



American Violins for *America's Library*

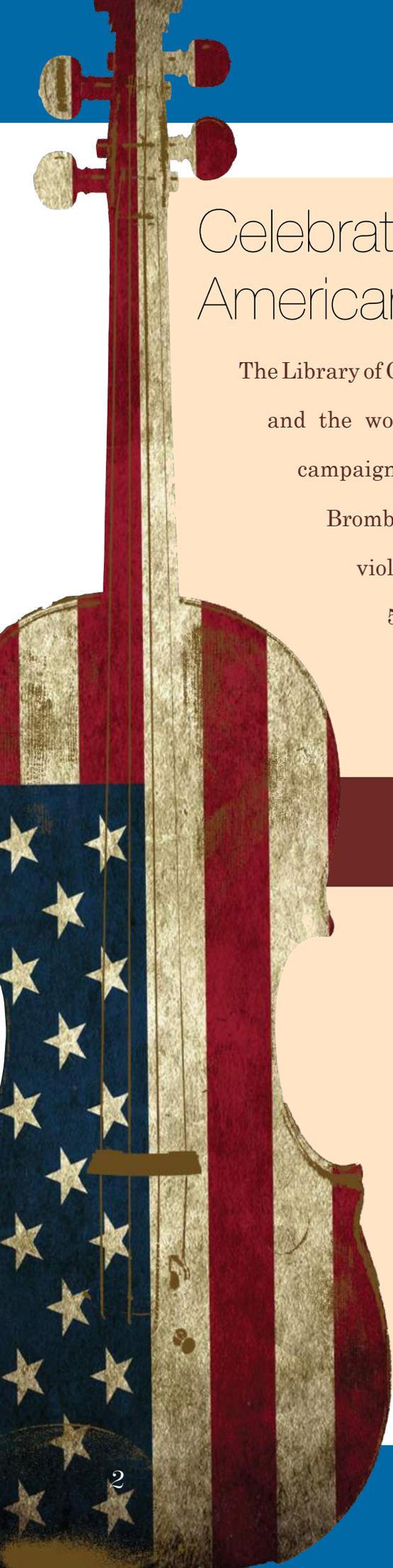
A COLLECTION 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

A Library of Congress Campaign to
Acquire the David Bromberg American Violin Collection



"I can't think of a more democratic instrument than the violin."

- David Schoenbaum, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Iowa



Celebrating American History through American Violins and Their Makers

The Library of Congress, the nation's first-established federal cultural institution and the world's preeminent reservoir of knowledge, is embarking on a campaign to raise \$1.7 million to acquire and make accessible the David Bromberg American Violin Collection. The Collection's 263 American violins, crafted between 1848 and 1950 and carefully collected over 50 years by David Bromberg, will enhance the Library's ability to illustrate American music and history through performances, historical documentation and interactive programming.

The American Violin Collection in its entirety embodies the origin and evolution of violin-making in America and provides a unique opportunity to showcase American instruments at the nation's library.

Acquiring the Bromberg Collection will allow the Library to establish a *living collection* - a resource that will inspire innovative projects in the performing arts, assist researchers, promote educational programming, and enable recording. Building on successful outreach projects, the Library proposes to establish a national instrument loan program that will enable some of the collection to be played by American violinists in symphony halls, music venues, music and conservatories across the country.

The American violins will enhance the Library's world-renowned musical resources which include printed and manuscript scores, more than 1,800 flutes, six Stradivari

“The Library of Congress has a clear commitment and vision to develop, shape and support a new center for the study of the violin, focusing on the mastery of the luthier’s art form within the American landscape.”

- Ken Burns

instruments, the papers of important classical and popular composers and musicians, vast holdings of sound and film recordings, images and photographs, and the world’s largest archive of ethnographic recordings and traditional culture documentation in its American Folklife Center. With the acquisition of the American violins, the Library will have unprecedented opportunities to make the instruments accessible to musicians, luthiers, students, scholars and music lovers across the nation and around the world.

When the instruments are not being played, they will be available to luthiers and scholars for research in the Library’s new state-of-the-art vault, which will house the violins

at an ideal temperature and humidity in a secure environment. The Library will also display and make available selected violins in its Performing Arts Reading Room and make them available for performances in its renowned Coolidge Auditorium.

With the acquisition of the David Bromberg American Violin Collection, the multifaceted stories of American music, culture and people can be told and heard through this vibrant living collection.

The Library will use this opportunity to seek new, innovative partnerships and collaborations for programming, performance, research and outreach.



Roberto D’faz, president and CEO of the Curtis Institute of Music, and his students playing the Library’s Stradivari instruments

Photo Credit: Shealah Craighead

“Throughout my musical life I was always trying to capture the essence of the music of America. That my musical adventure has a home at the library of the American people is both humbling and a high honor.”

- David Bromberg



The David Bromberg American Violin Collection

Over the course of 50 years, iconic American musician David Bromberg has amassed a comprehensive collection of American violins. At 263 instruments, it is the world's largest and most important collection of American violins and represents the significant role of American luthiers in the broader story of international violin-making. The Collection reflects the history of the American violin's European roots while documenting how American makers incorporated their individual and regional styles into the construction and tone of violins.

