



Retouching and restoration

Masterclass with Iris Carr

Overview

The goal of this masterclass is to introduce essential principles and practical techniques of instrument restoration and retouching, focusing on instruments from the violin family. The course combines theoretical presentations with hands-on practical training, enabling students to master core retouching techniques and principles.

Theoretical introduction

Introductory lecture in two parts:

Part 1. Common repairs

- Emphasis on crack repairs.

Part 2. Colouring and retouching new wood

- Techniques for new edges and corners,
- Principles of colour matching and retouching.

Practical retouching techniques

Colouring new wood and retouching

- Retouching of new edges, corners, and larger areas (e.g., upper rib treble side),
- Application and scraping of filler varnish.

Peg bushings

- Practical demonstrations on installing and retouching peg bushings.

Use of UV light

- Practical instruction on using UV lighting for effective retouching.



First principles and design of instruments from the violin family

Masterclass with François Denis

Overview

The aim of this course is to introduce fundamental principles of musical instrument design, particularly instruments belonging to the violin family.

The approach, combining historical, theoretical, and practical perspectives, aims to clarify the complexity behind key factors determining the most commonly used models. It enables students to grasp these principles thoroughly and apply them proficiently.

Part 1 – Fundamental principles

- **Instrument dimensions** – width/length/height
- **Proportions and layouts**
 - Neck length – body length,
 - Bridge and sound-hole positions,
 - Longitudinal and horizontal positions of widths and corners.
- **Two categories of dimensional parameters**
 - Tessitura and sound qualities: choice of strings, vibrating string length and neck length, choice of tuning, body volume,
 - Playability: body length; position, dimensions, and curvature of the bridge; position and dimensions of the f-holes; bow action on the string and its relation to the instrument's narrowest width.
- **The monochord: the historical standard measurement tool for stringed instruments**
 - Brief history and basic principles,
 - Examples of typical divisions.

Part 2 – Outlines

- **Methods** – freehand drawing, point-by-point plotting, compass method.
- **Types of lines and their drawing techniques** – ellipse, straight line, scotia (concave curve), counter-curve.
- **How to outline a shape on a surface** – determining points, vase-shaped outline, oval-shaped outline.
- **An example of violin outline drawing.**

Masterclasses fees	Retouching and restoration	Model design
	1500 PLN	1000 PLN

