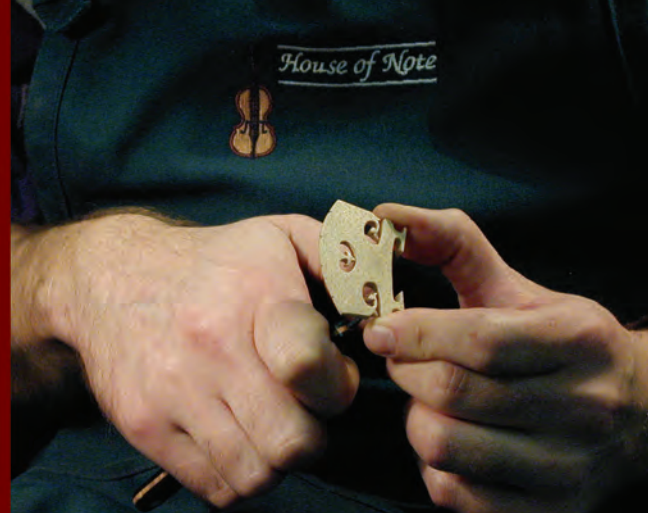




House of Note

# News of Note



Check  
Out  
Our

## New Inventory!

- INSIDE:**
- Stradivari's "Red Violin"
  - 20% Extra Off Cases in December
  - 10% Extra Off Cellos in January

House of Note News of Note | Volume Six, Number 1 December 2010



## Bow School

*Learning about our profession  
never ends*

*by Jeff Anderson*

I have always loved working on bows and have been lucky to see a lot of fine bows while working in the shop at House of Note. I've been rehairing and repairing bows for years and have always wanted to try to make one.

A few years ago I decided to give it a shot. We had a Roger Zabinski bow in the shop that I'd always admired and I tried my best to make a copy of his bow. I soon found out that I was in way over my head; I didn't know where to start or end the process. It became clear very fast that I was in need of guidance.

I contacted Roger and he told me of a school in New Hampshire that specialized in the French bow making method.

*continued on page 2*

**2 Great Sales!**  
See inside for details

# Carbon Fiber Bows at Affordable Prices

This bow is designed to meet the critical needs of the aspiring student at the most important and formative stages of their musical experience. A perfect learning tool for school music students and adult beginners alike.

The stick is made of strong carbon fiber with a black grid pattern. It comes with a nickel mounted ebony frog. These bows do not warp or crack and are very low maintenance.

Schoolteachers, be sure to call us for quantity pricing.

## Model QH445

Violin — \$120.00

Viola — \$135.00

Cello — \$150.00

Bass — \$270.00

## Bow School *continued from page 1*

Last summer I finally had the opportunity to go. When I got to the Violin Craftsmanship Institute at the University of New Hampshire we jumped right into bow making. The days were long. We were in class 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Our instructor, Lynn Hannings, has been making bows for years and studied with John Roskoski and William Salchow of New York. She also spent a year in Paris studying with Bernard Millant, a world-renowned authority on French bow making. We started carving down our sticks immediately, taking breaks here and there for lectures about the methods we were learning and some history on the old French makers. We copied bows by Eugene Sartory (1871–1946).

The process of carving a bow is very exact; it was great to learn a step-by-step method. We learned to do all of the steps by hand; no power tools. We used hand planes, knives, chisels, files and made our own drill bits. Bow making is an old tradition that has not changed much over the years. It is an extremely precise process, but one that can be done with only a few tools.

Pernambuco is the preferred hardwood for making bows. However, there is a shortage of Pernambuco trees. There are only about 1500 mature trees left in the world. Brazil and the IPCI (International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative) are in the process of replanting Pernambuco, but

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*Pernambuco is the preferred Brazilian hardwood for making bows. However, there is a shortage of Pernambuco trees; there are only about 1500 mature trees left.*

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the trees take forty years to mature. Thankfully, there is roughly a sixty-year supply of pre-cut Pernambuco in circulation. There also are alternative woods like Ipe, Bloodwood and Massaranduba that make fine bows and will be used more in the future.

The field of violin and bow making and repair is a small one and it is rare that you get the opportunity to meet and get to know people in your field from different parts of the world. It was great to be able to make those contacts. Some classmates had been making bows

for years and some, like me, had been simply working in violin shops and were interested in bow making.

