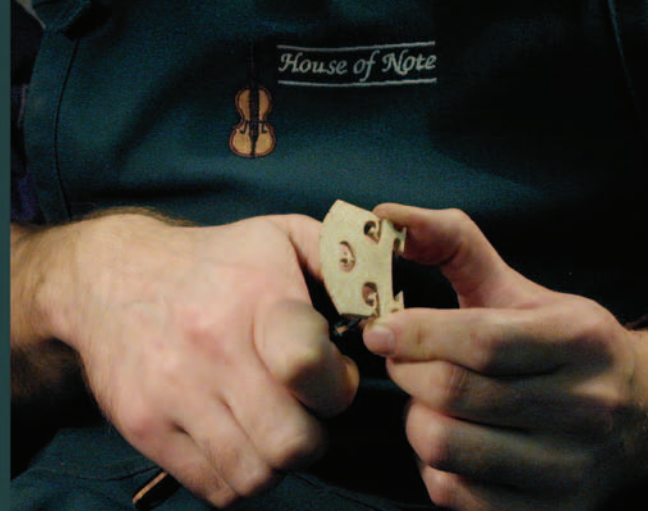




House of Note

News of Note



A Focus on Service

INSIDE: ■ Featured Instruments
■ Don't Rush to an Adjustment
■ Talent, Violin Wins it for Jennifer

House of Note News of Note | Volume One, Number 2 September 2005



House of Note Offers New Service

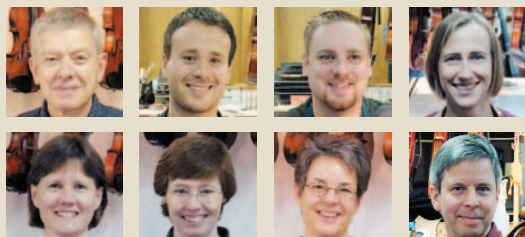
Welcome Aboard to Krasimir Bakardjiev

We are very pleased to have Krasimir Bakardjiev join us as our newest employee. Krasimir comes to us with a wealth of experience in our industry. He is an accomplished violinist having played professionally in a major orchestra and also as a local free-lancer. He has taught for many years, is skilled at violin repair and setup and is experienced in selling instruments.

Krasimir will be offering a new service for House of Note, that of "Outside Sales." If you are interested in seeing and playing some instruments in your home, at your studio, or at school, just give Krasimir a call at 612-790-0617 or call the shop at 952-929-0026 to set up an appointment.

There is no charge for this unique service which will make it much easier for the student and teacher to get together and select an instrument.

House of Note has professional musicians on staff that are eager to help you select the perfect instrument.



The friendly staff at House of Note brings experience to you with a combined total of over 100 years in the violin business.

New Violin Bow Acquisitions

Hippolyte Camille Lamy	57.5g	\$12,000
Louis Thomassin	60.8g	9,000
James Tubbs	59.8g	8,000
W.E. Hill & Sons by Sidney Yeoman	60.8g	6,000
W.E. Hill & Sons	60.2g	4,500
Hill	60.8g	4,000

Featured Violins, Cellos



Violin:
GUSTAVE ADOLPHE BERNARDEL
PARIS No. 1874
1899

House of Note
Featured Violin

Gustave Bernardel was born in 1832 and died in 1904. He had a long and successful career. He first partnered with his father Auguste Sebastien, then six years later teamed with his friend Charles Nicolas Gand forming the firm Gand et Bernardel. The Gand and Bernardel shop became the makers to the Conservatoire of music, the opera orchestras and to the Ministry of Fine Arts. In 1892 the business was solely owned by Gustave where the shop enjoyed world-wide fame. In 1900 Gustave Bernardel was conferred Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. It is one of the most prestigious French awards and the country's highest civilian honor.

Gustave Bernardel is considered perhaps one of the best French violin makers of his time, making in the rich style of Lupot. The violin has a one-piece back of highly flamed quarter-sawn maple. The top is of fine grained spruce. The varnish is red/brown over an amber base. The violin has a certificate by Warren and Son in Chicago. This violin is rich and powerful with drastic overtones. It is perfect for a professional or advanced player.

\$30,000

Stylish Ute modeling the BAM NEWTECH Cello Case

- The triple-ply shell with an Airex skeleton trapped between a film of untear-able plastic and an outside layer of sleek, metallic ABS makes the shell very resistant and rigid.
- The rigidity of the case allows fewer latches (5) and easy opening and closing.
- Suspension system made of injected and molded foam cushions, velvet lined, supporting the instrument at the levels of the neck and tail blocks.
- Injected foam suspension cushion at the endpin.

- Strap and reinforced plate for the endpin.
- Two bow holders.
- Two very comfortable, anti-slip back-pack straps, with security hooks.
- Wheels coated in rubber.
- 12 lbs. with wheels.
- Colors available: Black, Mint (pictured), Ultramarine Blue and Terracotta.

\$825 – Matching Vespa is extra



Cello:
HEINRICH GILL
BUBENREUTH No. 354
2002



This hand-graduated cello is based on a Stradivari pattern. It has a warm and silvery tone that speaks quickly. The varnish is red/brown with tasteful antiquing. It is set up with fine ebony fittings. This cello is an outstanding investment for a precocious student.

\$8,500

and Violas

If you are interested in auditioning any of our instruments or bows please phone toll free (877) 503-2181 or (952) 929-0026 for an appointment and one of our talented sales staff will be happy to assist you.

Viola: 16 1/2"

From the Workshop of Steven Tillinghast Cundall

GIORGIO LUIGI BELLOSO

VALENCIA 2005



The viola has a two-piece back of maple with narrow flame.