The Bromberg American Violin Collection includes sophisticated examples of instruments that show the influence of European luthiers and the standardizing of construction techniques. The instruments also reflect how American violin-making evolved

to embrace emergent, homegrown regional musical styles such as Louisiana Cajun, New Orleans Dixieland, Mississippi blues, Chicago jazz, New York klezmer, Southwest Hispanic and New England dance music.

The violin has been ingrained in American musical culture since before the founding of the nation. Thomas Jefferson was an aficionado and devoted thousands of hours to the study of the violin. Today, the violin, or “fiddle,” is integral to many of America's most important music genres and artistic traditions. Acquiring the Bromberg American Violin Collection will strengthen the Library's folk, popular, jazz, ethnic and classical music capabilities and complement the Library's priceless 17th and 18th-century Cremona instruments by legendary luthiers Amati, Guarneri and Stradivari.



David Bromberg in his shop in Wilmington, Delaware

Photo Credit: *The News Journal*, Suchat Pederson



Bob Dylan, Leon Redbone and David Bromberg from the David Bromberg Collection



Original drawing by David Bromberg's sister, Sarina, for his first, self-titled, album

A Gifted Multi-instrumentalist

A gifted multi-instrumentalist with an intuitive understanding of American roots and music styles, along with a sly sense of humor, David Bromberg has earned a following for his many solo recordings and has served as a sideman and collaborator with some of the most respected artists in his field. Bromberg was born in Philadelphia on September 19, 1945, and spent most of his childhood in Tarrytown, New York. As a teenager, he was hooked on rock & roll and began exploring the blues, folk and country artists who informed early rock. When he was 13, Bromberg began learning the guitar and later, while studying musicology at Columbia University, he began playing in Greenwich Village folk clubs. He was soon lending his talents on guitar, dobro, mandolin and fiddle to albums by Bob Dylan, Carly Simon, the Eagles, Ringo Starr, Willie Nelson, Gordon Lightfoot, Bonnie Raitt, Doug Sahm and many others.

In 2015 David Bromberg donated papers pertaining to his 60 year musical career to the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. The collection, dating from his early stage days playing with such folk luminaries as Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger and Doc Watson, includes notes, letters, photographs, ephemera from shows (including posters and programs) and audio and video recordings documenting public and private performances.



Bromberg joined by his wife and daughter during a ceremony to celebrate the donation of his personal papers and memorabilia

Photo Credit: Shawn Miller

50 Years in the Making

For 50 years, as David Bromberg traveled across America on tour, and with a discerning knowledge and eye, he visited violin shops in all corners of the continent looking for beautiful examples of the trade.

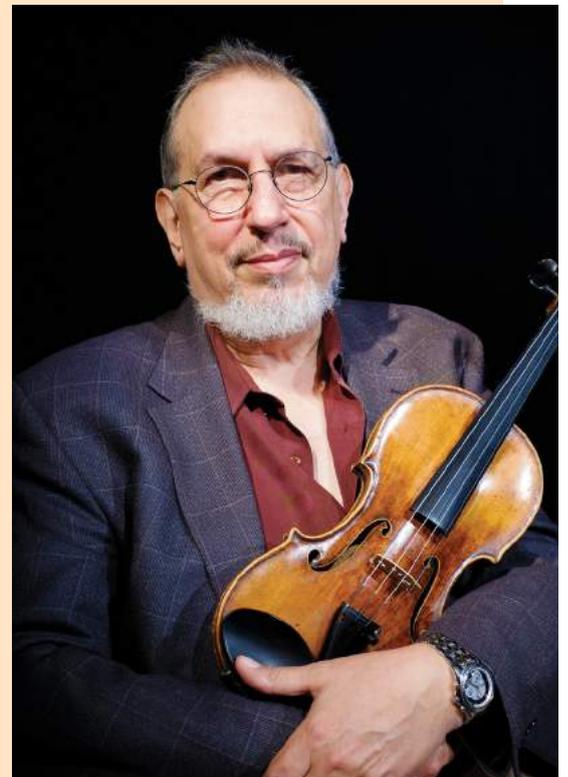
In the 1970s, band member Jay Ungar, whom David Bromberg called a “fiddle genius”, inspired him to buy his first — an American-made violin: 1920 Stephen Perry from Lowell Massachusetts. The purchase turned into a collection and today the Bromberg Collection has 263 violins.

Sparked by the purchase, Bromberg embarked on a new adventure. In 1980 Bromberg, taking a sabbatical from performing on the road, and his wife, sculptor Nancy Josephson, moved from California to Chicago to study at the Kenneth Warren School of Violin Making in Chicago. In the following years, Bromberg established a successful business building and repairing violins as well as dealing in quality instruments, and in 2002 he opened a shop in Wilmington, Delaware, simply called David Bromberg Fine Violins.

With both his performing and violin-making careers underway, Bromberg meanwhile was building a collection of fiddles, one at a time. His demands for excellence and his ongoing love of learning about the elemental aspects of a violin’s sound and structure fueled the burgeoning collection which now includes 263 violins made in America between 1848 and 1950.

“I decided, with no proof, that there were good American makers and I started collecting their instruments, and the collection proved itself. I was lucky that I happened, accidentally, to be right.”

