

LEARNING TRADE SECRETS WORKSHOPS

Classic Italian Violin Varnish

Suggested Enrollment Cap: 9

Course Information

Course Description: This course is designed as an intermediate/advanced level for makers with experience in varnishing, but who want to come away with a clearer understanding of what constitutes a Classical period violin varnish and how to apply and get consistently outstanding results.

Course Objective: Each participant should plan to bring a white violin ready for varnishing (no cellos please). Each day will focus on the key steps necessary to achieve outstanding results. At the end of the course, each participant should be able to have a professional level, fully varnished instrument. If time allows, time will also be spent discussing and demonstrating techniques and strategies for achieving antiqued and shaded effects to the varnish.

Course Topics

Discussions will include:

- Use of UV light in tanning and creating the proper base color of the wood
- Sealer and primer coatings
- Ground coating and what constitutes a ground
- Varnish materials, taken from a Classical Period perspective
- Making and mixing pigments
- Application, successful techniques and strategies in order to achieve good results
- Achieving good texture in the varnish
- Polishing and other finishing steps

Schedule and Materials

Each day will be divided into sections devoted to practical varnish techniques, as well as lectures, discussions and Q and A.

The materials fee will cover the cost of all materials necessary to varnish an instrument.

Instructor Information

Instructor Chris Germain is happy to answer any questions after the workshop. Please contact Chris at info@Germainviolins.com or by phone (215) 545-2500. 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.

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.

Course Ground Rules

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: COVID-19 is a safety concern! We realize it is difficult to work while wearing a mask, but we ask that you wear one if you are not vaccinated and be respectful of your bench mates and maintain distance. 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.