



RAINER W. LEONHARDT
MASTER VIOLIN MAKER IN MITTENWALD/BAVARIA

www.violin-leonhardt.de



OUR VIOLIN MAKING TRADITION: 350 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE YOU CAN HEAR

The Leonhardt Workshop, producing quality bowed instruments since 1926, is situated in the small town of Mittenwald. This center of South German lutherie has a 350-year tradition of violin making. The Leonhardt workshop has graduated from its humble beginnings to an atelier of master craftsmen. Shop founder Anton Dietl was succeeded by his son-in-law



Wilfried Leonhardt — himself son of Mittenwald luthier Fritz Leonhardt (plucked instruments).

Wilfried Leonhardt has in turn been followed by his own son, master luthier Rainer W. Leonhardt (1997).

Considering Rainer W. Leonhardt's passion for excellent craftsmanship, it comes as no surprise that he is also manager of the renowned Mittenwald Museum of Violin

Making.



THE PROCESS: FROM HANDCRAFTED ART TO MUSIC



Violin making is a very special art-craft requiring the command of many traditional skills.

A special talent for woodworking and artistic sensibility are among them, but most important is the ability to incorporate the vast violin crafting experience of earlier generations into one's work.

This commitment to tradition explains why hand crafted instruments from the Leonhardt Workshop persuade not only visually and tactilely, but above all in their musical responsiveness and tonal beauty.



The Leonhardt workshop represents the third generation of violin makers, serving the third generation of satisfied customers.



RAINER W. LEONHARDT, VIOLIN MAKER IN THE THIRD GENERATION

*M*y family tradition taught me the basics of the trade, of course. I completed my official education at the German National Trade School for Violin Makers in Mittenwald.

After qualifying as a journeyman in 1983, I spent seven years in the shops of master luthiers, refining my knowledge of the building, servicing, repairing, restoring, and modification of bows and violins.

In 1990 I was certified as a German Master



Craftsman by the Chamber of Skilled Crafts for Munich and Upper Bavaria.

My subsequent years in the Leonhardt Workshop have been marked by my increased sensibility to the needs of performing musicians, with many of whom I have come to work closely. These „partnerships“ with musicians and the knowledge I have gained during my

years of study and apprenticeship have had a profound effect on our instruments.

Company Founder Anton Dieltl





3 Generations: Grandson Max, Father Rainer and Grandfather Wilfried Leonhardt



IT ALL BEGINS
WITH
THE WOOD





Our instruments are made exclusively of spruce and maple from our native forests and from the forests of Bosnia, Austria and northern Italy. We carefully air-dry our wood, often for decades.

All our wood has been felled in the winter months during the appropriate moon phase and carefully stored to season in the family tradition.

Friends sometimes speak of our woodshed as if it were a wine cellar —

which is not a bad comparison, since tone wood must mature as a good Bordeaux matures, slowly, under monitored conditions.



My violins are all modelled after Italian and German master instruments, lovingly handcrafted and hand-varnished, with attentive care to details.

This attention to detail extends to our customers' instruments and bows in need of servicing, repair or modification.

OUR SOUND: COMPLEX, DEEPLY SATISFYING, TONALLY RICH

Building a master violin is an accumulation of many small steps, each carried out with painstaking care.