- David Bromberg



David Bromberg with one of his instruments

Photo Credit: Nancy Josephson



Engage, Educate and Entertain

The Violin in American Cultural Life

The acquisition of the Bromberg American Violin Collection will form the basis of a “living collection” that will be used to engage, educate and inspire the next generation of musicians and entertain public audiences throughout the United States. The Library has a longstanding tradition of carefully monitored loan programs that make instruments available to talented musicians, and selected classical, popular and traditional music venues, as well as partnerships with outside research institutions.

Making selected violins accessible to individuals and venues will enrich communities and invigorate our musical heritage. For example, selected instruments could return to their “hometowns” to form the basis of special performances and homegrown programming.

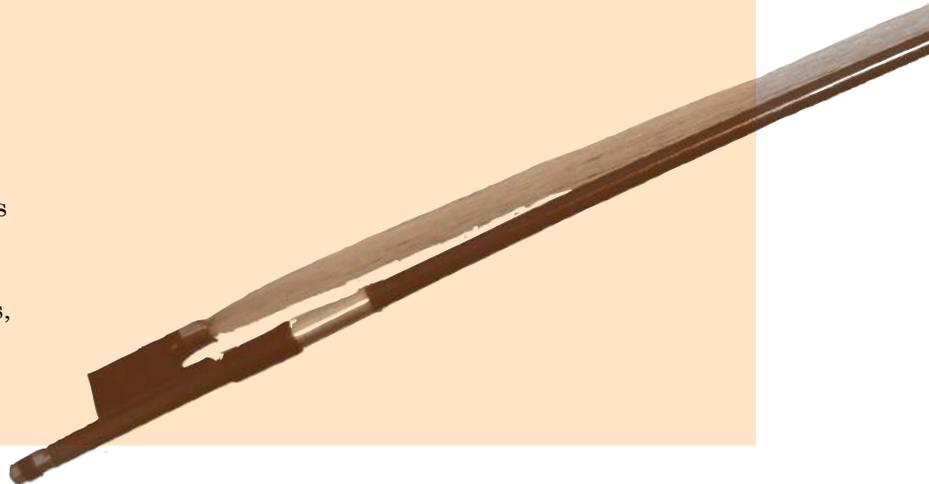
At the Library, instrument makers and students will be able to convene to design and build new stringed instruments.

The Library even has the tools to build stringed instruments of the future. Thanks to the generosity of Philip Kass, the Library recently acquired the vintage tools, workbench and other mid-20th-century

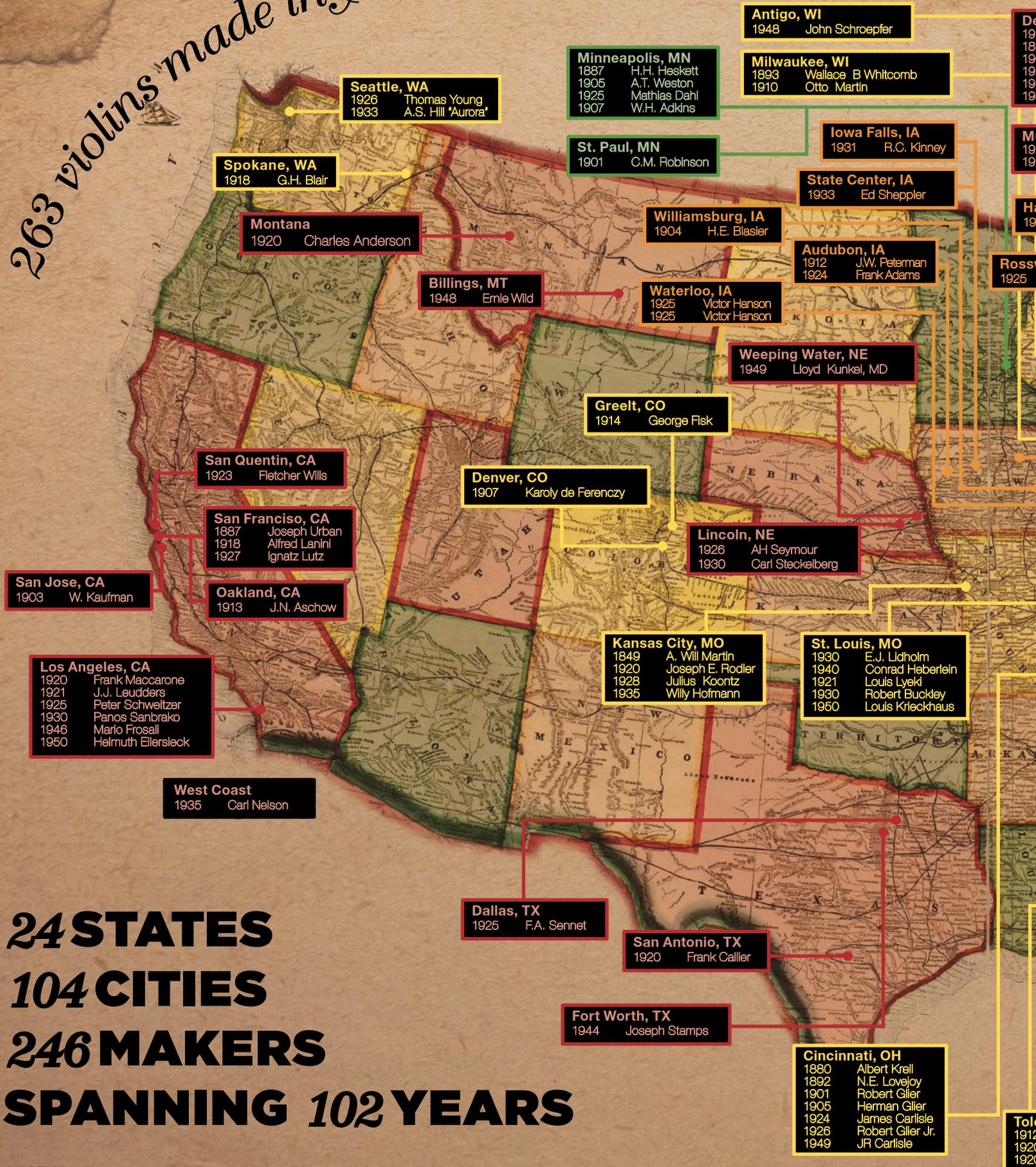
artifacts of the influential Boston violin maker Frank C. Ball, who was himself a student of the legendary 19th-century Massachusetts luthier O.H. Bryant.

