

VSA 2018 Competition and Convention Schedule

Sunday, November 4

10–11:30 am: **Board Meeting**
Rockefeller

11:30 am–1 pm: **Committee Meetings**
TBD

12–9pm ONLY: **Vendor Set up and Registration**
Exhibit Hall Foyer

3–3:30pm: **Volunteer Meeting**
Main Lobby

3–7 pm: **Registration Desk Open (be sure to buy your scholarship raffle tickets for just \$1 each)**
Main Lobby

5–10 pm: **Competition Instrument /Bow Check-in**
Gold Coat Check

6:30–8 pm: **Opening Reception**
Sponsored by **Heritage Insurance Services**
Ambassador

8–10 pm: **Judges Meeting**
Van Aken

Monday, November 5

Please note that Thursday night Banquet ticket sales will close at **5 pm on Monday**. Visit the registration desk to purchase yours for \$75

8 am–5:30 pm: **Registration Desk Open (be sure to buy your scholarship raffle tickets for just \$1 each)**
Main Coat Check

9 am–12 pm & 1–5:30 pm: **Vendor Room Open**
Exhibit Hall

TBD: **New Instrument Exhibit Check-In**
Severance

9–10:30 am: **Rare Instrument Exhibit Introduction**
Presenter: Bruno Price
Carnegie

10:30 am–5:30 pm: **Rare Instrument Exhibit Open**
Carnegie

10:30 am–12 pm: **German Bow Exhibit Introduction**
Presenter: Yung Chin
Stouffer

2pm–5 pm: **Bow Exhibit Open**
Note: The Bow Exhibit will not be open on Friday, November 9
Stouffer

12–2 pm: **Lunch on Your Own**

Dine in the hotel or at one of the many restaurants in the area. Remember that the vendor room opens at 1 pm!

2–3:30 pm: Violin Production Time and Cost

Presenter: Luan Schreiner de Amorim

The purpose of this study is to map the process of making a violin and identify the total time of production and its direct cost. The study introduced to the Liuteria the knowledge of process characteristics that were not perceived before. Initially a theoretical framework will be provided about the theme, which addresses the history of the origin of the product, the aspects of craft construction and the basis of production engineering tools applied. This study was conducted as a case study. Data were collected through unstructured interviews and the approach was both quantitative as qualitative. The analysis considered the culture, the concepts and the market in which the company operates. It is important to highlight that the environment in which the company is allocated is a kind of environment where customers appreciate the art and the product's quality.

Grand Ballroom B

3:30–5 pm: Self-Promotion for the Reluctant Maker

Presenters: Dixie Huthmaker and Anna Huthmaker

In this session, we will discuss ways to not only creatively promote one's work, but also tips for becoming more comfortable with marketing and advertising. Topics will include reaching potential customers, customer satisfaction, self-promotion, marketing, and budgeting.

Grand Ballroom B

5:30–7 pm: New Professionals Mixer - RSVP Required

This program is part of the VSA New Professional Program. A new professional is a VSA member who has less than 10 years of professional experience or is a student member within 6 months of graduation.

Ambassador

7 pm: VSA Afterhours Bar

Ambassador

Tuesday, November 6

8:30 am–5:30 pm: Registration Desk Open (be sure to buy your scholarship raffle tickets for just \$1 each)

Main Coat Check

9 am–12 pm & 1–5:30 pm: Vendor Room Open

Exhibit Hall

9 am–5:30 pm: Rare Instrument Exhibit Open

Carnegie

9 am–12pm & 1–5 pm: Bow Exhibit Open

Note: The Bow Exhibit will not be open on Friday, November 9

Stouffer

9 am–12 pm & 2–5:30 pm: New Instrument Exhibit Open

Severance

9–10:30am: Evolution and Ongoing Development of Violin Setup

Presenter: Joseph Curtin

Since the early 1500s, violin setup has evolved in ways that have dramatically affected musical range, player comfort, and acoustical output. This presentation explores how structural changes to the bridge, bassbar, soundpost, neck, fingerboard, and chinrest can affect the acoustics of the instrument as well as the ease with which it can be played, maintained, and repaired. Possibilities for future development are also considered, given our growing scientific understanding of how violins work—and of what violinists and their audiences seem to want them to do.

