

# LEARNING TRADE SECRETS WORKSHOPS

## Fundamentals of Oil Varnishing

March 1-6, 2020

Suggested Enrollment Cap: 12

### 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. What are the materials we use and how do they interact with one another to produce a satisfying and saleable instrument? And second, to learn 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, though it is possible. Rather, it is important to learn to be comfortable with the methods and procedures of oil varnishing.

#### Discussions to 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) or by phone (607) 387-9280. 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.