The Library looks forward to presenting public programs that will allow the violins to be heard in performances and recordings. There will be opportunities for new works to be commissioned for the instruments and for the violins to be played at venues, including in the Library’s legendary Coolidge Auditorium where free world-class programs featuring chamber music, jazz, American musical theater, pop, country and folk music are regularly presented and recorded.

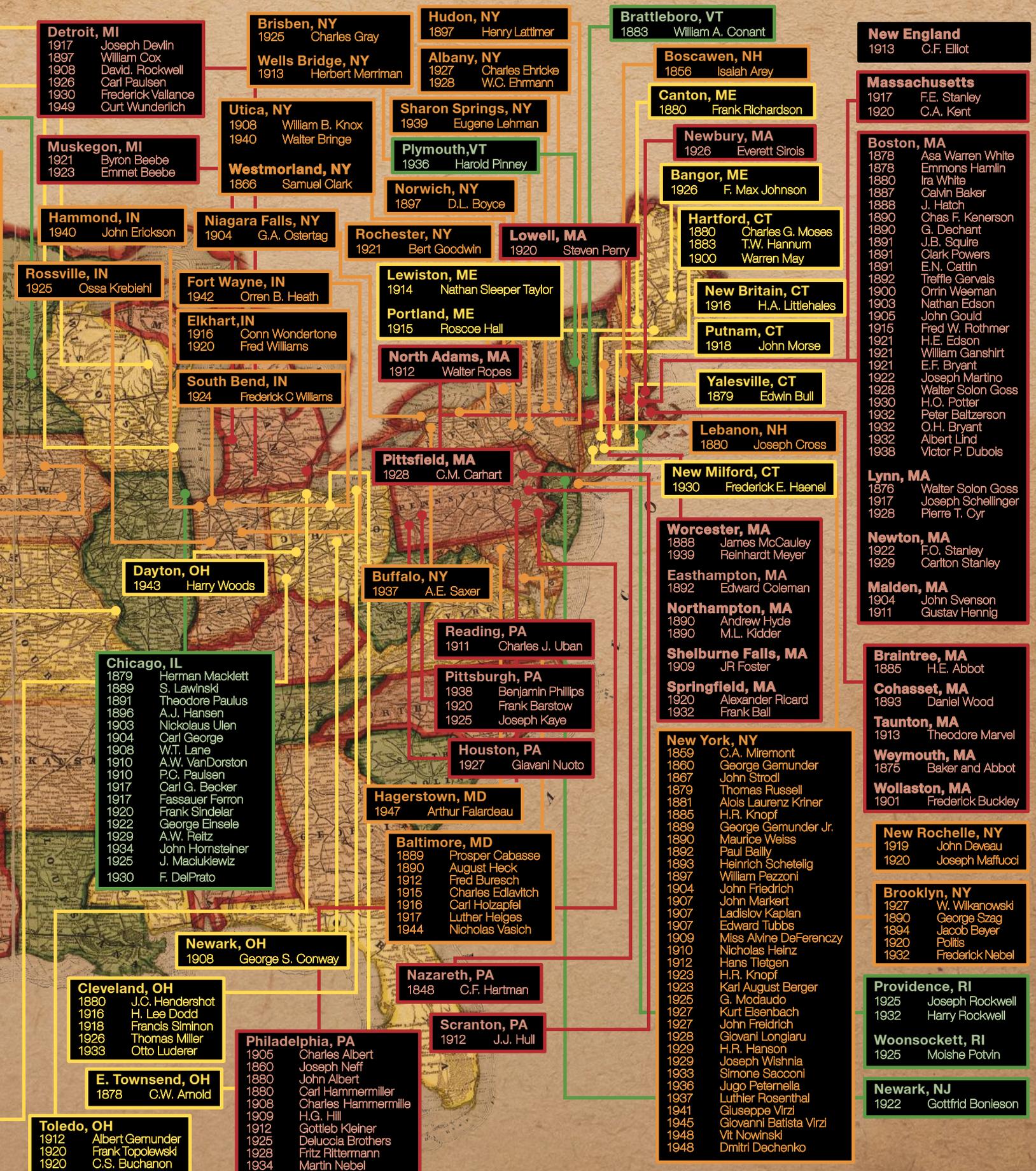
The new sounds and new stories enabled by this important collection will become part of one of the largest assemblages of musical Americana in the world.



