, personalised, string
advice.



LARSEN STRINGS



Explore:
Larsen
Sovereign

Your sound. Your story.

Johannes Moser Andrea Guarneri (1694)



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 www.pirastro.com

PIRASTRO GMBH

PIRASTRO GmbH was founded in 1798 by Giorgio Pirazzi, a string maker from Italy, as Giorgio Pirazzi & Figli in Offenbach am Main. At the end of the 19th century, the company's then-leader and grandson of the founder, Gustav Pirazzi, decided to bring his friend Theodor Strobel into the company as a partner. The brand name PIRASTRO was derived from the first four letters of their last names. Today, Annette Müller-Zierach and her brother Henning Müller-Zierach lead a company that, as a family business now in its sixth generation, is synonymous with quality in gut, steel-, and plastic-core strings, as well as rosin.



Larsen Strings A/S
 Elholm 6A
 6400 Sønderborg,
 Denmark
 T +45 (0) 7443 1760
 larsenstrings@larsen-
 strings.com
 www.larsenstrings.com

LARSEN STRINGS

Larsen Strings A/S is a Danish specialist producer and global exporter of strings for cello, viola and violin. Founded in 1990 by musician and technical enthusiast Laurits Th. Larsen, the ethos of the company is driven by a passion for music. The "Art of Science" means combining high end materials and production technology with direct creative development with musicians to deliver a truly innovative portfolio of bowed instrument strings. Innovative ideas lead to the continual development of the product range.



HANDMADE STRINGS SINCE 1919

Thomastik – Infeld GmbH

Diehlsgasse 27,
1050 Vienna,
Austria

T +43 (0) 1 545126

info@thomastik-infeld.com

www.thomastik-infeld.com

THOMASTIK – INFELD GMBH

Which string can tame the wolf tone and which one is the most corrosion resistant? Find the strings that suit you best – whether they offer special sound qualities or are designed to solve a problem.

With more than 100 years of experience in string development, Thomastik-Infeld GmbH offers handmade strings for all string instruments. Since 1919, Thomastik-Infeld has been developing and manufacturing modern, high-tech strings for stringed instruments such as the violin, viola, cello, and double bass, as well as for plucked instruments and world music instruments such as the guitar, mandolin, erhu, and oud.

SINFONIMA[®]

Susanne Rahn

Director of SINFONIMA[®]

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T +49 (0) 621 457 4861

SINFONIMA[®]

Mannheimer Versicherung AG developed a policy specifically for musical instruments as early as 1900. Today, under the SINFONIMA[®] brand, it is Germany's leading instrument insurer and offers comprehensive insurance coverage for classical musical instruments and the instrument-making trade. SINFONIMA processes more than 5,000 claims annually. The experience gained from these claims helps the company continuously refine its insurance benefits and policy terms—to the benefit of its customers.



A GLIMPSE INTO THE WORKSHOP

Throughout the Kronberg Violin Making Biennale and the Kronberg Festival, master violin makers Ekkard and Ferdinand Seidl from Markneukirchen will relocate their workshops to the Kronberg Stadthalle. Dominik Josef Wlk from London and master bow maker Daniel and C. Jochen Schmidt from Dresden will open their workshops at the Recepturhof in Kronberg.

**SEPTEMBER 29 –
OCTOBER 2 '26**

Daily 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

STADTHALLE
KRONBERG

C. JOCHEN SCHMIDT

RECEPTURHOF
KRONBERG

C. DANIEL SCHMIDT

**SEPTEMBER 29 –
OCTOBER 4 '26**

Daily 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

RECEPTURHOF
KRONBERG

DOMINIK J. WLK

OCTOBER 2–4 '26

Daily 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

RECEPTURHOF
KRONBERG

C. JOCHEN SCHMIDT



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01219 Dresden,
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c.daniel.schmidt@t-online.de

C. DANIEL SCHMIDT

Born in Klingenthal, in the Musikwinkel region of the Vogtland, C. Daniel Schmidt began an apprenticeship as a bow maker with his father, C. Hans-Karl Schmidt, in Dresden. After winning his first gold medals and obtaining his master craftsman's certificate, he spent several years travelling and working in Amnon Weinstein's violin-making workshop in Tel Aviv. He has had his own workshop in Dresden since 1996. C. Daniel Schmidt is a member of the Dresden Musical Instrument Makers' Guild, President of the German Violin Makers' Association and a representative of the 'Entente International des Luthiers et Archetiers'. He was appointed to the jury of the international Etienne Vatelot Violin and Bow Competition. In addition to crafting new bows for violins, violas and cellos, restoration and repair work form an integral part of his practice.



