

Fondazione
Museo del Violino
Antonio Stradivari
Cremona

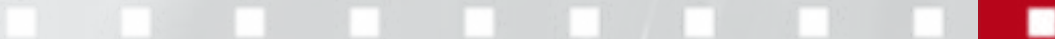


Museo del Violino

www.museodelviolino.org



Museum map and description



MdV: stories and emotions of five centuries of Cremonese violinmaking

An indissoluble and ancient link exists between Cremona and violinmaking.... The opening of the Museo del Violino (MdV) adds a splendid new page to this long history and presents an important structure to the international community that will serve as a museum, auditorium and research centre. At the MdV visitors can explore five centuries of violinmaking

in Cremona directly through the great master violinmakers and their instruments: Andrea Amati and his descendants; Antonio Stradivari; Giuseppe Guarneri "del Gesù" and his family; Lorenzo Storioni and Francesco Rugeri. No other museum in Europe can boast such an important and complete display of string instruments from the school of Cremona. The 19th and 20th centuries are documented through the work of the greatest Italian violinmakers of the time and the winners of the Triennial Competition, while in a series of dedicated spaces, the museum also pays significant tribute to contemporary violinmakers. Multimedia installations and a wealth of documentary displays allow everyone – from children to the most expert visitors – to enjoy an exciting and enthralling visit in which history and instruments, fragrances, sounds and images converge to give shape to stories, dreams and emotions.



In the foreground, a work of the sculptor Helidon Xhixha in Piazza Marconi

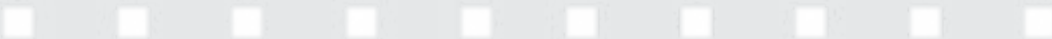
A general view of the "Giovanni Arvedi" Auditorium in the MdV-Museo del Violino



The culture of excellence, which from its early steps has guided the realization of the Museo del Violino, is perfectly synthesized in the Giovanni Arvedi Auditorium. The Auditorium, the only one of its kind and the outstanding result of a daring and modern project, was coordinated by the architects Giorgio Palù and Michele Bianchi with the support of the acoustical engineer Yasuhisa Toyota for the optimization of the acoustics, and reaffirms and exalts Cremona's role at an international level as the capital of violinmaking and music.

The guiding principle of the construction was the desire to offer each one of the 460 audience members an immersive and completely absorbing experience. From the structural elements to the design of the fittings and furnishings, from the acoustic solutions to logistical decisions, everything has been carefully studied in order to reach the

highest possible finished standards. The excellence is not fuelled only by engineering skill and sophisticated calculations, but also by a profound sensitivity and an artisanal quest for perfection, tracing a direct and perceptible line of continuity back to the skill and capacity for innovation expressed by Cremona's great violin-making masters. The geometry of the spaces brings together soft volumes; sinuous lines chase each other and draw an organic sculpture which expresses the spreading of sound waves. The hall's particular architecture presents a final suggestion: the stage is at the centre of the scene, the audience "wrapped round" the musicians and the dialogue that is created between audience and players produces strong empathy and allows a new experience, of an intensity and quality of feeling noticeably higher than that of the classical concert concept.





D
First
Floor

Room 1 - The origins of the violin

How and when did the violin come into being? Which instruments preceded it? What determined the appearance of the new instrument and its success over time? The phases leading to the birth of the violin are presented and its spread over northern Italy and into the most important European courts, in particular in France at the time of Catherine de' Medici.

Room 2 - The violinmaker's workshop

How is a violin made? How many and what are the parts it is composed of? What materials are used and what tools and techniques? The room looks at the technical aspects of making a violin from the tree to the finished instrument.

Room 3 - The spread of the violin

When did the violin spread over Europe and the world? Starting from where? Which nations have been the most active in violinmaking and for how long? A historical view of the spread of the violin throughout the world is presented starting from the early 16th to the 20th century. Excerpts from important concerts performed by famous 20th century violinists can be seen and heard in the listening room.

Room 4 - Classical Cremonese violinmaking

How did the great classical Cremonese school of violinmaking develop? Who were the main figures and what was the context in which they worked? Why are Stradivari's instruments famous all over the world? The room presents an introduction to the history of Cremonese violinmaking and the activities of the famous violinmaking families.

Room 5 - The treasure box

The most important instruments belonging to the Town Hall of Cremona and made by the great classical Cremonese masters are displayed in this room. They include famous instruments by Antonio Stradivari, among which "Il Cremonese" violin (1715), and others by various members of the Amati's and Guarneri's.

Auditorium Giovanni_Arvedi



Room 6 - The objects belonging to Stradivari

How did Antonio Stradivari make his instruments? What tools did he use? What technique? We can answer these questions thanks to the more than 700 objects, including drawings, moulds and tools, passed down to us directly from Antonio Stradivari's workshop, most of which were donated to the Town Hall of Cremona in 1930 by the violinmaker Giuseppe Fiorini. Study stations are set up for digitized viewing of all the objects and files on the instruments on display.

Room 3: The spread of the violin

Room 5: The treasure box



Room 7 - The twilight and rebirth of violinmaking

Did the Cremonese violinmaking tradition die after Stradivari? Or did it develop without interruption to present times? How was the Stradivari myth of the 1900s created? Where can you learn to be a violinmaker today in Cremona? The hall is dedicated to the events of Cremonese violinmaking from the late 1700s to the early 1900s when, among other things, the Violinmaking School was founded.