Grand Ballroom B

10:30 am–12 pm: **Instrument Photography**

Presenter: Robert Bailey

This presentation will show how Tarisio makes its photos, the equipment they use, the studio space workflow which leads to consistent results, and the standards they use for web display and images. There will also be tips on tricky instruments such as those with high arching or excessively craquelled surfaces. Additionally, there will be advice on how to achieve good results in sub-optimal situations when space or equipment is limited.

Grand Ballroom B

12–2 pm: **Women in Business Luncheon – RSVP Required**

Sponsored by: **Atelier Strings, Bernhardt House of Violins, Howard Core Co. LLC, International Violin Company, and L'Archet Brasil**

Ambassador

2–3:30 pm: **Panel Discussion: Experiences of Discrimination in the Workplace**

Presenters: Korinthia Klein, Marilyn Wallin, and Robyn Sullivan

Evolving attitudes and experiences of women in the trade. Participation and contributions are most welcome from all minority perspectives.

Grand Ballroom B

3:30–5 pm: **The Functional and Acoustical Role of the Neck-Fingerboard Assembly**

Presenter: Joseph Nagyvary

Fingerboard-neck-pegbox assembly of the violin has remained virtually the same for the past 200 years, and it is recognized as an integral part of its complex functional resonating system. The presentation presents changes to this 3-part assembly by introduction variations in their respective weight and stiffness.

Grand Ballroom B

5:30–7 pm: **Open Mic Night and Scholarship Raffle (buy your tickets at the registration desk for just \$1 each!)**

Ambassador

7 pm: **VSA Afterhours Bar**

Ambassador

8 – 10 pm: **Organized Evening Chamber Music for Members**

Severance

Wednesday, November 7

8:30 am–5:30 pm: **Registration Desk Open**

Main Coat Check

9 am–12 pm & 1–5:30 pm: **Vendor Room Open**

Exhibit Hall

9 am–5:30 pm: **Rare Instrument Exhibit Open**

Carnegie

9 am–12pm & 1–5 pm: **Bow Exhibit Open**

Note: The Bow Exhibit will not be open on Friday, November 9

Stouffer

9 am–12 pm & 2–5:30 pm: **New Instrument Exhibit Open**

Severance

9–10:30 am: **Keynote Speaker**

Neapolitan Makers of the Second Half of the 19th Century

Presenter: Eric Blot

Grand Ballroom B

10:30am–12pm: **The Stradivari Cochineal Varnish: Research and Development**

Presenter: Joe Robson

We see RED.

The Age of Piracy and Plunder.

Antonio Stradivari in his own time

The deconstruction and reconstruction of the Stradivari Varnish.

Grand Ballroom B

12–2 pm: **Members Luncheon & Business Meeting - All Exhibits Closed**

Grand Ballroom A

2–3:30 pm: **The Physics of Bow Design**

Presenters: Jeff Van Fossen and Roger Zabinski

This presentation will discuss the importance and function of the bow including the bow as tension manager and signal conditioner, design influencers of performance including weight, balance, strength, and camber, design approaches, and ongoing research.

Grand Ballroom B

5:30–7 pm: **Scholarship Auction**

Auctioneer: David Bonsey

Grand Ballroom B

7 pm: **VSA Afterhours Bar**

Ambassador

8 – 10 pm: **Organized Evening Chamber Music for Members**

Severance

Thursday, November 8

8:30 am–5:30 pm: **Registration Desk Open**

Main Coat Check

9 am–12 pm & 1–5:30 pm: **Vendor Room Open**

Exhibit Hall

9 am–5:30 pm: **Rare Instrument Exhibit Open**

Carnegie

9 am–12pm & 1–3 pm: **Bow Exhibit Open**

Note: The Bow Exhibit will not be open on Friday, November 9

Stouffer

9 am–12 pm & 2–5:30 pm: **New Instrument Exhibit Open**

Severance

9 – 10:30 am: **A Force to be Reckoned With: Carleen Maley Hutchins and Her Legacy to Lutherie**

Presenter: Allison A. Alcorn, PhD

Regardless of one's position on the quality of her instruments—decent violins or simply interesting experiments—or on the validity of her beliefs about plate tuning, Carleen Maley Hutchins (1911–2009) was a force to be reckoned with in the twentieth-century violin world. Perhaps more important than her specific acoustical experiments or the instruments themselves, however, was the trail Hutchins blazed in applying modern scientific methods to the age-old traditions of violin making. Based on examination of correspondence, research reports, and both published and unpublished articles and research notes in the Hutchins archives at the National Music Museum (Vermillion, SD) and in the Special Collections at Stanford University (Stanford, CA), this paper examines some of the more technical details of Hutchins' work as well as a more philosophical consideration of her ultimate legacy to lutherie. In particular, this paper assesses what Hutchins was proposing with her tap tones and plate tuning research and contemplates how successful she may have been with her

efforts, reflects on the point at which her research attention took a decisive turn in a more singular direction, and finally, considers a realistic articulation of her role in and gift to lutherie.

