



## Chitarra battente

### Date

1680-1730 ca.

### Description

The chitarra battente was a type of wire-strung guitar that became widely used in the eighteenth century. Many earlier gut-strung instruments were also converted to accommodate this fashion, including shortening the neck, creating a bend in the top like found on the Neapolitan mandolin, and attaching the metal strings to pins in the lower rib. While the maker of this instrument has not yet been identified, it bears a brand similar to those found on several other Italian guitars, each with initials ending in G. Stringing: five steel courses, the lower four triple and the upper one double Top: two-piece spruce: fine grain; joint is on bass third of top; wood of top extends 52 mm over neck; inlaid with single strips of bone and black-stained brown hardwood at edge; bend just behind bridge position Back: arched shape with 17 fluted yew ribs interspersed with black-stained brown hardwood strips; inside of back lined with paper printed with Latin text Ribs: 7 yew ribs interspersed with black-stained brown hardwood strips; ribs divided at endpin yew strip surrounded on each side by black-stained brown hardwood; holes drilled in ribs at

narrowest point on each side; five iron wire string hooks set into rib near joint with top Head: poplar with ebony veneer and ebony and bone vine marquetry on face, ebony and bog oak and bone checkerboard marquetry on back; hole drilled through head at upper end Neck: poplar; veneered with bog oak and bone checkerboard marquetry surrounded on each side by black wood and bone reverse color purfling strips and ebony bands at edge Fingerboard: black oak with single bone strip inlay at each side; 10 brass bar frets Nut: bone; later by Gary Stewart Bridge: black-stained maple; later bone saddle by Gary Stewart; evidence of moustaches, now missing; later Pegs: 14 ebony with integral pins; later by Gary Stewart End button: medium brown hardwood, broken off at rib surface; remains of tan, fibrous material affixed to joint with rib Rose: five-tiered parchment rose with leather sides; painted orange and gold; parchment possibly recycled as some red lines not corresponding with pattern are visible under paint Rosette: mother-of-pearl ovals and diamonds set in black mastic, surrounded with bone and black-stained hardwood strips, with additional black-stained brown hardwood and bone ring outside central rosette; soundhole edge bevelled

and stained black Neck block: probably poplar, 2mm thick two iron nails with round heads through neck block into neck heel End block: probably poplar, 2mm thick Top braces: pine fillet, 25 by 13 by 3 mm at joint between neck block and top; two roughly cut pine ladder braces with tapered ends, 10 mm above and 25 mm below soundhole; bars 25 mm high at center, 6 mm high at ends, 8 mm wide at joint with top, and 3 mm wide on other end Top decoration: Bone, mother-of-pearl, and tortoise-shell floral inlay set in black mastic inlaid in top between bridge and lower end of guitar

### **Dimensions**

Overall length: 922 mm Body length: 450 mm Upper bout width: 203 mm Center bout width: 174 mm Lower bout width: 241 mm Neck length: 264 mm Neck width at nut: 46 mm Neck width at body: 53 mm Head length: 205 mm Head width at nut: 55 mm Head width at top: 54 mm Head depth: 12.5 mm Body depth at neck heel: 72 mm Body depth at center bout: 124 mm Body depth at end: 81 mm Rose diameter: 77.9 mm Vibrating string length: 690 mm