263 violins made in America



LEGEND
Location
 YEAR Maker



Detroit, MI
 1917 Joseph Devlin
 1897 William Cox
 1908 David Rockwell
 1926 Carl Paulsen
 1930 Frederick Vallance
 1949 Curt Wunderlich

Brisben, NY
 1925 Charles Gray

Wells Bridge, NY
 1913 Herbert Merriman

Hudon, NY
 1897 Henry Lettmer

Albany, NY
 1927 Charles Ehrlicke
 1928 W.C. Ehrmann

Brattleboro, VT
 1883 William A. Conant

New England
 1913 C.F. Elliot

Massachusetts
 1917 F.E. Stanley
 1920 C.A. Kent

Boston, MA
 1878 Asa Warren White
 1878 Emmons Hamlin
 1880 Ira White
 1887 Calvin Baker
 1888 J. Hatch
 1890 Chas F. Kenerson
 1890 G. Dechant
 1891 J.B. Squire
 1891 Clark Powers
 1891 E.N. Cattin
 1892 Treffie Gervais
 1900 Orrin Weeman
 1903 Nathan Edson
 1905 John Gould
 1915 Fred W. Rothmer
 1921 H.E. Edson
 1921 William Ganshirt
 1921 E.F. Bryant
 1922 Joseph Martino
 1928 Walter Solon Goss
 1930 H.O. Potter
 1932 Peter Baltzerson
 1932 O.H. Bryant
 1932 Albert Lind
 1938 Victor P. Dubois

Lynn, MA
 1876 Walter Solon Goss
 1917 Joseph Schellingner
 1928 Pierre T. Cyr

Newton, MA
 1922 F.O. Stanley
 1929 Carlton Stanley

Malden, MA
 1904 John Svenson
 1911 Gustav Hennig

Braintree, MA
 1885 H.E. Abbot

Cohasset, MA
 1893 Daniel Wood

Taunton, MA
 1913 Theodore Marvel

Weymouth, MA
 1875 Baker and Abbot

Wollaston, MA
 1901 Frederick Buckley

New Rochelle, NY
 1919 John Deveau
 1920 Joseph Maffucci

Brooklyn, NY
 1927 W. Wilkanowski
 1890 George Szag
 1894 Jacob Beyer
 1920 Politis
 1932 Frederick Nebel

Providence, RI
 1925 Joseph Rockwell
 1932 Harry Rockwell

Woonsocket, RI
 1925 Moische Potvin

Newark, NJ
 1922 Gottfrid Bonleson

LEGEND
 Location
 YEAR Maker

Muskegon, MI
 1921 Byron Beebe
 1923 Emmet Beebe

Utica, NY
 1908 William B. Knox
 1940 Walter Bringe

Sharon Springs, NY
 1939 Eugene Lehman

Plymouth, VT
 1936 Harold Pinney

Boscawen, NH
 1856 Isalah Arey

Canton, ME
 1880 Frank Richardson

Newbury, MA
 1926 Everett Sirois

Bangor, ME
 1926 F. Max Johnson

Hartford, CT
 1880 Charles G. Moses
 1883 T.W. Hannum
 1900 Warren May

New Britain, CT
 1916 H.A. Littlehales

Putnam, CT
 1918 John Morse

Yalesville, CT
 1879 Edwin Bull

Lebanon, NH
 1880 Joseph Cross

New Milford, CT
 1930 Frederick E. Haenel

Worcester, MA
 1888 James McCauley
 1939 Reinhardt Meyer

Easthampton, MA
 1892 Edward Coleman

Northampton, MA
 1890 Andrew Hyde
 1890 M.L. Kidder

Shelburne Falls, MA
 1909 JR Foster

Springfield, MA
 1920 Alexander Ricard
 1932 Frank Ball

New York, NY
 1859 C.A. Miremont
 1860 George Gemunder
 1867 John Strodl
 1879 Thomas Russell
 1881 Alois Laurenz Kriner
 1885 H.R. Knopf
 1889 George Gemunder Jr.
 1890 Maurice Weiss
 1892 Paul Bally
 1893 Heinrich Schetelig
 1897 William Pezzoni
 1904 John Friedrich
 1907 John Markert
 1907 Ladislav Kaplan
 1907 Edward Tubbs
 1909 Miss Alvine DeFerenzy
 1910 Nicholas Heinz
 1912 Hans Tietgen
 1923 H.R. Knopf
 1923 Karl August Berger
 1925 G. Modauo
 1927 Kurt Eisenbach
 1927 John Freidrich
 1928 Giovanni Longiaru
 1929 H.R. Hanson
 1929 Joseph Wishnia
 1933 Simone Sacconi
 1936 Jugo Peternella
 1937 Luthier Rosenthal
 1941 Giuseppe Virzi
 1945 Giovanni Batista Virzi
 1948 Vit Nowinski
 1948 Dmitri Dechenko

