

# LEARNING TRADE SECRETS WORKSHOPS

Making Master Class with William Scott



Suggested Enrollment Cap: 12

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Course Description:** This course incorporates an approach to aiding students in completing instruments to their highest level with consideration for international violin making competitions. Within this approach are aesthetic considerations, workmanship, model and materials that will be discussed in depth focusing on what might be the student's focus to create an instrument in hopes of reaching their greatest potential.

**Course Objective:** Sometimes the details of making an instrument can cast a shadow on what's most important like the "little things" like antiquing. Finding your strengths and working with them to present your best work will be the focus with plenty of time to discuss, demonstrate and execute some of the ideas brought up by the class. The course is adaptable to participants and their major concerns regarding competition entry. Therefore, the daily schedule will be very adaptable to meeting the needs of the group. The contents presented in this syllabus are areas of importance that provide a springboard for our discussions and workshop activities.

## RESOURCES AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

**Materials & Tools:** Each participant is responsible for bringing their own materials and hand tools for work they hope to get help on.

**Resources & Supplementary Materials:** A resource library is available for use during the workshop. These resources are subjected to a restricted area during use and are not permitted to be used at individual work benches.

Mr. Scott may have some materials available for some of the topics discussed and available for purchase.

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor** William (Bill) Scott is available for questions after the workshop. You can contact Mr. Scott by emailing [scottviolins@comcast.net](mailto:scottviolins@comcast.net).

## PARTICIPATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

**Participation:** Some students have previous experience and are attending workshops to refine their skills. New students are expected to communicate with the instructor as a learning resource, not other students.

**Punctuality:** Students are expected to arrive on time and complete the daily milestones as they co-ordinate with the daily course calendar. Teaching hours are 8:00 - 5:00 pm, unless otherwise communicated by your instructor. Additional evening hours may be available at the instructor's discretion.

# COURSE CONTENTS

**Contents:** The contents of this course will cover the following topics for discussion and possibly additional topics as the instructor and class find necessary.

## Focus on the overall goal

- Model selection and materials - being sure they pair well and using them to your advantage
- Working with templates to create workflow and control
- First impressions and how best to present them to a judge or musician
- Learning to work with your strengths - taking constructive criticism from others

## Working the basics

- Workmanship and how tool selection and use affect the outcome
- Reviewing the basics and training the eye
- Working with templates to avoid inconsistencies

## Sound & Setup

- Items often overlooked at competitions - discussion and demonstrations
- Creating templates that help with setup
- Tuning bridges, fingerboards and tailpieces - neck reinforcement for stability and sound quality
- Accessory selection and its impact - material, design and mounting all play a role in molding sound
- Preparations for entering a string quartet in VSA Competitions

## Final considerations and conclusions

- Finishing and first impressions - antiquing and patina
- General aesthetics - wood preparation, and demonstration with participant involvement
- Allowing time for an instrument to settle in for optimal sound quality
- Getting feedback from musicians to finalize setup
- Weather and atmospheric conditions at the competition venue - preparation

# COURSE GROUND RULES

**Syllabus Changes:** While every attempt has been made to prepare this syllabus in final form, it will be at the instructor's discretion to make any changes as he/she may deem necessary in order to meet the learning outcomes of the course.

**General Policies:** The instructor expects attention to detail and meeting course expectations, including participation in discussions and addressing technical problems immediately.

**Phones:** Please be courteous to your bench partners by silencing your cell phone during work hours and taking calls outside the workshop.

**Tools:** Do not borrow tools without permission. Everyone should have all the tools and supplies they need; if not please ask your instructor.

**Safety Concerns:** COVID-19 is a safety concern! We realize it is difficult to work while wearing a mask, but we ask that you wear one if you are not vaccinated and be respectful of your bench mates and maintain distance. Injury is possible when using cyanoacrylate glue, therefore each student has been provided a pair of safety glasses for use during the course to help prevent eye injury. A First Aid and Eye Wash Station also are available should injury occur. Should an injury occur, please see your instructor immediately and then dial 9-1-1. Any injury requires a completed Injury Form located on the clip board next to the eye wash station. Your safety and well-being is our number one priority.

For More Information Visit  
[www.LearningTradeSecrets.com](http://www.LearningTradeSecrets.com) or  
Contact us at [LearningTradeSecrets@gmail.com](mailto:LearningTradeSecrets@gmail.com)