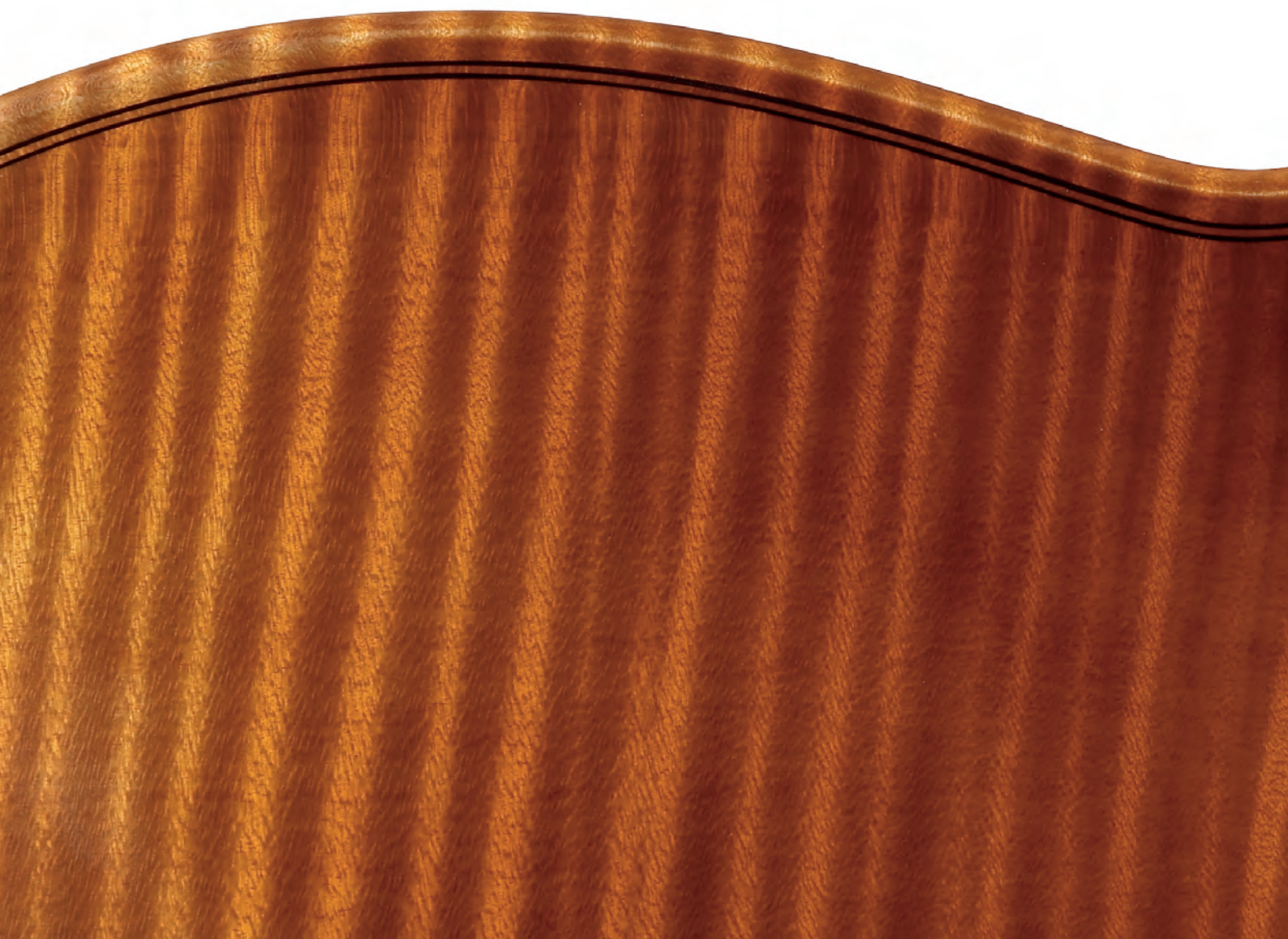
Acoustically, the violin is one of the most complex of musical instruments. Its responsiveness and reliability depend on the precise observance of the physical relationships between its components.

Sensibility in wood crafting and the experience of years go into the creation



of commendable violins „in the white“. The completion of an instrument up to this point alone takes close to 120 working hours.

In the ensuing hand-varnishing process, carried out in the family tradition, we use the best natural gums, resins and dyes — among these shellac, propolis, mastic, copal, benzoin, dragon's blood, frankincense, madder root and aloe — dissolved in oil or spirits in accord with family recipes. Varnishing a master violin enhances its most sovereign qualities



of appearance, lending it a soft lustre and protecting its features. Sounding beautiful is not enough — a violin must look beautiful, too.



„MUSICIANS ARE THE ARCHITECTS OF HEAVEN.“ (BOBBY MAC FERRIN)

The result of so much painstaking attention to detail is a musician's violin, a responsive, even and dependable instrument with great resonance and carrying potential in any position.

If you'd like a little more convincing, we invite you to visit our workshop. You will see that „special wishes“ are our specialty — be these carved lions' heads, 7/8 sizing, marquetry, double purfling, a particular

varnish and/or an individual choice of woods. It goes without saying that these requests will be fulfilled by a master craftsman.

If you're interested, curious or just plain impatient, come and glance over our shoulders while we are working. Take a little guided tour through our shop and display rooms and have a look at our woodshed. You'll be convinced: Excellence is worth waiting for.