I've been making bows at home and just finished my fifth violin bow. I'm now starting a cello bow. My bows are for sale at House of Note. You can see pictures of them on my Facebook page, Jeff Anderson Bows.



Above: Jeff (front, second from left) and his classmates at bow school.

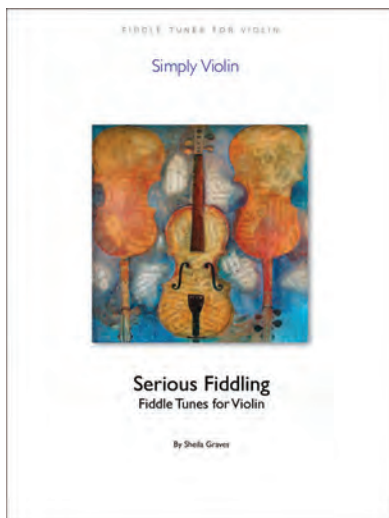
If you would like to learn more about the efforts to save the Pernambuco, check out [www.IPCI-usa.org](http://www.IPCI-usa.org).

# What's New?

## **Serious Fiddling:** Fiddle Tunes for Violin by Sheila Graves

With the help of my violinist friend, Lisa Berman, and Simply Violin, I have published a book of my fiddle arrangements called *Serious Fiddling: Fiddle Tunes for Violin*. I am honored that my arrangement of *Tom and Jerry* is being performed as an encore by the Sante Fe, New Mexico Talent Education Touring Group.

These are full length original arrangements with guitar chords of famous fiddle tunes. Warning! Not for the faint of heart. These tunes are tricky and full of double stops. This book is designed as a crossover book for a classical violinist who wants to break into the world of fiddling. It is available at House of Note and sells for \$14.95. —*Sheila Graves*



# New Inventory at House of Note

## VIOLINS:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| A Violin made by six American Makers in 1992;<br>Thomas Oliver Croen, Kurt Widenhouse, Guy Rabut,<br>Greg T. Alf, Mark Hollinger and David Folland. | \$25,000 |
| K. Lothar Meisel, Owatonna 1963   | 10,000   |
| Antonio Zavaleta, Cremona 1992  | 5,000    |
| Carl Frederic Steckelberg, Nebraska 1927  | 6,000    |

## VIOLAS:

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 16 1/2" Benjamin Ruth, New York 1996   | 20,000 |
| 16 1/2" Amos Hargrave, New York 1982   | 18,000 |
| 16 1/2" Douglas Bearden, Missouri 1984 | 10,000 |

## VIOLIN BOWS:

|                         |       |       |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Stephane Muller, France | 61.2g | 6,000 |
| A.R. Bultitude, England | 56.6g | 4,000 |
| Vlado Tilev, Bulgaria   | 61.8g | 2,400 |
| Herbert Wanka, Germany  | 60.8g | 2,000 |
| Hubert Chanon, Canada   | 59.5g | 2,000 |
| R. Dotschkail, Germany  | 58.4g | 1,800 |

## VIOLA BOWS:

|                                |       |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Hill by Sidney Yeoman, England | 72.0g | 5,500 |
| Pascal Camurat, France         | 71.6g | 3,500 |

## CELLO BOWS:

|                         |       |       |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Stephane Muller, France | 80.8g | 7,000 |
| Pascal Camurat, France  | 83.2g | 5,500 |
| W.E. Hill, England      | 82.2g | 5,000 |
| Pamiro Paolo, Italy     | 81.2g | 4,500 |

VIOLINS VIOLAS BOWS

# I saw the Red Violin!

by Paul Dahlin

After 30-plus years at the House of Note, Ed Volker was so kind to say to me, “I think it’s time that you and Marikay travel to Cremona!”

My wife Marikay and I spent eighteen days in Italy this autumn. The trip started with a week-long motorcoach tour from Rome, up through Venice and back to Florence with stops in hillside towns along the way. We flew to Vienna for four days, then back to Milan, where we rented a car and drove to Cremona. Quite an adventure!

