

## An unlabeled Italian violin, c.1875

Catalogue Number: RKT-0061      \$25,000

This unlabeled violin is from northern Italy c. 1875 in our opinion. It is made of native Italian wood with some visible worm damage and extensive wear from playing. The energetic arching and bold edgework of the front give it visual and tonal interest. The workmanship of the corners and especially the scroll are not masterful, but overall good wood and good design combine to produce a dependable dynamic instrument. It is slightly small in string length and rib height.

**Restoration in 2008/2009:** An end-check in the lower treble bout of the back was cleaned and closed. Edges cracks were cleaned and closed. The ribs were shortened at both lower corners and at the top block. Both end blocks were replaced. The arching of the front was corrected, especially at the sound post and the wing of the treble sound hole. In the front, the area of the sound post was patched, as were both wings of the sound holes and the end block areas. Old parchment repairs below treble sound hole were removed and new cleats were fitted to strengthen cracks. A repair label was inserted with RKT-0061 and dated January 2009. The peg holes were bushed with a spiral bushing of the D peg hole to repair a crack. A new neck was grafted with a new fingerboard and pegs. The varnish was extensively re-touched.



**Repairs:** There are numerous old repairs to the front and a complete restoration has just been done in our shop. There is also an old through-patch of the front at the top block. The button of the back has been replaced. The bass side rib of the upper bout is a replacement.

**Condition:** This violin is in excellent restored condition and all work is guaranteed by our shop.

**Comments:** This violin is slightly small in its dimensions and seems agile and powerful to play. It has a clear bright voice that projects well.

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**Description:** This instrument has a one-piece maple back showing fine flame running horizontally across the back. The sides are of completely plain wood, the upper bass side bout apparently being a more recent replacement. The head is of plain poplar. It is grafted to a new neck of maple showing moderate flame. The front is of two pieces of spruce showing medium grain becoming very fine at the centre joint. The wood of both front and back shows old worm damage that has been repaired. The varnish is of a light brown colour over a yellow ground and is in good condition, showing much wear from playing and re-touching. The fittings are of rosewood. There are numerous old repairs to the front and a complete restoration has just been done in our shop. There is an old through-patch of the front at the top block and the button of the back was also replaced.

**Back Measurements:**

Length: 356 mm.    Upper bout: 165 mm.    Middle bout: 109 mm.    Lower bout: 208 mm.

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010