



HANS J. NEBEL

Violin Repair Workshops

June 9 - 27, 2025

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
North Adams, MA

Hans J. Nebel, a master craftsman and internationally known violin restorer, is the fourth generation of violin makers and a graduate of the Bavarian State School of Violinmaking in Mittenwald. Mr. Nebel started his professional career at Rembert Wurlitzer, Inc., in New York City, where he worked for 18 years. He became a long-term disciple of Maestro S.F. Sacconi, the universally acknowledged dean and originator of modern repair technique and restoration. On suggestion of Dario D'Attili and Maestro Sacconi, he was appointed head of the restoration department at Wurlitzer, a firm that was considered the mecca of the violin business in the United States.

Since 1974, Mr. Nebel has headed his own business in New Jersey, where he specializes in major restoration and the sale of quality stringed instruments and bows. He accompanied the New York Philharmonic on its tour of the Far East as a caretaker of their fine instruments and was invited by the Liuteria Parmense in Parma, Italy, and the Violin Making School in Bilbao (Spain) to teach master class courses in violin restoration. Mr. Nebel has taught violin restoration for over 49 years at several universities and continues his efforts at MCLA. He is a founding member of the American Federation of Violin and Bowmakers, and a Founder of the Violin Society.

Mr. Nebel's advanced programs are built on an eight-part cycle and offer more challenging topics each year. Future courses will include: sharpening of tools such as plane blades, knives, chisels, gouges, scrapers, and proper instruments SET UP, to include Basic Violin Identification; tonal improvements through graduation of top and back plates and fit new bass bar; bushing of peg holes; fit new upper and lower blocks; Rib-Crack repair and straightening/reinforcing warped ribs; Crack Repair and Crack Reinforcement; Edge Repair, Edge Replacement, and Edge Doubling; Reshaping sunken Arching by means of a mold and fitting Sound Post Patch, etc.; Neck Resetting; Making Neck Graft and culminating with the most demanding/challenging: Retouching of Varnish.

Week I Workshop

Monday - Friday, June 9 – 13, 2025

8-11:30 a.m. and 1-5 p.m.

Introduction to Proper Violin Set-up and Basic Violin Identification and Recognition

Sharpening of tools and minor exterior repairs. Find detailed course description below.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

This program is designed for those who wish to learn about the correct SET UP of violins, proper maintenance, tool sharpening, and minor exterior repairs on quality stringed instruments. We will set aside time for SHOW and TELL for the study of Basic Violin Recognition the differences among various schools, countries, and individual violin making families. Workshop I is the *Bread & Butter* course for every violin maker and repairer, music educator and stringed instrument musician. You will find the Workshop to be a useful week, great refresher course, and knowledge enhancer. Five days of lectures and demonstration in Basic Maintenance and repairs will be featured, as is done in the finest shops in this country and abroad. If you have taken this course before, ... do not hesitate to take it again!

You will observe how to care for and sharpen tools, fit pegs, plane finger board, finish top nut and lower saddle, fit new sound post and bridge, glue sides and minor exterior crack repair, properly clean and polish instruments, and learn about various strings and tonal adjustments.

The utmost importance will be placed on careful demonstrations, and you will find this workshop a very instructive and challenging week.

For Workshop I only:

Open shop sessions will be available in the evening for students to continue practicing the techniques and methods shown during the workshop session.

First-time participants and those not proficient in woodcrafts may wish only to observe and take notes, possibly bring along a notebook, or still camera and presently owned tools, and decide which additional tools to purchase after the program. More skilled participants may wish to work along during shop hours and evening open shop sessions, and should, of course, bring along proper sharpened tools.



Materials and Tools

Students should bring one or two violins - quality grade, student-level violins suitable for the program. (No cellos, please). **A List of Tools and Materials** suggested for the course will be sent to you **after registering** for the program.

Please note that Week II and Week III are designed to go hand-in-hand. You can attend either making of **Neck Graft**, new Finger Board/Top Nut, Ebony crown **or: Retouching of Varnish etc.** Or attend both workshops together.

Week II Workshop

Monday - Friday, June 16 – 20, 2025

8-11:30 a.m. and 1-5 p.m.

This is the Seventh Week of an 8-part workshop cycle

Workshop in Advanced Violin Repair:

Making of Neck Graft, etc.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

This week's focus is on removing old neck, fitting **new neck graft**, new finger board, top nut, reshaping neck & fitting ebony crown on back button.

Week III Workshop

Monday - Friday, June 23 – 27, 2025

8-11:30 a.m. and 1-5 p.m.

This is the Eighth Week of an 8-part workshop cycle

Workshop in Advanced Violin Repair:

Retouching of Varnish

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

This week's focus is on scraping down crack filler, retouching varnish, smoothing retouching varnish and re-polishing instrument.

For Workshops II and III only:

Students will work in tandem with a master craftsman to improve their abilities in making major repairs on quality instruments. Students who have previously attended Mr. Nebel's workshops, and those with advanced level skills and training in violin repair, should enroll in this workshop.



Register online at www.mcla.edu/violin. Due date for registration is **May 31, 2025**.

Week I: June 9-13, 2025

Workshop:

Introduction to Proper Violin Set-up and Basic Violin Identification and Recognition, including Sharpening of Tools and Minor Exterior Repairs \$1,000

Week II: June 16-20, 2025

Workshop:

Advanced Violin Repair: Making **Neck Graft**, new Finger Board/Top Nut Reshaping Neck & Fit Ebony Crown on Back Button \$1,000

Week III: June 23-27, 2025

Workshop:

Advanced Violin Repair: **Retouching of Varnish**, smooth retouching area and re-polish violin \$1,000

DISCOUNTS FOR ATTENDING MULTIPLE WORKSHOPS

Attend two or more workshops and receive a 10% discount of total cost.

Workshops will take place in Bowman Hall on the MCLA main campus in North Adams, Massachusetts.

For questions, please contact the Division of Graduate & Continuing Education at dgce@mcla.edu or 413-662-5575.

Lodging Accommodations

Lodging accommodations are the responsibility of the workshop participants. On campus summer housing is available to workshop participants for the duration of the program. To request campus housing, please fill out the [Violin Workshop Housing Request](#) form. Additional lodging options are available throughout North Adams. Please visit the Discover North Adams website for more information about lodging accommodations available within North Adams. [Stay — Discover North Adams](#)

