

A viola bow by Bernard Walke, Ottawa, Ontario c. 2000

Catalogue Number RKT-0802

\$2,200

Branded: “BERNARD P. WALKE”

Repairs: There are no visible repairs.

Condition: This bow is in excellent condition with almost no wear.

Comments: This is a good looking and well made bow which we are offering for sale well below the price of a new bow from Bernard as the present owner is anxious to sell it. It is slightly light for a viola bow and flexible. It may suit a violinist who also plays a small viola when requested.



Courtesy of the Ottawa
Citizen

Biography: Bernard Walke’s interest in bow making was sparked by his predilection for classical and Celtic music for violin. His twin brother Gregory also had a hand in his taking up the profession. In 1974, the two brothers had the opportunity to meet John Doherty, a renowned Irish fiddler, in a Donegal pub. The musician's playing and their sustained contact with Irish and Scottish music encouraged the brothers to take up the violin.

In 1980, back from a stint as a biologist in Nigeria, Walke set about learning the bow maker's craft, at the insistence of his brother, who had since become a luthier. For two years, Bernard apprenticed under Peter Mach, a luthier and bow maker in Aylmer, Quebec. During this time, he also met Dominik Zuchowicz, who taught him about early music and the construction of viols, which sparked his interest in making baroque bows. He opened a workshop in Toronto in 1982 and studied early French and English bows. In 1984, Bernard Walke settled in Ottawa, where he makes bows for modern violins and for baroque instruments.

Walke is a biologist by training, and his concern for the environment has led him to question the use of "living" materials, from animal or plant sources, to build musical instruments and other objects. Cow horn offers an interesting alternative to ivory and tortoiseshell, traditional bow-making materials whose use is now banned...”

- From the web page of the Canadian Museum of Civilization

Information on Bernard Walke can be found here:

<http://walkebows.com/>

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/paul.mckay/page16.html>

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A viola bow by Bernard Walke, branded: “BERNARD P. WALKE”

Description: This bow has an octagonal stick of red-brown pernambucco wood with a silver tip face and silver wire grip. It has a silver mounted ebony frog with a mother of pearl slide and a Parisian eye. The adjuster is covered in silver. This bow is in excellent condition and shows no repairs.

Weight: 69 grams

Balance point: 24.5 cm. from the adjuster

June 20, 2010