We give special attention to setting up our instruments.

The musician's tools aren't the gouges and planes with which we handcraft violins. His creativity is dependent on the pegs, sound post, bridge, fingerboard and top nut, fine-tuners and chin rest on his particular instrument. Violin sound and playability are greatly affected by the care taken with these components in the setting-up process. Quality interaction between the player and his violin depend on it. It's not without reason, for instance, that we speak of the sound post as the „soul“ of the instrument.

Our sound posts and bridges — crafted exclusively from selected, well seasoned, fine-grained spruce and maple — guarantee that the strings and the body of the instrument will function as an integrated whole.



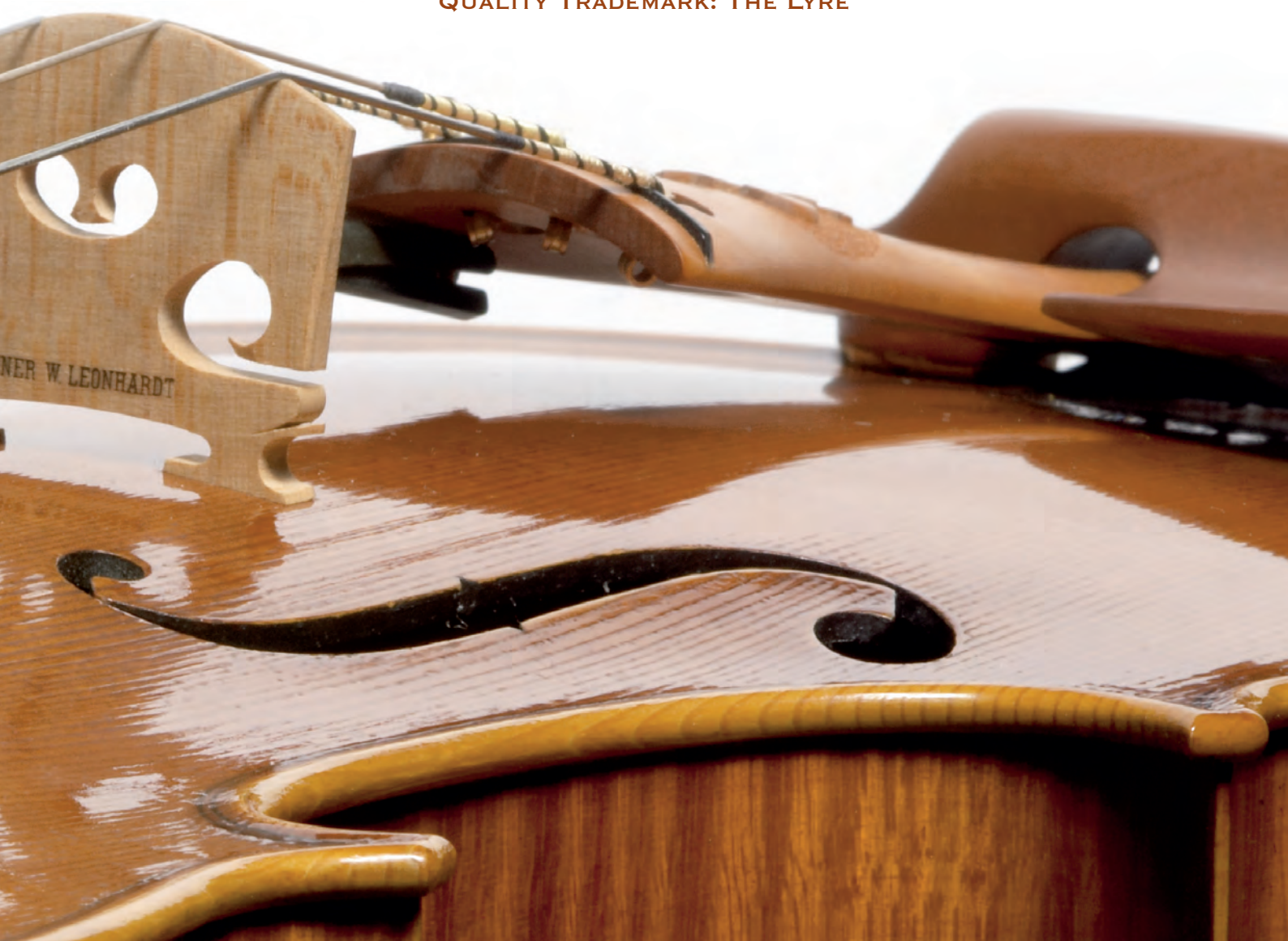
THE LEONHARDT WORKSHOP AND THE ESSENCE OF A GOOD VIOLIN

*T*he Leonhardt Workshop guarantees the quality of its products. Our tuning pegs, tail pins, tailpieces and similar components are generally hand-crafted in Germany, Italy or England using high-quality precious woods: ebony, boxwood, Rio palisander, palo azul and snakewood. Decorative materials include mother-of-pearl, wooden- and gold fittings.

The Lyre, our unique generations-old trademark, symbolizes the Leonhardt quality guarantee. Each of our instruments bears the Leonhardt Lyre twice: once inside the instrument, and again as a brand mark beneath the button on the back.