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10 Lionswood, N1 1DW,
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DOMINIK J. WLK

Before he began his training at the Mittenwald Violin Making School, Dominik J. Wlk had already built his first violin himself in his grandparents' carpentry workshop. Following apprenticeships in workshops across Europe and several years' work at Erben Geigenbau in Munich, he was awarded his master craftsman's certificate and the German Government's Gold Medal. Since then, he has been Stefan-Peter Greiner's sole assistant in London. He is also head of the workshop at W.E. Hill & Sons. His work is inspired by the shapes and colours found in nature, to which he feels a strong connection, and by the finest examples of Italian violin making, to which he has had access throughout his career.

You can find C. Jochen Schmidt's CV on p.17.

LECTURES & MORE

PRESENTATION

TUESDAY,

SEPTEMBER 29 26

2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Feldbergsaal

HAYDN'S CELLO CONCERTOS — A CHALLENGE NOT ONLY FOR THE PER- FORMERS

DR. NORBERT GERTSCH (MANAGING DIRECTOR PUBLISHING,
G. HENLE VERLAG)

Haydn's masterpieces for cello and orchestra present challenges not only to the musicians on stage. For centuries, researchers and editors have grappled with fundamental questions: How often was Haydn's famous name misused for forgeries? And how reliable is the musical text that has been handed down—are we really hearing what Haydn intended? Join us in search of possible answers.

The presentation will be held in English.

PRESENTATION

TUESDAY,

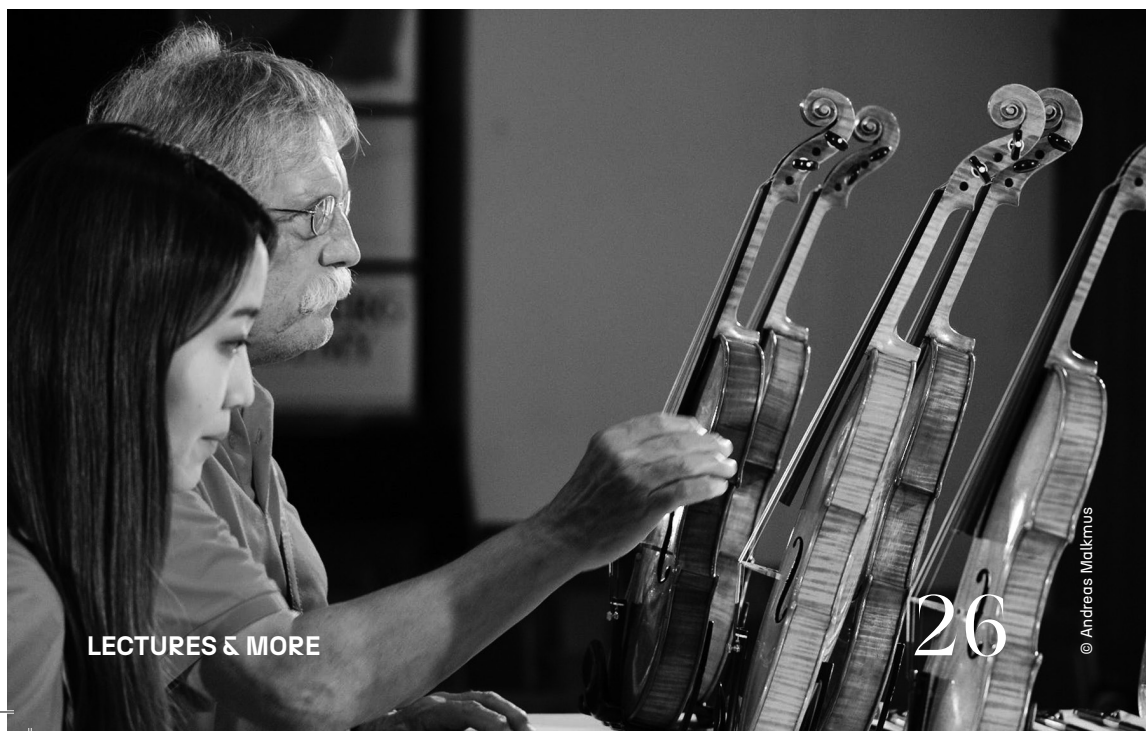
SEPTEMBER 29 26

4.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Herzbergsaal

1/2, 3/4 CHILDREN'S INSTRUMENT PRESENTATION

conTakt-Junior e.V. will be introducing and demonstrating a selection of children's string instruments in 1/2, 3/4 sizes and will be comparing them regarding sound, volume, resonance and design.



