

An 18th century Tyrolean violin

Catalogue Number: RKT-0260

\$9,500

Labeled: With an indistinct handwritten label. It appears to be written in Austrian in an archaic hand, but few of the words can be deciphered other than 'geigenmacher' and the apparent date of 1730.

Tyrolean instruments are usually quite freely made and follow the influences of Jacob Stainer with fairly high arching of front and back. The details of edges and corners of this instrument were quite carelessly done by the maker, but show an interesting character. One can easily see that the corners are very asymmetrical. The scroll is slightly small with an open throat and quite beautiful, which suggests the maker was a skilled wood carver.

The present owner says that it came to him from his wife's aunt who played it in the Vancouver Symphony about 60 years ago.

Repairs: This instrument has seen many repairs over its long history and many of them have been re-done or improved upon in our recent restoration. There are several repaired cracks in the front as well as a sound post patch and a new bass bar. There is a patch in the back where it rests on the shoulder of the player. This was necessary because the maker had left the back very thin in this area. The neck graft is quite old and well done. The neck has been re-set and the button enlarged with an ebony crown. The peg holes have been bushed and the pegs re-fit. The varnish has been extensively retouched. The asymmetry of the body of this violin makes restoration and setup challenging as it is not clear where the center line is.

Condition: This instrument is in very good condition after extensive restoration in our shop. All repairs are completely guaranteed.

Comments: This violin seems quite light as one would expect with such an ancient instrument. The neck is particularly narrow and will suit those with a small hand. Also the string length is just slightly short. The sound is sweet and gaining in fullness as the instrument is getting used to being played again.

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Description: This instrument has a one piece maple back showing medium flame descending from treble to bass. The sides are of similar wood and the head and grafted neck are of plainer material. The front is of two pieces of spruce showing fine grain and becoming broader towards the edges. The fittings are of rosewood. The varnish is of a dark red colour over a yellow ground, in good condition and showing extensive wear and retouching. There are several repaired cracks in the front as well as a sound post patch and a new bass bar. There is a patch in the back where it rests on the shoulder of the player. The neck has been re-set and the button enlarged with an ebony crown. The peg holes have been bushed and the original head grafted to a new neck.

Back measurements:

Length: 353mm. Upper bout: 163mm. Middle bout: 109mm. Lower bout: 202mm.

May 4th, 2010