In my mind, I had always pictured Cremona as a quiet little village in the Italian countryside. We were quite surprised to experience the real Cremona of about 60,000! Even back in the days of Stradivari, the population in the old city was around 30,000. We attended the Mondomusica festival, October 1–4. The stringed instrument makers/dealers convention takes place in a large, modern facility. There were hundreds of booths—instrument and bowmakers, as well as wood, tools and everything violin-related from all over the world.

I have a Swedish cousin named Kerstin who is a violin maker and lived in Cremona in the 1980s. She and two friends from Sweden joined us for the festival weekend. It was great to have Kerstin as our guide—she knew so much and opened so many doors. Which brings me to the title of this story.

One evening, we were invited to a party at a Cremona violin maker’s shop near the church in the old part of the city. It was a beautiful, rather large space with very high and decorated ceilings. About 75 or so guests enjoyed champagne and sandwiches while a youth chamber group entertained with a variety of music.

There was a commotion at the door when a couple arrived, nearly disturbing the performance. A young woman entered, carrying an ordinary-shaped violin case. The fuss continued until a special glass case was brought into the perfect position in the room. We

were standing to the side, watching and waiting to see what happened. Then the lady took her violin out of the case and it was placed for display. I instantly recognized the violin, but wasn’t sure that it could be true! I had seen and read about the instrument in a cover story in *Strings* magazine. It was Elizabeth Pitcairn and her



Photo courtesy Elizabeth Pitcairn



*On the evening of November ninth, Paul Dahlin was honored by Sweden. Jonas Hafström, Ambassador of Sweden to the United States, presented Paul with the title, Knight First Class of the Royal Order of the Polar Star, in recognition of his 35 years of performing, teaching, sharing and showcasing Swedish folk music here in the U.S. According to Paul, “Now **that** is enough!”*

1720 Mendelssohn Strad—the famed “Red Violin!”

Well, forget the champagne and sandwiches! Over the next hour, we had the opportunity to examine the instrument up close from every angle. (It was hard to stop.) The coloring is so incredibly rich, a deep red-brown-burgundy. What a beautiful violin!

After seeing so many instruments during the weekend, including those featured at this year’s Bergonzi exhibition, I concluded that Stradivarius was the “Michelangelo” of violin making. Every aspect of his instruments is perfection and pure art!

If you’d like to read more about the Mendelssohn Strad, see *Strings Magazine*, Issue number 153, November 2007.

# December Case Sale 20% off

—Already Discounted Prices—

## All Violin, Viola, Cello and Bow Cases

This sale includes soft cello cases  
and case covers by Bobelock  
and Mooradian



*Bobelock • Gewa  
Negri • Bam  
Heritage • Eastman  
Mooradian*

10% OFF – 10% OFF – 10% OFF



## January Cello Sale

In January, cellos are  
10% off our already  
discounted prices.

To audition cellos, please  
call 952-929-0026 for an  
appointment.

Tonica New  
Formula Violin  
String Sets  
**\$36.<sup>00</sup>**

Tonica New Formula  
violin strings are a  
synthetic-core string with  
a lively and round sound.



## 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](mailto: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 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Saturday 9:30 – 12:00 noon (July and August)**

**2 Great Sales!**  
*See inside for details*

**For your convenience, 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.



House of Note

# News of Note



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### Staff Profile

## Playin' for Potatoes

*by Sheila Graves*

During the day I work as the Sales Manager of House of Note. I am a violinist but during my free time I am becoming an avid bluegrass fiddler.

This past summer I entered several fiddle contests and had some success. I have a fantastic guitar player, Amy Yotter. We have so much fun at these contests. We enjoy the fair food and all things imaginable on a stick. It's great to listen to the young players. Generally, in fiddle contests there are age divisions which include: Senior, Adult, Young Adult, Junior and Junior, Junior with prizes given at every level. At the Big Lake, Minn., Spud Fest I got First place and 100 pounds of potatoes—good thing I have friends who like potatoes! At Pioneer Park in Annandale I also placed First. The end of the season was the Minnesota State Fair, where I placed Third in the Adult Division. The fiddle community is a wonderful group of people and I always learn something by talking with others and watching them play. The fiddling community is very supportive and nurturing. There is also an amazing crop of young players. I'm glad that they don't compete in the adult division yet (yikes!). If you are looking for something fun to do during the summertime, I encourage you to go to one of the many area fiddle contests, it's fun for the whole family.

