

A violin by Geoffrey Ovington, 2009

Catalogue Number: RKT-0897

\$11,500

Labeled: "Geoffrey Ovington, New York 2009"



Geoffrey Ovington began making instruments in 1973 under the guidance of James Coggin. Working with a Manhattan based dealer and restorer; he advanced his acquaintance with fine Italian, French and English instruments and with classic French bows. The Ovington violin shop is now located in the Adirondack foothills north of New York City. Violins from his bench have found homes in venues as diverse as the Austrian Radio Orchestra to the Bennington String Quartet. An Ovington violin was awarded a Silver Medal at the International Competition of the



Violin Society of America at Oakland in 1994.



Geoffrey Ovington is the only American luthier ever commissioned by the Vienna Philharmonic to make instruments for that orchestra (3 violas in 1991). Other European orchestras in which Ovington violins, violas and cellos are played include the Royal Concertgebouw of Amsterdam, the opera orchestra of La Scala, the South German Radio Philharmonic, the Linz Bruckner Orchestra, the Malmo Symphony, Bergen Symphony and the chamber orchestras Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie and the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra.

Orchestras in the United States where Ovington instruments are played include the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the Los Angeles Chamber Symphony. To working string players these are prestigious venues, the places where many conservatory players dream of someday playing. String quartets who have used instruments from Ovington's bench are the Lafayette and (formerly) the Colorado as well as the Prima Vera and Fransiscan quartets.

An Ovington violin, viola or cello is crafted with great care and attention to detail. Geoffrey crafts instruments using time honored violin maker's classic methods. Each instrument must meet the high standards of Geoffrey himself before it is ever heard in public. He has been awarded numerous prestigious awards, including the Viola Tone Award and a Silver Medal awarded in International Competitions of the Violin Society of America.

- From: <http://www.ovingtonviolins.com/>

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Description: This instrument has a two piece maple back showing broad flame descending from the centre joint. The sides are of similar material, while the neck is slightly plainer. The front is of two pieces of spruce showing medium grain. The fittings are of rosewood. The varnish is of a dark orange/brown colour over a yellow ground and in very good condition. There are no visible repairs.

Condition: This violin is in new condition. The fittings are original from the maker.

Comments: This violin has a strong, rich sound which will develop with age and playing and even now compares well with old instruments. We have had four Ovington violins at the shop and we feel this is one of the best. It is light in weight yet big in tone and dark in the lower register. We are pleased with how Geoffrey's work and his varnish have developed over the years.

Back measurements:

Length: 355mm. Upper bout: 168mm. Middle bout: 110 mm. Lower bout: 207mm.

May 4th, 2010