Grand Ballroom B

10:30 am–12 pm: Bow Playability: A Player’s View

Presenter: Joe Regh

75 violin bows of varying qualities were measured for their physical properties and then played by very high-level players. Their mission statement was to identify those that would be good enough to be their only playing bow and rank them on a scale from 1 to 10. The results were then compared to the known, measured properties. The major variables have been identified and will be presented. Personal preferences of the players will also be shown.

Grand Ballroom B

12–2 pm: Lunch on Your Own

Dine in the hotel or at one of the many restaurants in the area. Remember that the vendor room opens at 12 pm!

2–3:30 pm: Competition Rules Overview

Presenters: Ryan McLaughlin

Grand Ballroom B

3:30-5pm: The Modern Double Bass

Presenters: Jay VandeKopple, Lisa Gass, Paul Hart, Arnold Schnitzer

As both music and playing styles have taken new turns, the bass has also changed to reflect the needs of the modern player. We will discuss the trends of these changes and how they affect bass making and repair. Topics include: the model of bass, including shoulder design; plate thicknesses and internal construction, to accommodate newer strings; issues of flat-back and carved-back basses; C-extensions and 5-string basses; removable necks; bass strings and various playing styles; bridge, fingerboard, and tailpiece; and endpin design.

Van Aken

5:30–7:30 pm: Competition Awards Banquet

Grand Ballrooms A & B

Ticket **required** for admittance. Ticket sales close on Monday at 5 pm. Please visit the registration desk to purchase yours for \$75

8–11 pm: Competition Room Open for Viewing

Badge Required NO EXCEPTIONS

Gold/Whitehall

7 pm: VSA Afterhours Bar

Ambassador

Friday, November 9

8:30 am–5:30 pm: Registration Desk Open

Main Coat Check

9 am–12 pm & 1–5:30 pm: Vendor Room Open

Exhibit Hall

9 am–5:30 pm: Rare Instrument Exhibit Open

Carnegie

9 am–12 pm & 2–5:30 pm: New Instrument Exhibit Open

Severance

9 am–5:30 pm: Competition Room Open, Judges’ Feedback

Gold/Whitehall

9:30–10:30 am: **Panel Discussion: Judges’ Reflections on the Competition and on the Musician/Luthier Relationship**

Moderators: Julian Cossmann Cooke and Nick Lampo

Panelists: Nathan Giem and Jeffery Solow

Grand Ballroom B

10:30 am–12 pm: **Nathan Giem to Demonstrate Competition Instruments**

Grand Ballroom B

12–2 pm: **Lunch on Your Own**

Dine in the hotel or at one of the many restaurants in the area. Remember that the vendor room opens at 1 pm!

2–5 pm: **Open Forums with Hands on Demonstrations**

Coordinator: Julian Cossmann Cooke

An informal session where VSA members share current projects and favorite tools and techniques.

Demonstrations to include:

Pablo Alfaro: Varnish Craquelure

Julian Cossmann Cooke: The Luthier’s Friend: Creative Uses for Blue Tape

Alex Currin: Fixtures, Machines, and Innovations in Everyday Workshop Practice

Daniel Gillespie: Water-Based Retouch Techniques

Jordan Hess: Pigments

MJ Kwan: Acoustics Workshop 101 Wiki Study Group

Lonny Marino: Materials and Forms

Kate Mohr: Custom Bow Tools Demo

Matt Noykos and Aubrey Alexander: Sound Post Patch Locator Jig

Robyn Sullivan: Instrument Carnage

Grand Ballroom A

4–5 pm: **First Meeting of the 2018–2020 Board**

TBD

5:30–7 pm: **Closing Reception**

Sponsored by **D’Addario and GEWA Music USA**

Ambassador

11 pm–12 am: **Competition Check Out**

*There is an \$85 per item early withdrawal fee for items removed after 4 pm but prior to 11 pm on Friday, November 9.