Rochester, NY
 1921 Bert Goodwin

Lowell, MA
 1920 Steven Perry

Lewiston, ME
 1914 Nathan Sleeper Taylor

Portland, ME
 1915 Roscoe Hall

North Adams, MA
 1912 Walter Ropes

Pittsfield, MA
 1928 C.M. Carhart

Rossville, IN
 1925 Ossa Kriebel

Hammond, IN
 1940 John Erickson

Niagara Falls, NY
 1904 G.A. Ostertag

Fort Wayne, IN
 1942 Orron B. Heath

Elkhart, IN
 1916 Conn Wondertone
 1920 Fred Williams

South Bend, IN
 1924 Frederick C. Williams

Dayton, OH
 1943 Harry Woods

Buffalo, NY
 1937 A.E. Saxer

Reading, PA
 1911 Charles J. Uban

Pittsburgh, PA
 1938 Benjamin Phillips
 1920 Frank Barstow
 1925 Joseph Kaye

Houston, PA
 1927 Glavani Nuoto

Hagerstown, MD
 1947 Arthur Falardeau

Baltimore, MD
 1889 Prosper Cabasse
 1890 August Heck
 1912 Fred Buresch
 1915 Charles Edlavitch
 1916 Carl Holzapfel
 1917 Luther Helges
 1944 Nicholas Vasich

Chicago, IL
 1879 Herman Macklett
 1889 S. Lawinski
 1891 Theodore Paulus
 1896 A.J. Hansen
 1903 Nickolaus Ulen
 1904 Carl George
 1908 W.T. Lane
 1910 A.W. VanDorston
 1910 P.C. Paulsen
 1917 Carl G. Becker
 1917 Fassauer Ferron
 1920 Frank Sindelar
 1922 George Elensele
 1929 A.W. Reitz
 1934 John Hornsteiner
 1925 J. Maciukiewicz
 1930 F. DelPrato

Newark, OH
 1908 George S. Conway

Cleveland, OH
 1880 J.C. Hendershot
 1916 H. Lee Dodd
 1918 Francis Slinnon
 1926 Thomas Miller
 1933 Otto Luderer

E. Townsend, OH
 1878 C.W. Arnold

Toledo, OH
 1912 Albert Gemunder
 1920 Frank Topolewski
 1920 C.S. Buchanan

Philadelphia, PA
 1905 Charles Albert
 1860 Joseph Neff
 1880 John Albert
 1880 Carl Hammermiller
 1908 Charles Hammermille
 1909 H.G. Hill
 1912 Gottlieb Kleiner
 1925 Deluocla Brothers
 1928 Fritz Rlittermann
 1934 Martin Nebel

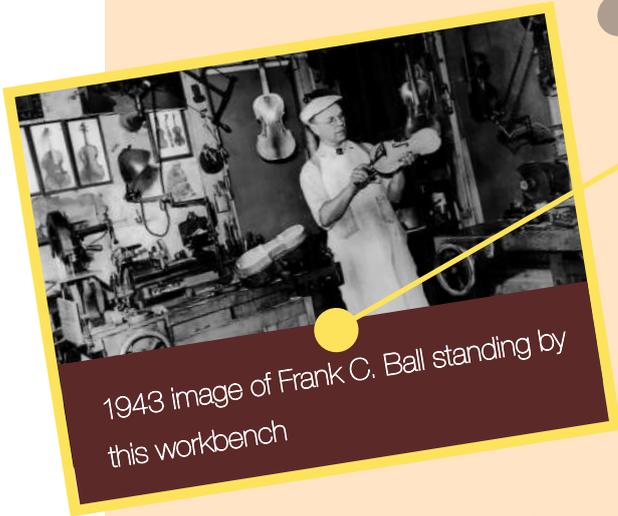
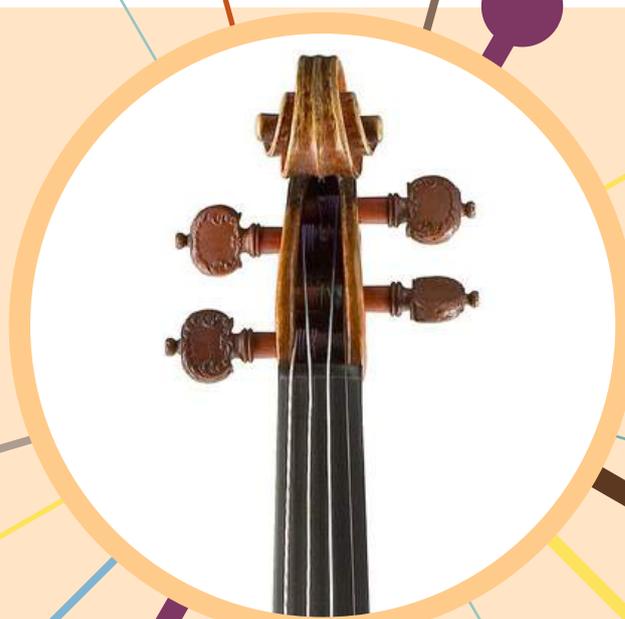
Nazareth, PA
 1848 C.F. Hartman

Scranton, PA
 1912 J.J. Hull

The Opportunity

Support America's Musical Story

Your gift will secure a home at the Library of Congress for this irreplicable collection of violins and preserve American history through the voices of the violins and their makers.