The top is of fine-grained spruce. The varnish is a velvety red/brown with antiquing. This

viola has a smooth and dark chocolatey sound.

\$5,000

Violin:

ALKIS S. RAPPAS

KINGWOOD, TEXAS

2004



Alkis Rappas has won several awards for his violins. His violins are very popular with musicians in Houston. This violin is built on an elegant Stradivari pattern with orange-brown varnish with an antiqued patina. The delightful sound is even and luscious.

\$10,000

Don't Rush to an Adjustment

Any stringed instrument player that lives in our climate must deal with as many variables as you can imagine. As a repairman I work with one more variable; surely the most interesting of them all—that is you, the player, with your own preferences and expectations. Quite a challenge!

After 29 years with the House of Note, I still say that the most satisfying aspect of my job is understanding you and meeting and/or surpassing your expectations. Any musician that brings their instrument in wants to improve the instrument's playability. Fortunately, I learned early on that I needed to please my customers, whose instruments all had a slightly different character. It is important to me to bring the best out of your treasured instrument.

First I must tell you that there are no secrets or tricks—nothing mysterious about a good adjustment. Any adjustment, no matter how small, will make a change—hopefully a positive one. If you can verbalize what the problem seems to be or what you hope to accomplish, your needs can be met. If you cannot tell what the problem is, then demonstrate it—play it for the staff. This communication is vital.

Here's what happens during an adjustment. I will check to see that your instrument is clean inside and out, all gluing is secure, and that neck and fingerboard are true. I'll make sure that the soundpost is of seasoned, split spruce, fitting 100% flush at the top and bottom, and that your bridge is well fit, standing perfectly vertical and centered on the top. Next is to see that everything is in good alignment, and choose a select set of strings best suited to your instrument.

After this initial set up, I will test your instrument's tone quality and response. I'll make small adjustments of the soundpost position to see where in relation to the bridge we get the best results. Then the bridge and strings are taken down again and the soundpost rechecked to see that it remains flush at the top and bottom and it is at the desired tension, always keeping in mind the time of year. A sound post set in September after a hot, humid summer will become tighter when the heating season has begun. As in a bow rehair, humidity is always an important factor in the final adjustment.

Now back to the title of this article—"Don't Rush to an Adjustment!" Most instruments will adjust to seasonal changes on their own if the change is gradual. A sudden change can "shock" an instrument into an unpleasant state that cannot be cured by simply playing with the soundpost setting. In fact, this can multiply the problem because now you have the problem compounded by an adjustment that has not helped.

Sig Hanson, a family friend whose fiddle I now play, once told me that his violin "had a cold." I thought at the time that his words were ridiculous; that his personification of his instrument was extreme. Now I understand exactly what he meant. I have had times when my own violin has had cold symptoms.

Memorial Day Weekend of 2001, I played at a festival in New Jersey. After our Minnesota winter I was out east with warm temperatures, a three-day rain and extreme humidity. My violin was not itself for at least three months afterward!

About a month ago I was rehearsing for an upcoming festival and my fiddle was really stubborn for no apparent reason. The "G" string was not responsive. First I thought it was the rosin or the bow hair. I wondered if my other bow would draw better tone out of the lower strings. I momentarily thought of bringing my own instrument to the shop the next day to mess with it, but then I thought better and didn't. Since we had several rehearsals I played my instrument as it was and played it a lot! My violin came out of its fog and I went to the festival "without any excuse."

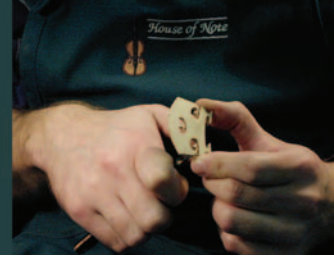
I have many regular and long-time customers and friends. I see their instruments once or twice a year for a cleaning, check over, new strings, rehair, etc. Just keeping things fresh and sounding their best. My advice is to have your instrument well set up by a professional, have it checked out yearly and then just play it — even through the cold season!

— Paul Dahlin



House of Note

News of Note



Welcome to House of Note!

We are a full-service violin shop serving the string community since 1959. House of Note searches the world over to bring you the best sounding instruments for the best value. Whether you're a beginner, professional or reacquainting yourself with the joys of playing, House of Note brings you the very best instruments, accessories, and personal service.

If you'd prefer to receive this newsletter via email, just drop us a note at info@houseofnote.com.

Hours:

**We are open: Monday – Wednesday, Friday
9:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

Thursday 9:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 – 12:00 noon (summer)

Saturday 9:30 – 3:00 p.m. (winter)

**For your convenience,
New evening hours on
Thursday until 8:00 p.m.**

**Just a few of the many services we
at House of Note have to offer:**

- INSTRUMENT AND BOW REPAIR**
- INSTRUMENT & BOW RESTORATION**
- APPRAISALS**
- TONAL ADJUSTMENTS**
- INSTRUMENT TRADE-INS**
- THE FINEST RENTAL INSTRUMENTS**

Advantages to Purchasing from House of Note:

All instruments, regardless of price, are professionally reconditioned and set up with the same care. We maintain a large selection in all price ranges under \$15,000. Home trials are available, allowing the player and teacher time to assess an instrument or bow. Written appraisals are included with all fine instrument purchases. Repairs of previously owned instruments are guaranteed for one year.

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A Remarkable Note!

In June our good friend **Jennifer Hilde**—Miss Coon Rapids was a contestant in the Miss Minnesota Contest. Jennifer **won** the talent portion of the contest playing on an electric violin made by our very own **Lyle Knudson**.

Pictured here is Jennifer holding her “red violin” and standing beside Lyle.

Congratulations to you, Jennifer, for receiving fourth runner up in the competition.