King Henry IV’s Amati Violin Joins NMM’s Crown Jewels

A violin by Antonio and Girolamo Amati (Cremona, ca. 1595), bearing the armorials of King Henry IV of Navarre and France (1553-1610), was presented by Kevin Schieffer, Sioux Falls (right), a member of the NMM Board of Trustees, to NMM Director, André P. Larson (left), on May 14, 2010. The presentation ceremony, attended by the NMM Board of Trustees and Staff, coincided with the 400th anniversary of the assassination of the popular French monarch.

The royal violin, along with its 18th-century case made during the reign of Louis XVI, will be placed on permanent display in the Rawlins Gallery and unveiled on September 24. A detailed technical drawing of The King Henry IV violin is being prepared by Jonathan Santa Maria Bouquet, Conservation Research Assistant, and will be available for purchase later this year.

Visit the NMM website for additional information about the presentation and images of The King Henry IV violin.
Trustees Visit Utley Collection in South Carolina

Twelve members of the NMM Board of Trustees set out on June 23 for a visit to the NMM’s Southern satellite—The Joe R. and Joella F. Utley Collection of Brass Instruments and Institute for Brass Studies—in Joella Utley’s home near Spartanburg, South Carolina. They enjoyed traditional Southern hospitality and were awestruck by the riches of the collection that was donated to the NMM in 1999.

Sabine Klaus, the Joe R. and Joella F. Utley Curator of Brass Instruments, presented the group with a tour of the collection’s highlights. Aided by videos filmed in the Utley home within the last three years, the trustees were able to admire not only the visual beauty of the instruments at hand, but also their sounds as they were expertly played by world-renowned musicians.

Among the treasures viewed by the Trustees was a silver State Trumpet made for the First Life Guards of Queen Victoria (pictured above), one of a set of three trumpets, the other two of which are still owned by Queen Elizabeth II and kept at the Tower of London.

The tour culminated in a presentation of Klaus’ forthcoming book, Trumpets and Other High Brass: A History Inspired by the Joe R. and Joella F. Utley Collection of Brass Instruments. [Read more on NMM website]

Above: Celeste Holler Seraphinoff demonstrates the sound of a miniature natural horn by Johann Wilhelm Haas, Imperial City of Nürnberg, 1681 (NMM 7213).

Medical Imaging Enables Staff to See “Whole” Picture

Several priceless, 16th–19th-century instruments from the NMM’s collections, including *The King Henry IV* Amati violin, a Neapolitan harpsichord, and an English cittern have recently undergone CT scans and endoscopic examinations at Sanford Hospitals in both Sioux Falls and Vermillion. [Read more on NMM website]

Seattle Opera Features NMM’s Tristan Trumpet (Holztrompete)

Justin Emerich, Principal Trumpet in Seattle Opera’s August 2010 production of Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde*, demonstrates how the NMM’s copy of a *Holztrompete* is played. Commissioned by Joe Utley, the copy was made by Andreas Schoni & Rainer Egger, Bern/Basel, Switzerland, in 2001. [Read more on NMM website]

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAMS

**September 10.** Duos for Harpsichord and Fortepiano, Asako Hirabayashi (Falcon, Heights, MN) and Gail Olszewski (Minneapolis). 12:05 p.m.

**September 17.** Front Porch Stories & Blues, Alvin “Little Pink” Anderson (Vermillion). 12:05 p.m.

**September 24.** The Tudors: Music for Voice & Lute from the Tudor Courts, Mignarda Lute Song Duo (Spencer, NY). 12:05 p.m.

**October 1.** Muzio Clementi, Father of the Pianoforte, Erin Helyard (Montreal). 12:05 p.m.

**October 15.** The Euclid Quartet (Indiana University South Bend), 12:05 p.m.

As you do your estate planning, please don’t forget to include the National Music Museum. The care and preservation of the NMM’s great collections is an awesome responsibility. Your help is needed, if we are to meet the challenges of the future. Become a member of *The Amati Society*!
Dizi, Xiao, Shinobue, or Shakuhachi?
By Kendra Van Nyhuis, U.Discover Summer Scholar

The 2010 award of a U.Discover Summer Scholar grant for undergraduate research at USD provided me with the opportunity to undertake the project “Dizi, Xiao, Shinobue, or Shakuhachi? A Study Focusing on the Collections of Bamboo Flutes at the National Music Museum.” My faculty sponsor was Deborah Check Reeves, Curator of Woodwind Instruments and Associate Professor of Music. The goal of my project was to create a quick and efficient method to identify bamboo flutes from Eastern Asia.