THE ORIGINAL LEONHARDT
QUALITY TRADEMARK: THE LYRE



VIOLIN N° 110 IMITATION OF AN OLD ITALIAN VIOLIN

*T*his fine instrument was created along the lines of the old Italian masters. Ground coat and varnish emphasize its special charm.



VIOLIN N° 100 MOUNTAIN MAPLE

*N*ative wood, felled during the proper moon phase, lends special quality to this instrument. A rare one-piece maple back and a hazel spruce top.



VIOLIN N° 150 IMITATION OF AN OLD INSTRUMENT

We have a good selection of quality instruments for novices. Various models and types.



VIOLIN N° 100 BOSNIAN MAPLE

*S*olo instruments made of choice, well-seasoned tone wood. A shaded, hand-applied varnish enhances the play of light on the wood in this model.



VIOLA N° 200

*B*oth master violas and workshop instruments may be had in all sizes (38.0 – 42.0 cm) and in all price classes. We also produce our own individually-sized models for special playing comfort.



CELLO N° 32 STUDENT INSTRUMENT

*T*he perfect violin for the novice, made of well-seasoned tone wood. Choice of color. Agreeable, warm tone.



CELLO N° 36 MASTER CELLO „BERGFEUER“ („MOUNTAIN FIRE“)

*M*aster cellos modeled after famous master luthier-instruments (Stradivarius, Guarnerius, Goffiller ...) One-of-a kind instruments made from choice, seasoned Bosnian woods.



CELLOS N° 40 AND 51 ITALIAN POPLAR



Master cellos made of
Italian poplar



enhanced by spectacular
shadow play varnishing.



