

# LEARNING TRADE SECRETS WORKSHOPS

Oil Varnish 101

February 3-8, 2019

Suggested Enrollment Cap: 15

## Course Information

**Course Description:** This course will have a dual purpose: first, to understand the components of an oil varnish for violin: white work, wood color, ground color, varnish and polishing; the materials we use and how they interact with one another to produce a satisfying and saleable instrument. And second, to learn how to apply these materials to get consistent results. Each day will be divided between discussion, demonstration, and application.

**Course Objective:** Participants should not expect to get their instrument(s) completely varnished during the course, however it is possible, but not probable. Rather, it is important to learn to be comfortable with the methods and procedures of oil varnishing.

### Discussions will include:

- ◆ Wood color prior to grounding.
- ◆ Ground methods and their pros and cons: balsam ground, mineral ground, protein ground, shellac and spirit grounds, and varnish as a ground.
- ◆ What is oil varnish? Components and varnish making.
- ◆ Varnish coloring, including colored varnish and pigments.
- ◆ Polishing effects using a variety of materials.
- ◆ What does a “good” violin varnish job look like?

## Demonstration and Participant Application

- ◆ Applying varnish: brushing and stippling
- ◆ Applying color
- ◆ What to do between coats
- ◆ Edgework and other details
- ◆ Polishing
- ◆ How do I know when it is done?

## Resource and Supplementary Materials

All shop supplies will be provided, including shellac, abrasives, solvents, gloves, polishing materials, rags, cheesecloth, pigments, and grinding set-up.

You also will be provided the following materials, which are yours to keep if they are not used up during the workshop:

- ◆ 1 oz. Dark Rosin Varnish
- ◆ 1 oz. Colored Dark Rosin Varnish
- ◆ Apron
- ◆ Brushes - Maxine's Mop 1/2" & 3/4"

Bench set-up is supplied during the workshop, including a bench light, glass plate, mixing bowls, varnish bowls, palette knife, and individual UV drying box.

## Instructor Information

**Instructor Joe Robson** is happy to answer any questions after the workshop. Please contact Joe at [Joewrobson@gmail.com](mailto:Joewrobson@gmail.com). Please check with your instructor before taking any video. No videos are allowed to be published onto the Internet without express approval from the instructor and Learning Trade Secrets.

## Participation and Instructions

**Participation:** Some students have previous experience and are attending workshops to refine their skills. New students are expected to communicate with the instructor as a learning resource, not other students.

**Punctuality:** Students are expected to arrive on time. Teaching hours are 8:00 to 5:00pm. Lunch will arrive at approximately 12:30pm. Additional evening hours may be available at the instructor's discretion.

## Course Ground Rules

**Syllabus Changes:** While every attempt has been made to prepare this syllabus and class schedule in final form, it will be at the instructor's discretion to make any changes as he/she may deem necessary in order to meet the learning outcomes of the course.

**General Policies:** The instructor expects attention to detail and meeting course expectations, including participation in discussions and addressing technical problems immediately.

**Phones:** Please be courteous to your bench partners by silencing your cell phone during work hours and taking calls outside the workshop.

**Tools:** Do not borrow tools without permission. Everyone should have all the tools and supplies they need; if not please ask your instructor.

**Safety Concerns:** A First Aid and Eye Wash Station are available should an injury occur. Please see your instructor immediately should an injury occur, and then dial 9-1-1. Any injury requires a completed Injury Form located on the clip board next to the eye wash station. Your safety and well-being is our number one priority.