

Viola d'amore

Date

1700-1800 ca.

Description

This viola d'amore was restored and modified in the late 19th or early twentieth century, perhaps by a guitar or mandolin maker, as suggested by the materials. Seven bowed strings and seven sympathetic strings

Top: three-piece, quarter-cut spruce: fine grain toward edges and wide at center; center section of top in one piece with wings in lower bouts of top

Back: two-piece, slab-cut maple: very broad curl descending steeply from bass to treble with much ripping across grain; break in upper bout; blackstained hardwood center strip; back bound in black-stained hardwood; whole back lined in open-pored light tropical hardwood

Ribs: slab-cut maple: very broad, very irregular curl; upper and lower ribs overlap center ribs

Head: maple; female head with ribbon and flowers in hair; veneered with tortoiseshell on faces

Neck: mahogany or Spanish cedar; grafted; later

Arching: high and full on front; flat on back with break in upper half

Purfling: very light outer strips on top; none on back

Varnish: golden; later

Fingerboard: light tropical hardwood with open pores; tapered; notch at neck heel position; later

Nut: bone; later

Tailpiece: light tropical hardwood veneered with tortoiseshell; flat; later

Tailgut: bone hook holding tailpiece; four iron pins in lower bout holding sympathetic strings

Pegs: 14 boxwood; small heads; integral pins; probably later

Saddle: ebony; set into top; later

Soundholes: flame shaped; rose set into top under fingerboard, made from undetermined material

Linings: light tropical hardwood with open pores; wide; later

Corner blocks: spruce; possibly later

Top block: spruce; later

Bottom block: spruce; later

Bassbar: spruce; wide;



low; later Back bracing: wide spruce brace in center bout

at soundpost position; tapered spruce brace in upper bout and two tapered spruce braces in lower bout

Dimensions

Total viola d'amore length: 855 mm Back length: 410 mm Upper bout width: 191 mm Center bout width: 122 mm Lower bout width: 240 mm Upper rib height: 37-43 mm Center rib height: 43-44 mm Lower rib height: 44-45 mm Stop length: 210 mm Vibrating string length: 356 mm Neck length (bottom of nut to ribs): 143 mm