Model „Stradivarius“

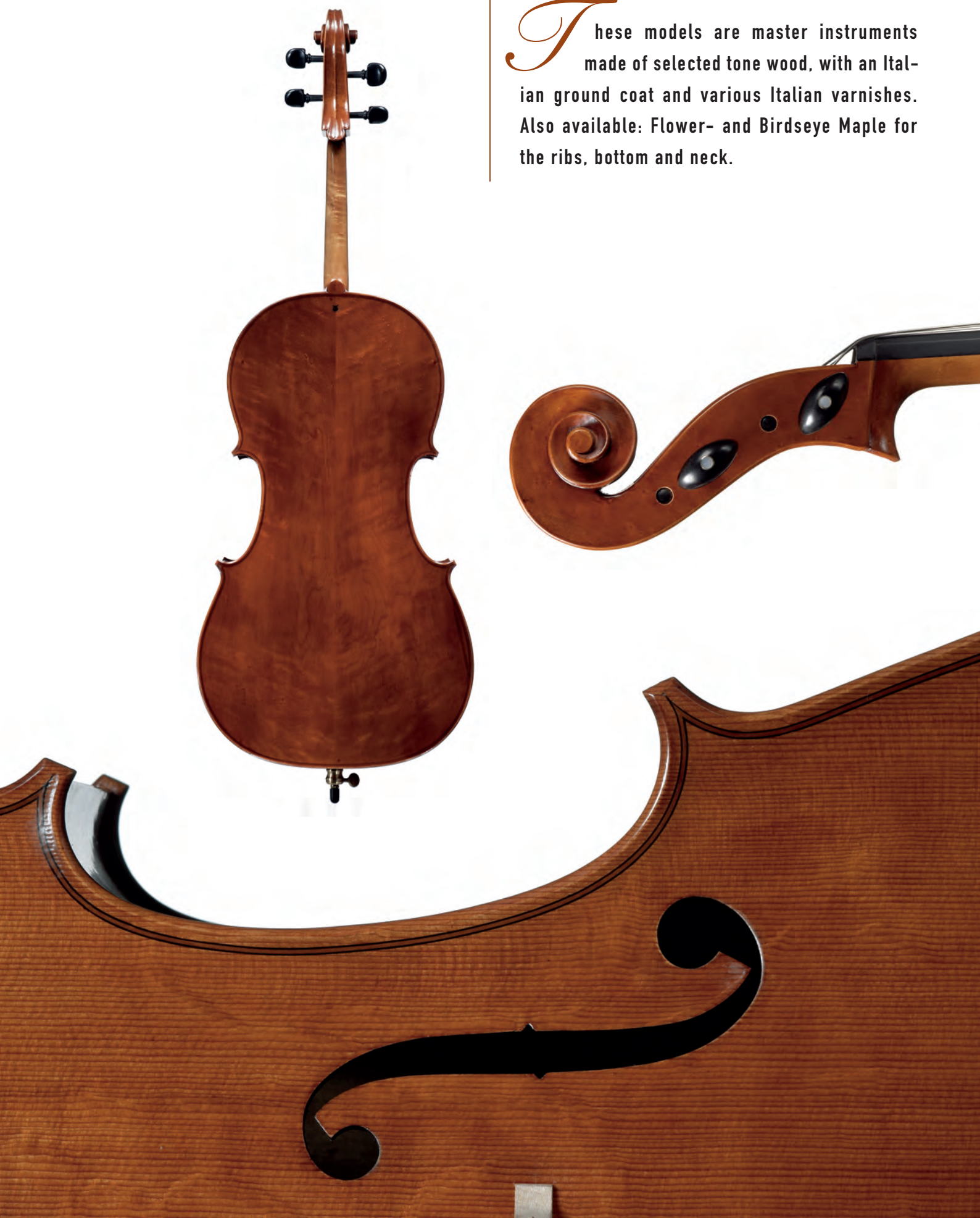


Model „Montagnana“



**CELLO N° 60, BUILT IN HISTORIC ITALIAN STYLE
BIRDSEYE MAPLE / HAZEL SPRUCE**

*T*hese models are master instruments made of selected tone wood, with an Italian ground coat and various Italian varnishes. Also available: Flower- and Birdseye Maple for the ribs, bottom and neck.



CELLO N° 300 SOLO INSTRUMENT
BOSNIAN MAPLE

*R*are models of very old, well seasoned tone wood of the best quality. Exclusive instruments handcrafted to your personal wishes and needs.

A letter of certification and documentary color photos are included.





FIND YOUR PERSONAL INSTRUMENT IN THE QUIET OF OUR SPACIOUS SHOWROOM

*W*hether you are considering buying a violin, viola or cello, your utmost need is for a quiet place to get acquainted with the instruments of your choice at your own pace. You will find the atmosphere you need in our showroom. A rich assortment of our products, from quality student instruments to master instruments, stands at your disposal.

Try out your practice routine. Make side-by-side comparisons.

Allow yourself plenty of time. You'll later be able to look back with pleasure on the making of this important decision, and you will know you've made the right decision, as well.



“MUSIC IN THE SOUL CAN BE HEARD BY THE UNIVERSE.”

(LAO TSU)



VIOLIN MAKING ENTAILS MORE THAN JUST MAKING VIOLINS

A violin maker out of conviction will never limit himself to just building instruments.

Our firm has always seen its task on a broad scale. Musicians are our partners. It is through them that we have been able to continually refine the quality of our instruments. Working closely with musicians also helps us to keep our repair work exceptional and our restoration work distinguished.

Dealing in good used instruments and bows is another rewarding and essential sector of our business. We carry a representative assortment of violins, violas and cellos in excellent playing condition.

