



Viola

Date

1690 ca.

Primary Maker

Frantz Straub

Description

This viola is made in the tradition of the Alemannic school, a seventeenth century tradition of makers located in the Black Forest. They feature decorative inlays and archaic construction techniques. Top: two-piece, quarter-cut spruce: fine grain Back: one-piece, quarter-cut maple: narrow curl descending from treble to bass; maple pins through back into top block, through button into neck heel, and through back into bottom block; later maple button cap Ribs: quarter-cut maple: narrow curl; one-piece lower rib; cut corners Head and neck: maple: faint, narrow curl; first turn of scroll volute deeply recessed from pegbox; narrow purfling inlaid around outside edges of side of pegbox; later, made by Andrew Dipper, 2000 Arching: very high and full Decoration: heart and geometric knot inlay at edges of each bout of top contiguous with purfling; heart and knot geometric inlay in upper bout of back descending from purfling edge at top Varnish: dark red-brown Fingerboard: boxwood with narrow geometric knots and heart purfling inlay; short; decoratively cut lower end; tapered; notch at neck heel position; channeled over neck position, later, made by Andrew Dipper, 2000 Nut: ebony; later, made by Andrew Dipper, 2000 Tailpiece: boxwood with narrow geometric knots and heart purfling inlay; tailgut passes through holes drilled in face; later, made by Andrew Dipper, 2000 Tailgut: silver wire; later Pegs: fruitwood; undercut heads;

integral eyes; later, made by Andrew Dipper, 2000 Saddle: ebony; extends into lower rib; later Endpin: fruitwood with decoratively turned head: later, made by Andrew Dipper, 2000 F-holes: long; strongly curved wings; undercut Linings: spruce Corner blocks: spruce Top block: spruce; later Bottom block: spruce; later Bassbar: spruce; later

Dimensions

Total viola length: 673 mm Back length: 418 mm Upper bout width: 199 mm Center bout width: 129 mm
Lower bout width: 230 mm Upper rib height: 32-35 mm Center rib height: 34-36 mm Lower rib height: 35-
36 mm Stop length: 219 mm Vibrating string length: 366 mm Neck length (bottom of nut to ribs): 146 mm