



## HANS J. NEBEL

### Violin Repair Workshops

June 3 - 21, 2024

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
North Adams, MA

**H**ans 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 r e s t o r a t i o n . Mr. Nebel has taught violin r e s t o r a t i o n for over 46 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.

# MCLA

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

## Week I Workshop

Monday - Friday, June 3 – 7, 2024

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 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 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 Reshape sunken arching/fitting patches, etc. OR Neck Resetting to include knock-out neck, etc. OR attend both workshops together.

## **Week II Workshop**

**Monday - Friday, June 10 – 14, 2024**

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

***This is the Fifth Week of an 8-part workshop cycle***

**Workshop in Advanced Violin Repair**

***Fitting Sound Post Patch, Reshape Sunken Arching by Means of a Mold***

### **WHAT YOU WILL LEARN**

This week's focus is on reshaping sunken archings by means of a mold and fitting patches, such as sound post patch, reinforcement patches or acoustical patches.

## **Week III Workshop**

**Monday - Friday, June 17 – 21, 2024**

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

***This is the Sixth Week of an 8-part workshop cycle***

**Workshop in Advanced Violin Repair**

***Neck Resetting to include Knock-out Neck, etc.***

### **WHAT YOU WILL LEARN**

This week's focus is on removing neck from block, fit small addition to upper block and ribs, as well as top edge (at neck-insert) and **RESETTING NECK**, and if necessary fit ebony crown.

### **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](http://www.mcla.edu/violin). Due date for registration is May 31, 2024.**

**Week I: June 3-7, 2024**

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 10-14, 2024**

Workshop:

Advanced Violin Repair: Reshape Arching by Means of a Mold and Fitting Sound  
Post Patches, etc. \$1,000

**Week III: June 17-21, 2024**

Workshop:

Advanced Violin Repair: Neck Resetting to include Knock-out Neck, etc. \$1,000

**DISCOUNTS FOR ATTENDING MULTIPLE WORKSHOPS**

Attend 2 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](mailto:dgce@mcla.edu) or 413-662-5575.

**Lodging Accommodations**

Lodging accommodations are the responsibility of the workshop participants. Hotel Downstreet is offering Violin Repair Workshop participants a special rate of \$199 per room, per night, not including 11.7% occupancy tax when reservations are made before May 17, 2024. This block is for the nights of June 9 - June 21, 2024. Please note that this hotel does not have room availability for Week 1 of the Violin Repair Workshop. Accommodations are limited in and around North Adams. Please call the hotel at (413) 663-6500 with the booking name MCLA Violin Repair Workshop to make your reservation. Additional lodging options are available through MCLA Summer Housing by calling 413-662-5249 or emailing [reslife@mcla.edu](mailto:reslife@mcla.edu).