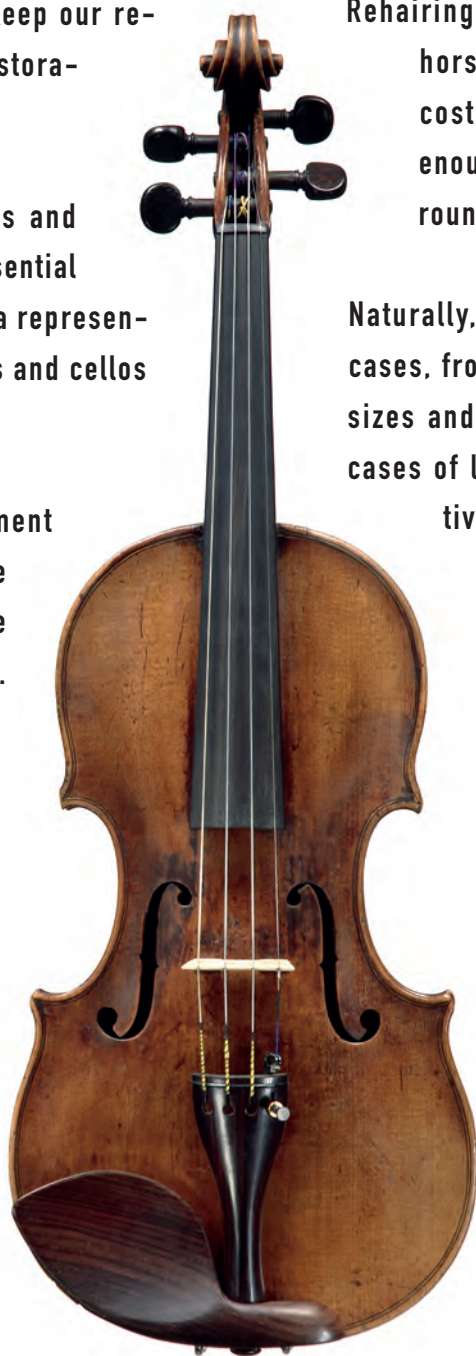
You haven't found the instrument you're looking for? Ask us. We'll be glad to be of service in finding the instrument for your special needs.



Our well-stocked assortment of accessories includes a great variety of old and new violin-, viola- and cello bows.

Rehairing your bow with prime Mongolian horse hair can be done at moderate cost. This material alone is robust enough to ensure good durability and a round, even tone.

Naturally, we carry a large assortment of cases, from basic to real pieces of art, in all sizes and price ranges. Look for our cello cases of lightweight durability at an attractive price.





THE LEONHARDT WORKSHOP:

FOUNDED IN MITTENWALD — KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Quality doesn't necessarily thrive behind closed doors. The Leonhardt workshop traditionally welcomes prospective buyers and those simply interested in the craft. This may be one of the reasons for the frequent visits the media pay to our shop.

Quality isn't a question of being „discovered“. Leonhardt quality instruments may be seen and heard both at the large European trade fairs (International Music Fair Frankfurt, Munich Trade Fair) and at important international expositions. We also participate with regular success in the main European violin making competitions.

Quality can also be materially rewarding, as seen below:

1989 Medal of Honor, First Place,
Guild of Violin Makers of the
Chamber of Skilled Crafts
for Munich and Upper
Bavaria.



**SUCCESS IS A JOURNEY,
NOT A DESTINATION**

1993 Medal of Honor, Guild of French Luthiers

1995 Winner, Best German Music Instrument (for the violoncello „Bergfeuer“), German Ministry of Commerce.

1997 Prize of the European Association of Violin- and Bow Makers for the best crafted instrument submitted by a European at the international competition in Mittenwald.

2005 Special Prize of the Kreissparkasse Garmisch-Partenkirchen for handcrafting of excellence.

Surely these awards account in part for the fact that Leonhardt quality instruments are heard throughout the world.