PRESENTATION

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 30 26

11.15 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Feldbergsaal

INSTRUMENT PRESENTATION

JENS PETER MAINTZ (CELLO PROFESSOR)

Soloist, chamber musician and Cello professor Jens Peter Maintz will take on the exciting task of selecting cello instruments from exhibiting violin makers at this year's Geigenbau Biennale Kronberg and will introduce, demonstrate and compare them regarding sound, volume, resonance and design.

PRESENTATION

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 30 26

2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Feldbergsaal

HOW CAN I OPTIMISE MY INSTRUMENT?

DR. ING. THOMAS ZWIEG (LARSEN STRINGS A/S)

Dr. Ing. Thomas Zwieg, chief developer at string manufacturer Larsen Strings A/S, offers insights into how the instrument, strings, bow, and bowing technique interact with one another, and what you can do yourself to influence the response, articulation, volume, and timbre of your string instrument.

The presentation will be held in English and is open to participants in the cello master classes as well as interested visitors.

RECITAL

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 1 26

11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Feldbergsaal

SOUND SAMPLE - QUARTET

Artists and maestros performing at this year's Kronberg Festival "Courage!", are challenged to choose string instruments from the large range of violin makers, exhibiting at this year's Geigenbau Biennale Kronberg and perform a sound sample Quartet.

PRESENTATION

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 1 26

2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Feldbergsaal

BETWEEN CONSERVATION AND THE CON- CERT HALL – PERNAMBUCO BOWS UNDER NEW CITES REGULATIONS

THOMAS M. GERBETH (MASTER BOW MAKER)

Pernambuco (*Paubrasilia echinata*) is a critically endangered tree species from Brazil. Its wood is prized for its stability, flexibility, and low weight, making it the primary material for crafting bows for string instruments.

Stricter CITES regulations for Pernambuco wood have introduced new rules governing international trade and sales within the EU. However, the species' protection status remains unchanged; it has been under special protection since 2007. This presentation examines the implications for bow makers, musicians, the trade sector, and international travel. It focuses on the practical consequences regarding documentation, ownership, and transfer, as well as how species conservation can be reconciled with the responsible preservation of the art of bow making.

Master bow maker Thomas M. Gerbeth from Vienna is committed to the conservation and sustainable future of Pernambuco. Through the International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative, he brings together species conservation, traditional bow making, and scientific research. His work focuses on projects in Brazil that promote the preservation, reforestation, and responsible use of this essential tree species for bow making.

The presentation will be delivered in German with English headings and explanatory notes.

PRESENTATION

SEPTEMBER 29 –

OCTOBER 2 26

daily 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

STADTHALLE KRONBERG,
Main Hall

SINFONIMA INSTRUMENT AUCTION

Sinfonima will be auctioning string instruments and bows throughout the course of the Violin Making Fair in Kronberg. Bidders can hand in their bid in writing at the Sinfonima booth until Friday October 2, 6.00 p.m.. Terms and conditions can be retrieved at the Sinfonima booth. The successful bidders will be contacted directly after auction closing at 6.00 p.m. on October 2, 2026.

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UPCOMING MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 17 26

TABEA ZIMMERMANN -
60 - AN DIE MUSIK

Geburtstagskonzerte

OCTOBER 25 26

WERKSTATT KONZERT

Mit Musik Miteinander

NOVEMBER 10 26

SOLOMON'S KNOT - SINGET BACH

Chorwelten

NOVEMBER 21 26

ANTJE WEITHAAS -
60 - AUS DEM INNERSTEN

Geburtstagskonzerte

DECEMBER 4 26

FEUER, FANTASIE, FOLKLORE

Concerti Brillanti

DECEMBER 18 & 19 26

PASTORALE DI NATALE -
WEIHNACHTSKONZERT

Christmas Concert

OCTOBER 16 26

KATHARINA KONRADI -
WASSER, WINTER, WUNDER

Lied im Casals Forum

OCTOBER 24 26

OMER KLEIN & THE POETICS

Jazz@Casals

NOVEMBER 7 26

CHRISTIAN TETZLAFF -
60 - AUS DER MITTE

Geburtstagskonzerte

NOVEMBER 18 26

MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN -
GLOCKEN & SCHATTEN

Klavier Solo

NOVEMBER 27 – 29 26

JÁNOŠKA ENSEMBLE

FreundschaftsSpiele

DECEMBER 17 26

“LIEBER SCHUBERT“ VI

Schubert-Zyklus

DECEMBER 20 26

MUSIKALISCHE ZEITREISE

Kids@Casals



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Phone 0 61 73 – 78 33 77

Hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10.00 a.m.–1.00 p.m.

Wed 3.00 p.m.–6.00 p.m.

STAY UP TO DATE

Sign up for our newsletter:

www.kronbergacademy.de/newsletter



GEIGENBAU BIENNALE KRONBERG

31

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