

Basic Detail Report



Violoncello

Date

1977 - 1978

Primary Maker

Kurt Lothar Meisel

Description

Lothar Meisel states that this is the only violoncello he has made (Interview, 7/7/03); The bird on the label represents the family branch, known as the "Bird" Meisels. This instrument won a Certificate of Merit, Cello Workmanship from the Violin Society of America in 1978 at La Jolla, California. Lothar made different price levels of instruments when he starting his business in the U. S. A. (from ca. 1957). The lowest level was \$350, with one location pin, or dowel, through the back at the top block, and one at the bottom block. The middle grade was \$550, with one pin through the back into the top block, and two into the bottom block. The highest grade was \$800, and included the two upper and two lower pin configuration. Quality level was no longer tied to the pin configuration after ca. 1967. (Interview with Lothar Meisel, 7/7/03 and 7/30/03) Lothar Meisel confirmed that the linings, corner blocks, and bottom blocks on his violins are made from basswood, 5/03. The pernambuco strip between the lower ribs are from wood he found in a scrap pile near Reinhold Schnabl's workshop in Bubenreuth, Germany. The wood of the back is from the Carpathian Mountains. (Telephone

conversation 7/30/03) Top: two-piece, quarter-cut spruce: medium grain broadening to wide at the flanks Back: two-piece, quarter-cut maple: medium curl descending from center joint; maple dowel through back into top block; two maple dowels through back into bottom block, one on each side of center joint, spaced 27 mm apart Ribs: quarter-cut maple: prominent, irregular broad curl angled to right on bass side, angled to left on treble side; lower ribs divided by wide pernambuco strip; rib corners chamfered Head and neck: maple: prominent, broad curl; pegbox with shoulders; inside of pegbox stained black Edging: full, rounded edges Purfling: maple and pearwood, according to Lothar Meisel Varnish: medium orange; wood texture visible through varnish, resulting in a matte effect Fingerboard: ebony; subtly raised area along center, lower end; made by Josef Klier, Bubenreuth, originally from Schönbach Nut: ebony Tailpiece: black plastic

with four built in black-painted steel fine tuners Tailgut: steel wire Pegs: four rosewood with ivory pins; undercut heads; made by Emil Lorenz, Bubenreuth, originally from Schönbach Saddle: ebony Endpin: black plastic and nickel-plated steel; extendable F-holes: steeply pointed wings; lower wings channeled; inside edge stained black Linings: basswood Corner blocks: spruce Top block: spruce Bottom block: basswood Other: spruce cleats along inside of top center joint in upper and lower bouts; maple cleats along inside of back center joint in upper and lower bouts; inside of body stained light brown

Dimensions

Total violoncello length: 1235 mm Back length: 766 mm Upper bout width: 357 mm Center bout width: 247 mm Lower bout width: 450 mm Upper rib height: 115-119 mm Center rib height: 118-119 mm Lower rib height: 119-120 mm Stop length: 407 mm Vibrating string length: 696 mm Neck length (bottom of nut to ribs): 293 mm