Based on an examination of instruments at the NMM, I discovered that at least thirteen different types of traditional bamboo flutes, along with tourist or toy flutes, can be found in the geopolitical region known as Eastern Asia—Japan, China, and Korea. In order to help others correctly identify these types, I created an identification guide (flowchart) and informational packet that focused on physical characteristics that can be observed and used to differentiate between the various types.

Although I read many published sources in the course of my research, I found that being able to physically examine the more than eighty bamboo flutes from this region, preserved at the NMM, was the most helpful aspect of my ten-week study. I created my own catalog sheets for each of these instruments in order to gather all the relevant information and measurements in one place. Using the instruments available to me, I was then able to test my identification guide for accuracy.

The results of my research were presented at one of the weekly U.Discover group meetings and culminated in a poster session held in late July. A more formal presentation of my research will be made at USD’s IdeaFest (for both undergraduate and graduate research) in the spring of 2011.


Margaret Downie Banks, Senior Curator of Musical Instruments and Professor of Music, attended the grand opening of the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in Phoenix, April 21-24. [Read more on website]

NMM staff members Jonathan Bouquet, Sabine Klaus, John Koster, Deborah Check Reeves, and Sarah Deters Richardson attended the annual meeting of the American Musical Instrument Society at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, May 26-29. Papers were presented by Bouquet (“A Closer Look at The Rainlin Guitar by Antonio Stradivari”) and Koster (“What Did Harpsichords and Clavichords Sound Like in 1910?”). Reeves was re-elected to another term as Secretary of the AMIS.

John Koster, Conservator and Professor of Music, is participating in several projects marking the 500th anniversary of the birth of the great Spanish Renaissance organist and composer Antonio de Cabezón (1510-1566). For the C@BEZON500 project organized by the Festival Internacional de Música de Tecla Española (FIMTE) to make recordings of Cabezón’s complete oeuvre available online, Koster recorded two works on the NMM’s harpsichord by Giacomo Ridolfi. Koster, who is co-chair of FIMTE’s 10th International Symposium to be held in October in Mojacar (Almeria, Spain), will also present a paper at this international event. [Read more on website]

André P. Larson and the NMM are featured in “Making Music: The Art and Craft of David Rivinus,” to be aired on South Dakota Public Television, September 8 at 8:00 CDT.

Sioux Falls sculptor, Darwin Wolf, recently replaced the violinist’s missing bow and showed NMM staff members how to properly clean the Townsley Courtyard’s bronze statues that were sculpted by the prominent Black Hills sculptor, Michael R. Tuma, in celebration of the South Dakota Centennial in 1989. [Read more on website]
NMM Participates in Blue Star Museums Partnership

The NMM participated in the Blue Star Museums initiative during the summer of 2010, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and more than 600 museums across America, to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Tom Brokaw Narrates New NMM Promotional Video

A grant received from the SD Community Foundation’s nonprofit award fund enabled the production of a new promotional video produced by the Blue Fire Design Group of Sioux Falls. Narrated by former NBC News Anchor and noted USD Alumni, Tom Brokaw, the video will be used in conjunction with group presentations and as a free-standing presentation during the NMM’s upcoming capital campaign, according to Ted Muenster, NMM’s Development Officer. The video can also be viewed on YouTube.

The NMM in Print & On-the-Air


MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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*Amount may also be paid electronically through PayPal.

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

Membership in the NMM offers the tangible benefits of special invitations to previews and receptions, concerts and special events, gift shop discounts, the newsletter, and research services. More importantly, it offers the intangible rewards of being associated with a unique institution, one of the great museums of its kind in the world.

Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible, within the limits provided by law, and directly assist in supporting the many public services of the NMM.

NMM BY THE NUMBERS

What Makes the NMM Unique?

301 Zithers Collected from Around the Globe

1 Rare, 17th-century Kettle Gong from Tibet and Nepal

195 Instruments from India

265 Instruments from Southeast Asia

89 Instruments from Oceania

336 Instruments from China, Japan, and Korea

260 Instruments from Africa

1 Rare, 17th-century Pamir Robab (Long-necked Lute) from Pamir Region of Central Asia

96 Instruments from Central and South America