

Basic Detail Report



Viola

Date

1650-1665 ca.

Primary Maker

Jacob Stainer

Description

This very large instrument is preserved in its original dimensions, with original neck, inlaid maple fingerboard, and head reattached in the twentieth century. The instrument had been modernized, but the original components preserved, and it was restored by its previous owner Walter Hamma. Dendrochronology was performed on the instrument by Micha Beuting and Peter Klein in conjunction with the Jakob Stainer exhibition at Schloss Ambras, Austria, in 2003. The tree rings visible on the viola are between 1336 and 1625. Top: one-piece, quarter-cut spruce: fine-to-medium grain Back: two-piece, quarter-cut maple: narrow curl, ascending asymmetrically from the center joint Ribs: quarter-cut maple: narrow curl Head and neck: maple: narrow curl; original neck had been removed and reinstalled in twentieth century; pegbox with shoulders Varnish: light orange-brown Fingerboard: maple with narrow curl; inlaid with geometric

purfling pattern, with purfling along sides; short; tapered; notch at neck heel position Nut: snakewood; later Tailpiece: maple with narrow curl; inlaid with geometric purfling pattern, with purfling along sides; maple saddle; key-shaped string holes; tailgut passes through holes drilled in face; later Tailgut: plain gut Pegs: four boxwood with undercut heads and integral pins; later Saddle: ebony; later Endpin: boxwood with large ebony eye; later F-holes: strongly curved wings Linings: light hardwood with open pores and visible rays; set into corner blocks in center bout Corner blocks: spruce Top block: spruce; later Bottom block: spruce; later Bassbar: spruce; later

Dimensions

Total viola length: 710 mm Back length: 466 mm (18-3/8") Upper bout width: 225 mm Center bout width: 150 mm Lower bout width: 272 mm Upper rib height: 43-44 mm Center rib height: 44-45 mm Lower rib height: 43-45 mm Stop length: 259 mm Vibrating string length: 396 mm Neck length (bottom of nut to ribs): 137 mm