



The Violin Society of America

In Pursuit of Excellence

www.vsaweb.org

Founded in 1973, we are a non-profit organization of people reflecting a broad range of interests and concerns of those interested in the Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass and their Bows, and the making, restoring, playing, history, acoustics, buying, selling and collecting of these instruments.

Membership in the VSA is open to all who share these interests, including craftsmanship, acoustics, innovation, the history of instruments and performers, technique, performance practice, repertory and other matters pertaining to instruments of the violin family.

To achieve these goals, the VSA has offered a number of important services to its members and the stringed instrument community in general. In even-numbered years the Society sponsors its world-renowned competition for new instruments and bows. A convention is held annually, offering lectures, exhibits, concerts, trips and other activities of interest to the members. The VSA publishes the prestigious *Journal of the Violin Society of America* and *VSA Papers*, both with a variety of articles on the making, playing and history of the instruments. A newsletter with news of the organization, its members and related activities is published twice a year, along with periodic bulletins of timely content.

In 2004 the Catgut Acoustical Society joined the VSA as the CAS Forum. The purpose of the CAS Forum is to increase and diffuse the knowledge of musical acoustics and instruments, and to promote its practical applications.

Our growing membership from all parts of the world includes makers of instruments and bows (both amateur and professional), concert artists, professional and amateur players, collectors, dealers, music lovers and violin buffs, conservatories and libraries. Your membership helps to promote the art and science of making, repairing and preserving stringed musical instruments and their bows through publications, conferences, competitions and workshops.

Benefits of Membership

- Online searchable archive of 40 years of the *VSA Journal*
- Subscription to the prestigious *Journal of the Violin Society of America*
- Subscription to *VSA Papers*
- Reduced rates at VSA sponsored events
- Subscription to *VSA Newsletter*
- Only members may enter the biennial VSA competition
- Support of the educational and professional activities
- Link to your business website (by request only)
- Access to online Membership Directory



Annual Conventions

Conventions are held every year and are held together with the competition on a biennial basis. These events take place every November and have featured a wide variety of speakers on many topics related to the violin, as well as demonstrations of violin and bow making and repair, performances of music, opportunities to examine fine stringed instruments and even opportunities for playing chamber music. Each convention also features a vendor hall with many new products available to members. Most importantly, the meetings afford all those in attendance to meet and share ideas and information with fellow members, reinforcing the bonds that hold together the various strands of the stringed instrument world.

The VSA International Competition

The highly respected VSA competition is held every two years and offers the opportunity for makers from all countries to compete.

Beginning in 1975, and in every even-numbered year since 1976, the Society has staged international competitions of violins and bows. These events have gained universal respect as being among the best-run and most objective competitions of their kind. Over the years, the judges have included most of the world's distinguished luthiers and bow makers, and many of today's most promising and respected new luthiers gained their first recognition by winning gold medals at a VSA competition.

During the judging period, lectures, discussions and open forums are held for everyone's enjoyment. Frequently instruments by past winners or new instruments or historical collections are exhibited for study and examination. Our commercial exhibits feature most of the world's leading suppliers of violin and bow making materials and accessories, strings, cases, books and other merchandise of interest to both the maker and player. Once the judging has been completed, the competition rooms are open to all in attendance so that everyone has the opportunity to see and play the outstanding instruments and bows presented.



VSA Competition Room

CAS Forum

The Catgut Acoustical Society has joined the VSA as the CAS Forum. The purpose of the CAS is to increase and diffuse the knowledge of musical acoustics and instruments, and to promote its practical applications. All VSA members may join the CAS Forum at no extra cost; to do so, check "CAS Forum" on the membership form.

Gift Memberships

A membership in the VSA makes a wonderful gift for any violin lover. A letter indicating the gift is from you will be sent to the recipient. To give a gift membership, contact the VSA home office at info@vsaweb.org or call 972-233-9107 x224.

Student Memberships

Memberships are made available at greatly reduced rates to students. To be eligible for this rate the student must be enrolled full-time at a primary or secondary school, college or university, or at a violin or bow making school or apprenticeship program.

Membership Fees

- \$160, 2 years individuals in US, Canada and Mexico
- \$195, 2 years, individuals in other countries
- \$95 for libraries
- \$45 for full-time students in US, Canada and Mexico
- \$60 for full-time students in other countries

VSA National Offices

The VSA Office is located in Dallas, Texas and provides coordination of meetings and services for all members of the organization. Should you require information or if you have any questions regarding particular services, please contact the office at (972) 233-9107 x224 or email us at info@vsaweb.org. We are happy to serve you and welcome your questions!

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