



Child's violoncello

Date

1793

Primary Maker

Ferdinando Gagliano

Description

This remarkably well preserved small cello may be completely original down to the bridge. Wear on the instrument suggests that it was truly used by a child, as opposed to an adult playing a small instrument at higher pitch. The fine workmanship suggests use by a wealthy child or recognized child prodigy, as the instrument would have been higher quality than average. Top: one-piece, quarter-cut spruce: wide grain Back: two-piece, semi-slab-cut maple: faint, narrow curl Ribs: quarter-cut maple: narrow curl, slightly angled to right; corners chamfered Head and neck: maple: plain; pegbox with shoulders Varnish: dark red-brown Purfling; continues in front of saddle Fingerboard: black-painted spruce veneered with ebony; tapered; small notches at joint with neck heel Nut: ebony Tailpiece: two decorative incised lines around outline of face; tailgut passes through holes drilled in face

Tailgut: black gut Pegs: black-painted boxwood with concave, undercut heads and short stems Saddle: ebony; flush with edges; shallow; trapezoidal extension with concave sides passes into lower rib; finished with same varnish as body Endpin: rosewood F-holes: channeled lower wings Linings: maple Corner blocks: spruce Top block: spruce; narrow Bottom block: spruces; bevelled corners Bridge: early, possibly original bridge; teardrop-shaped heart; low feet, lower edge terminates in point

Dimensions

Total child's violoncello length: 822 mm Back length: 503 mm Upper bout width: 247 mm Center bout width: 166 mm Lower bout width: 307 mm Upper rib height: 62-64 mm Center rib height: 64-66 mm Lower rib height: 65-66 mm Stop length: 277 mm Vibrating string length: 463 mm Neck length (bottom of nut to ribs): 185 mm