1943 image of Frank C. Ball standing by this workbench

INSPIRE



Inspire music lovers of all ages through discovery and exploration of the instruments in this one-of-a-kind collection.

Your gift gives future generations of young audiences and student artists access to world class instruments.



Preserve the history of violin-making in America.

Your gift ensures the ability to engage experts like luthier John Montgomery, pictured here as he inspects the Library's 1697 "Castelbarco" cello made by Cremonese master Antonio Stradivari.

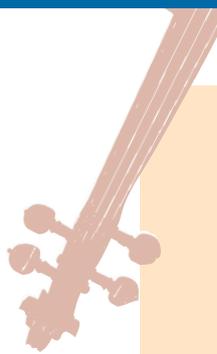
PRESERVE

CELEBRATE

Celebrate the music and artistry of the American violin.



Your gift will bring instrument players and makers together to further the study of American-made instruments and music. Pictured here are participants in a 2006 event with the public and experts in dialogue about the vital role of the violin in American cultural life.



We Need Your Support

The Library of Congress is seeking a visionary philanthropist and champion of America's music to acquire the David Bromberg American Violin Collection and to create access to this unique resource. A gift to this endeavor will resonate for decades to come in the lives of musicians, luthiers, students, scholars and music lovers across the nation and throughout the world.

\$1,700,000

\$1.5 million

Funding to acquire the 263
American violins

Naming Opportunity

\$200,000

American Violin Maintenance &
Program Fund.

Naming opportunity

The Library also seeks partnerships to fund tailored opportunities that will allow the instruments to continue to define and enrich the American musical Landscape.



ARTISTIC INSTRUMENT LOAN The Library intends to offer instruments from the Bromberg Collection to musicians and ensembles for performances and recording sessions the world over.



MASTER CLASSES As part of the artistic programming included in the support of the Bromberg Collection, the Library will present violin masters to up and coming musicians and instrument makers with invaluable master class experiences only available at the Library.

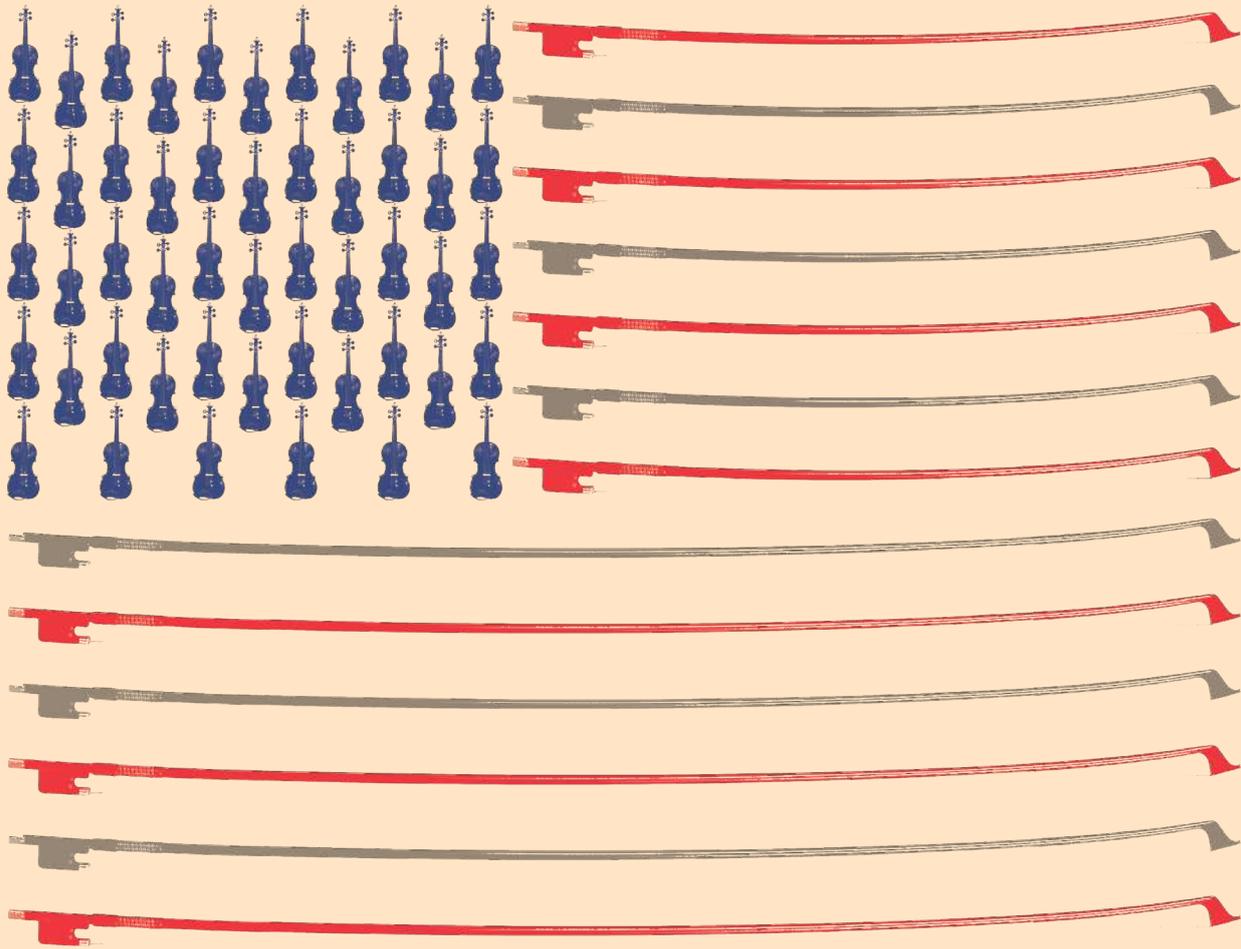


COMMISSIONS Continuing the Library's more than 90 year tradition of commissioning new music from ground-breaking composers, the Bromberg Collection will serve as inspiration for music specifically written to be premiered at the Library on the instruments.



SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA On topics ranging from violin performance to the influence of violin construction on American musical genres and regional styles, collection support includes the production of study seminars and symposia to continue and preserve the art of violin-making in America.

Recognition and Naming Opportunities



Contact

For further information or to discuss opportunities, please contact

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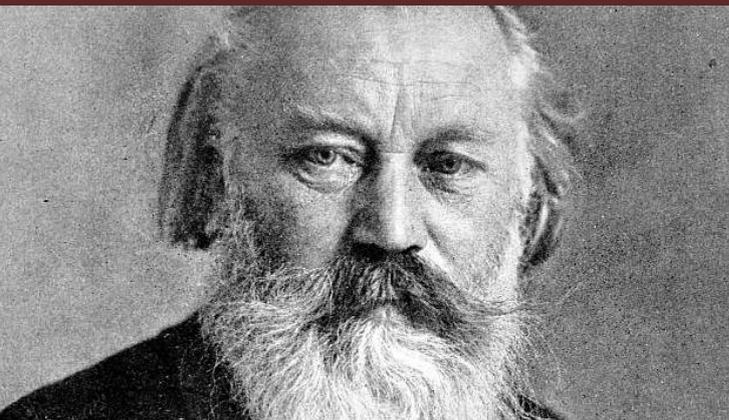
Pete Seeger, 1982

Source: Visual Materials from the Rosa Parks Papers, Prints and Photographs Division



Muddy Waters, 1964

Source: New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, Prints and Photographs Division



Johannes Brahms, ca.1880,

Source: Harris & Ewing Collection, Prints and Photographs Division

Music Collections

A 31 million-item Living Collection

The Library's music collections include music and sound recordings, books, manuscripts, librettos, copyright deposits and musical instruments that, combined, constitute an unmatched resource for musical scholarship. The music collections encompass virtually all genres – classical, jazz, pop, theater, folk, gospel, blues, rock, country, Latin, world, dance and hip-hop. Original manuscripts of European masters such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms sit on the shelves next to those of American masters such as Irving Berlin, Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein. The Library is home to the largest sheet music collection in the world, dating from the earliest publishers in Europe and America to the present day.

Studies of popular music are bolstered by the vast collections of traditional music in the Library's American Folklife Center, which is the world's largest archive of ethnographic materials from the United States and around the world. The archive features millions of items of ethnographic and historical documentation from the 19th century to the present, including iconic recordings of legendary figurers such as Muddy Waters, Woody Guthrie, The Seeger Family, and Zora Neal Hurston, as well as tens of thousands of hours of field recordings of diverse American folk and regional music traditions collected by hundreds of researchers including renowned fieldworkers Alan Lomax, Charles Seeger and Jean Ritchie.

Performing Arts at the Library

Live Performances Using the Collection as a Guide: Since 1925

The Library of Congress is unique among national libraries in that it seeks new and innovative ways to acquire, preserve and present the performing arts. The first music materials acquired by the Library include 13 volumes on music literature and theory from Thomas Jefferson's personal library.

Holdings include Francis Scott Key's handwritten text for "The Star-Spangled Banner," the manuscript of John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever," copyright deposits of Louis Armstrong, Bessie Smith and Woody Guthrie and the collections of violinists Fritz Kreisler, Jascha Heifetz, Roman Totenberg, Isaac Stern, Maud Powell and the Budapest String Quartet—who played the Library's famed collection of Stradivari instruments.

The collections are enlivened by the Library's musical instruments, including stringed instruments by the Cremonese masters Amati, Guarneri and Stradivari, harpsichords by Pleyel, instruments given by the King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand and the world's largest collection of flutes. These materials attract scholars and performers from around the world and are heard on stage and in recordings.

The Library presents materials in the performing arts which are international in scope and which are at once the record of the past, the experience of the present, and the precursor of the future. Through a tradition of private philanthropy, the Library has presented a distinguished chamber music series for 90 years and it also commissions new works of music and dance to reach an even wider audience of artists, scholars and music lovers. In addition, the American Folklife Center's popular Homegrown series regularly presents free concerts featuring the best of American folk, ethnic and regional musical traditions.





Cover Image:
A selection of the Bromberg
collection on display
Credit: Nancy Josephson

Back Cover Image:
Participants in a conference
examine the craftsmanship of a violin
Credit: The Library of Congress

“Fiddling remains, in one form or another, one of the most vital folk music traditions in America today.”

- Alan Jabbour, Former Director, Library of Congress, American Folklife Center