

# Mondomusica 2010, a report.

Mondomusica October 1.-3..2010 Stand 63, in Cremona, Italy

First international presentation of conical violins, violas and violoncellos by Wolfgang and Wolfgang Johann Stegmüller.

Two Violinmakers, father & son from Munich&Cremona trying to excite the world of classic and traditional violinmaking with a new and patented type of bowed instruments (violins, violas and violoncellos etc.).

## History

In 2004 after years of research and development and motivated by an order for a couple of instruments for the Ursula Hugendubel Foundation Wolfgang Stegmüller disclosed his new conical construction for bowed instruments. In 2005 the Patent Office was convinced that the invention should have a patent:

DE 10 2004 007 613 „Streichinstrument“ (including all types of bowed instruments).

## Public interest

21.04.2006 *Süddeutsche Zeitung* published an article under the title „Dem Klangmysterium auf der Spur“ („on the scent of the sound-mystery“).

The Eveningshow of Bavarian TV (Bayerischer Rundfunk) aired a segment dwelling on the first conical violoncello. Played and explained by the wellknown cellist Daniel Müller-Schott.

26.04.2006 For the first time in concert the conical instruments were presented in the 2.Operahouse of Munich, „Gärtnerplatz Theatre“, played by wellknown musicians as Adrian Brendel (GB) violoncello, Corinne Chapelle (USA) violin, Tobias Breider (GER) viola, Robert Kulek (USA) piano.

Within the frame of this event the Bavarian TV Station made a coverage about the rehearsal and the concert to broadcast it as part of the cultural magazin called „Capriccio“. Today it airs in reruns , also in different countries.

In 2007 The Ursula Hugendubel Foundation in Munich/Germany donated her set of conical instruments, a violin, a viola and a cello to the *Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Theater* to be provided to their students .The violin is under the patronage of the famous violin teacher Ana Chumachenko.

The famous violinist Lisa Batiashvili recommended the instrument to her after she had played it intensively. One of Ana Chumachenko´s students, Felix Weber, was able to play the conical violin for 2 years and performed a number of public concerts with it, e.g. 2009 the Mendelssohn Violinconcert with major success.

In the years 2005-2009 Wolfgang Stegmüller constantly worked on his invention and made some more conical violins, violas and cellos to expand his knowledge of the construction. He gave some samples to musicians to test the soundquality, the handling and the new design. By the way, the fundamental measures of the scale

correspond to the classical instruments, therefore musicians don't have to change their technique of playing.

After the positive résumé of musicians who tested his conical violins, violas and cellos like Daniel Müller-Schott (cello), Adrian Brendel (cello), Lisa Batiashvili (violin), Felix Weber (violin), Corinne Chapelle (violin), Tobias Breider (viola), Wen Xiao Zheng (viola) - and after his son Wolfgang Johann Stegmüller 2009 graduated *Scuola Internazionale di Liuteria „Antonia Stradivari“ Cremona*, Wolfgang Stegmüller decided to take the next step and present the conical bowed instruments at *Mondomusica 2010 in Cremona* together with his son's first conical instruments. Either of them presented a violin, a viola and a violoncello of the new patented construction.

To read more about the patent and construction go see our website:

[www.violinsstegmueller.com](http://www.violinsstegmueller.com)

Mondomusica 2010

*Mondomusica* is the world's most important exhibition for makers and dealers of bowed instruments and the annual meeting of the creme de la creme of violinmakers worldwide: How would the branch react on a new construction, a new impression of sound and ahead of all someone who contrary to custom changes a 500 year old design!

Classic tradition meets patent protected modern power....

The stand no. 63 of Stegmüller & Stegmüller at the Mondomusica 2010 exposed 2 violins, 2 violas and 2 violoncellos, all conical. To attract people's attention at first sight, one of each type was placed back to front to make the construction visible to passersby. The back is smaller than the top of the body. The ribs are therefore formed like a conus, from the back opening to the top, to produce an energetic focussed sound.

And it worked, nearly everyone who passed the stand, violinmakers, musicians and visitors recognized that there was something different with the instruments. To find an answer for the unusual design people came closer. The stand was steadily crowded by people playing and comparing the instruments, asking questions about the construction, the design, the sound and the idea behind the construction.

In stand 63 there were many violinmakers from Cremona itself and from Italy, like for example the famous Maestro Gian Carlo Guicciardi from Modena, Claudio Amighetti, Gasparo Bochart and Primo Pistoni and the famous bowmaker G. Lucchi from Cremona. Others from Japan, Korea, China, South America, all over Western Europe as France, England, Germany a.s.o. as well as from Eastern Europe and Israel. Also many violinmakers came from Canada and from the United States. The famous Carlos Arcieri from New York and his son Giancarlo Arcieri spent a long time at the stand with interest, questions and final compliments.

Luzius Wernly, president of the Maggini Foundation in Switzerland was also one of the numerous visitors of stand 63 and examined the conical instruments in detail. His résumé: „I could imagine to have such an instrument in the Maggini

Foundation.“

The comments of most of the violinmakers could be recited with following expressions: „wonderful idea“ „great compliments for the idea and courage to realize it „ „genious invention because of ist visibility“ „simple and logic“ „elegant design“ „Just great, can I work with this construction, too“ „I also make an invention now“ „can I get a license of the patent“ „hey, a patent for violins, great“ „ the musicians will be happy“ „you make no more copies, only your visible own originals“ e.t.c

Not only violinmakers but also many musicians, soloists, members of orchestras from all over the world came and tested the instruments. It was a pleasure to hear these short but great concerts in the stand. Recitals of Bach, Beethoven, Haydn etc...

One of the musicians was the significant soloist Elizabeth Pitcairn who came all the way from the US. She is also known as the owner of the Mendelssohn-Stradivari violin from 1720 (named the „red violin“). It was an honor that she tested both conical violins and played parts of the Samuel-Barber-Concert with such virtuosity that within a few minutes a grand audience gathered in front of our stand. In the end she applauded the conical violins.

Einer der vielen anerkannten Musiker, die die Instrumente in genaueren Augenschein namen, war die bedeutende Solistin Elisabeth Pitcairn, die eigens aus den USA anreiste, um die 'Mondo Musica' zu besuchen. Frau Pitcairn ist als die Besitzerin der Mendelssohn-Stradivari von 1720, auch bekannt als 'Red Violin'. Es war uns eine Ehre, dass sie beide Konischen Violinen ausprobierte. Sie spielte Stücke aus dem Samuel-Barber-Konzert so virtuos, dass innerhalb kürzester Zeit eine große Besuchermenge den Stand umringte. Zum Schluss applaudierte Frau Pitcairn den beiden Konischen Violinen.

The résumé of Mondomusica 2010 for the Violinmakers Stegmüller& Stegmüller:

With great joy and astonishment that there was no negativity but all rational feedback and positive reactions on the conical instruments, Wolfgang & Wolfgang Johann Stegmüller now intend to present their modern violins, violas and violoncellos 2011 in New York and again in Cremona.

W.S.

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