Room 8 - The Triennial violinmaking competitions

Since 1976 a triennial international competition held in Cremona, now organized by the Fondazione Stradivari, has awarded prizes to the best modern instruments selected by a jury composed of violinmakers and musicians.

The Permanent Collection of Contemporary Violinmaking brings together in this hall the winning violins, violas, cellos and double basses from the last 13 editions. Thanks to a multimedia station it is possible to know the measurements and construction details of each instrument and read notes on the author and the Jury that awarded the prize. Also displayed are the photographs and biographies of the professional violinmakers currently working in Italy, divided by region, with Cremona in the lead for number and variety.

Room 9 - friends of Stradivari

Since 2009 the Fondazione Stradivari has promoted the "friends of Stradivari" network, a worldwide web of people who play, collect, study or simply love the old Cremonese stringed instruments. Within this cultural project, violins made by Stradivari, Amati and Guarneri belonging to public and private collections are temporarily displayed in Cremona where they can be admired and listened to in moving and unique concerts.



Room 4: Classical Cremonese violinmaking





D
First
Floor

Photo above: Room 9 friends of Stradivari

Photo below: Performances and conferences room



Audioguides and guided tours A detailed audioguide and multimedia stations in every room will accompany visitors along their journey through the world of string instruments, allowing them to develop their own modular, flexible itineraries. As sensory experiences and the transmission of knowledge intersect, both laypeople and expert connoisseurs will find new material and new inspiration for further investigation. The audioguide in Italian or English is provided free at the entrance, and specialist guides are available upon request, if booked in advance.

Children At the Museo del Violino, even the youngest visitors can discover the world of precious and unusual musical instruments and curious objects with a touch of magic about them. A special multimedia itinerary will reveal the fascinating skill of the violin maker, who today, just as in the past, is able to take wood and varnishes prepared with special alchemy and draw from them a sound as sweet, melodious and expressive as the human voice.

Workshops and education The MdV offers a wide range of educational activities and workshops for children and teenagers, who can explore the fascinating world of Cremonese string instruments and the artisans who made them. The thematic visits and programmes are based around itineraries differentiated by age and skill level, allowing everyone to discover the pleasure of learning through fun and enjoyable activities.

Booking essential.

Performances on historical violins Why do the world's most famous musicians choose instruments made by Stradivari, Guarneri and Amati? Because of their excellent sound. At the Museo del Violino, it is possible to hear – live – the voices of these masterpieces, entrusted to the expert hands of skilled soloists, offering visitors an experience of intense and unforgettable poetry. **Booking essential.**

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10 am - 6 pm

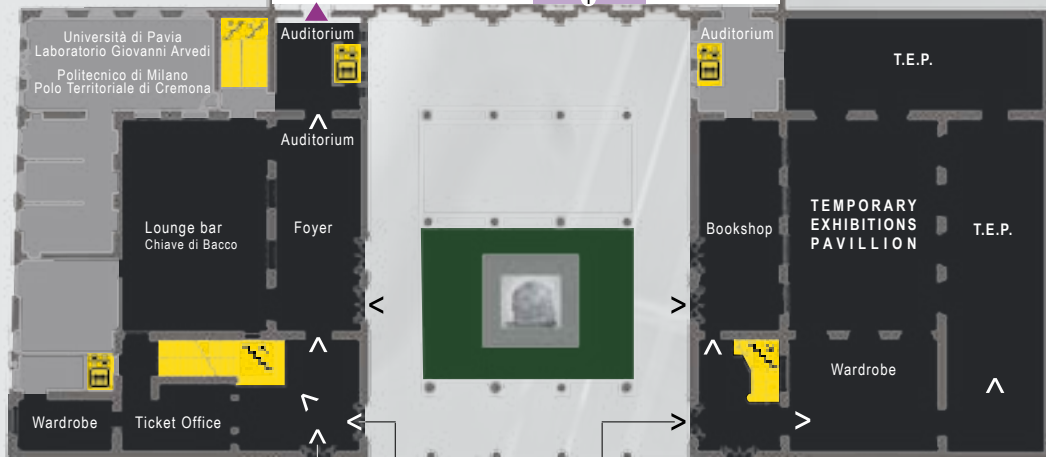
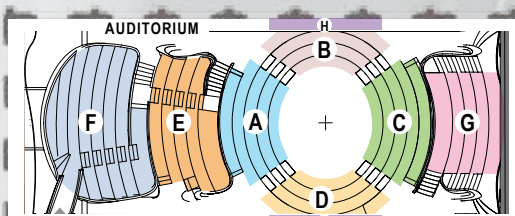
Ticket Office: Tel (+39) 0372 080809

Booking: Tel (+39) 0372 801801 mail: marketing@museodelviolino.org

Cremona
Tickets

B
Ground Floor

Sections of "Giovanni Arvedi" Auditorium



Main entrance Museum and Auditorium

Entrance Temporary Exhibitions Pavillion

places of art, music and culture in Cremona



Museo del Violino

Fondazione
Museo del Violino
Antonio Stradivari
Cremona

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- 1 MdV - Museo del Violino
- 4 Museo Archeologico
- 2 Duomo di Cremona
- 5 Teatro Ponchielli
- 3 Museo civico "Ala Ponzone"
- 6 Scuola Internazionale di Liuteria

- How to reach MdV - Museo del Violino
- How to leave the city from Piazza Marconi car park