

Basic Detail Report



Viola d'amore

Date

1693

Primary Maker

Giovanni Grancino

Description

This fanciful instrument may be an early form of viola d'amore. In addition to the more famous eighteenth century models with metal sympathetic strings running under the fingerboard, versions of the instrument influenced by the Hamburg style may have had only five bowed strings. Two other Grancino instruments of this design survive, another of this dimension in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and a viola in the Museum of Musical Instruments in Milan. 5 bowed strings festooned outline Top: two-piece, quarter-cut spruce: very fine grain broadening to medium at the edges Back: two-piece, slab-cut maple: plain; joint not centered with body outline Ribs: slab-cut maple: plain; saw marks visible on outside Head and neck: maple: plain; slightly reangled at the heel; back of pegbox not fluted Varnish: dark orange-brown with craquelure Fingerboard: ebony-veneered black-painted spruce; tapered Nut: bone Tailpiece: ebony; later Tailgut: black gut; later Pegs: five

medium brown hardwood; concave head faces; later Saddle: ebony; extends into upper rib; later Endpin: dark red-brown hardwood F-holes: curved, tapered wings Linings: none; linen linings at lower inverted corners Corner blocks: spruce upper Top block: willow or poplar; three iron nails through top block into neck heel Bottom block: willow or poplar; narrow Bassbar: spruce; possibly later

Dimensions

Total viola d'amore length: 595 mm Back length: 365 mm Upper bout width: 185 mm Center bout width: 116 mm Lower bout width: 216 mm Upper rib height: 29-32 mm Center rib height: 29-32 mm Lower rib height: 29-32 mm Stop length: 216 mm Vibrating string length: 345 mm Neck length (bottom of nut to ribs): 131 mm (current, possibly 122 originally)