



HANS J. NEBEL

Violin Repair Workshops

June 12 - 30, 2023

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 45 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 improvement 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 & straightening/reinforcing warped ribs; crack repair and crack reinforcement; edge repair, edge replacement, and edge doubling; reshaping sunken arching and fitting of patches; neck-resetting; making neck graft and culminating with the most demanding/challenging: retouching of varnish.

MCLA

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Week I Workshop

Monday - Friday, June 12 – 16, 2023

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, including minor exterior repairs and basic violin identification.

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 the study of basic violin recognition and the differences among various schools, countries, and individual violin-making families. Workshop I is the *bread & butter* course for every violin maker and repairer, and music educators and stringed instrument musicians. 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.

You will observe how to care for and sharpen tools, fit pegs, plane a fingerboard, make a top nut and lower saddle, fit new sound post and bridge, glue sides and minor cracks, 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 Rib Repair and Rib Reinforcement OR Crack Repair and Crack Reinforcements OR attend both workshops together.

Week II Workshop

Monday - Friday, June 19 – 23, 2023

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

This is the Third Week of an 8-part workshop cycle.

Workshop in Advanced Violin Repair

Rib Repair and Rib Reinforcements

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

This week's focus is on removing warped ribs (caused by ill-chosen chinrests) from the back, making special mold, straightening ribs with warm sandbags, reinforcing ribs, and possibly replacing lining and other rib damages.

Week III Workshop

Monday - Friday, June 26 – 30, 2023

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

This is the Fourth Week of an 8-part workshop cycle.

Workshop in Advanced Violin Repair

Crack Repair and Crack Reinforcements

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

This week's focus is on separating old, dirty cracks, washing and cleaning cracks, regluing cracks, and properly reinforcing them. The course will provide detailed instructions and demonstrations. Given the small class size and hands-on nature of the programs, this will be an informative and challenging week. Open shop sessions will be available in evening hours for students to continue practicing the techniques and methods shown during the demonstration sessions.

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 1, 2023.

Week I: June 12 – 16, 2023

Workshop:

Introduction to Proper Violin Set-up and Basic Violin Identification and Recognition,
including Sharpening of Tools \$980

Week II: June 19 – 23, 2023

Workshop:

Advanced Violin Repair: Rib Repair and Rib Reinforcements \$980

Week III: June 26 – 30, 2023

Workshop:

Advanced Violin Repair: Crack Repair and Crack Reinforcements \$980

DISCOUNTS FOR ATTENDING MULTIPLE WORKSHOPS

Attend 2 or more workshops and receive a 10% discount of total cost.

Workshops will take place in Venable 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 participant. Hotel Downstreet (formerly the Holiday Inn) in North Adams is offering Violin Repair Workshop participants a special rate when reservations are made before May 1, 2023. Call 413-663-6500 for more information – and mention the MCLA Violin Repair Workshop.

Additional lodging options and information about cultural attractions in the Berkshires can be found at www.northadams-ma.gov, www.williamstownchamber.com and www.1berkshire.com.

