

Girolamo Amati- small violin, 1613

Signed: printed on paper label, year in black ink: "Antonius & Hieronymus Fr. Amati/ Cremonens. Andreae fil. F 1613"

This small sized ("piccolo") violin by one of the famed Amati brothers, is about 3/4 of the size of a modern standard violin and was designed for playing by an adult. It also provides a rare glimpse at what the finest Renaissance instruments looked like when they were made. It may have been made to perform at a higher pitch, as the neck is of the dimensions comfortable for an adult hand. The Cremonese composer Claudio Monteverdi called for "violini piccoli alla francese" or small violin in the French style in his Opera *l'Orfeo* in 1607.

This Amati survived more than 400 years in virtually original condition.

Top: two-piece, spruce

Back: one-piece, maple. Ribs and neck, maple.

Total violin length: 476 mm.