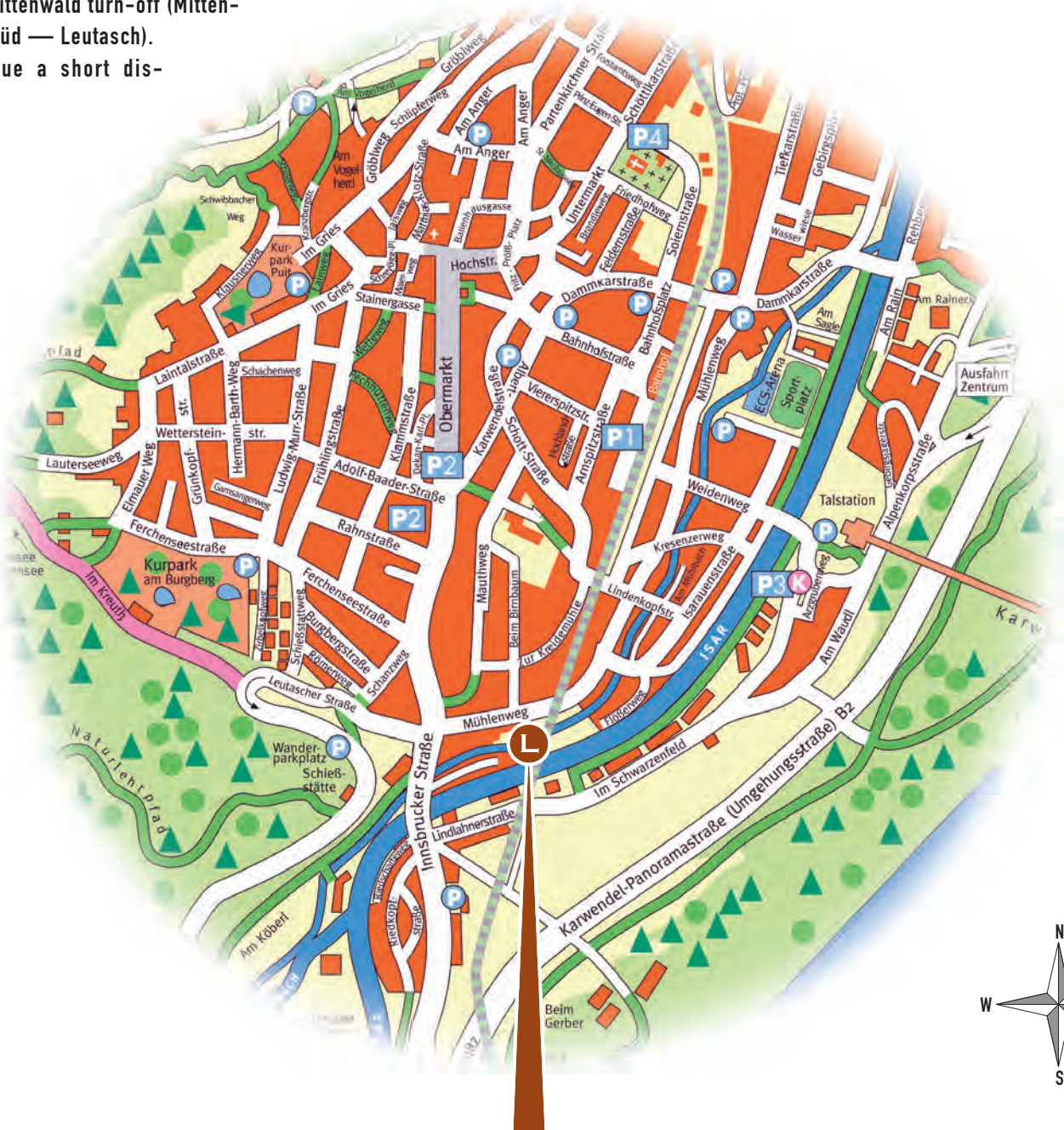
WE AT THE LEONHARDT WORKSHOP ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT



It's easy to find us!
If you're coming from Munich-Garmisch (A 95),
take the third Mittenwald turn-off (Mittenwald
Süd — Leutasch).

If you're coming from Innsbruck, take the
first Mittenwald turn-off (Mitten-
wald Süd — Leutasch).
Continue a short dis-

tance along the „Innsbrucker Straße“ in the direction of
the town. After crossing the Isar River take the first right
turn („Mühlenweg“). Continue for about 200 m and take a
right turn again short of the railway tracks. Welcome to
„Geigenbau Leonhardt“ — welcome to our workshop!



Rainer W. Leonhardt · Violin Maker · Mühlenweg 53 · 82481 Mittenwald
Tel.: 08823/8010 · Fax 08823/2079 · Cell phone 0171/5719519

**Opening Hours: Mo. – Fr. 9.00–12.00 and 13.00–17.00 hours (9–12, 1–5 p.m.)
or by Appointment**

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