

Charlie Knowles Violin

This beautiful, unique and mellow violin was purchased at Falmouth N.S. on July 11, 2004 from the violin maker himself, Charlie Knowles. Charlie is an acclaimed wood carver who turned his interest towards violin making late last century. Charlie makes only one or two violins each year, and this is one of two made in 2001. The back is

made of red maple from Mount Martock, Windsor, Hants County, Nova Scotia. The front and sides are made from red spruce from along Route 12, Hants County, Nova Scotia. The fingerboard is handcarved rosewood. Charlie also hand carved the chinrest.

Charlie's wife, Marg, plays violin and advises Charlie from a player's point of view.



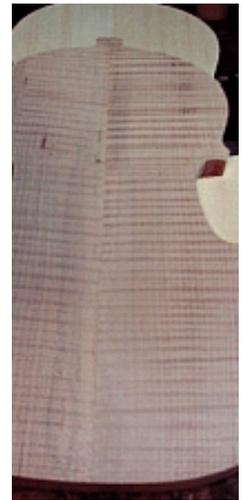
My instrument is the one next to the viola on Charlie's wall.

Each of Charlie's instruments is unique in finish. He has developed his own style of construction, with his own templates and features to enhance strength and tone.

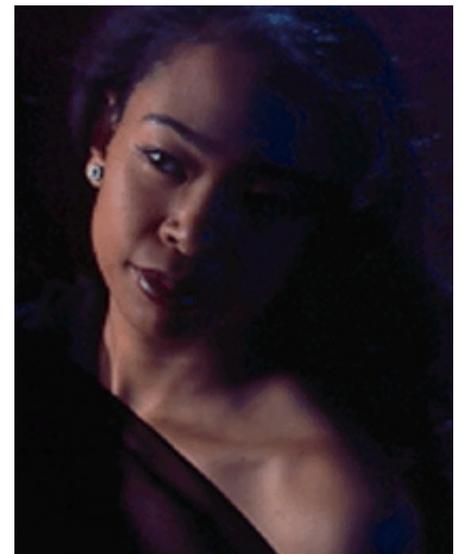


This is the dried wood back of a violin presently under construction. It is cut from the same tree as mine which was his sixth violin. Mine was named "Northrup" by Marg, after the Canadian writer, Northrup Fry. The violin has a deeper tone than most reflecting the nature of Fry's writing.

Below is a picture of Charlie with "Northrup" in his workshop, on the day of my purchase.



Other purchasers of Knowles violins include Fiddlin Jim Hamm of Bridgewater, and Nokuthula Ngwenyama of Phoenix Colorado. She is pictured below. She has played at The Louvre, The Kennedy Centre, The Lincoln Centre and The White House as well as fine concert halls around the world. Her violin is the other made by Charlie in 2001. It was made to the same design and of the same wood, but with a darker finish.



Charlie's violin making process is very conscientious, from wood selection, to design, to construction and finish. He spends hours on every detail until it fully meets his exacting standards. For example, he cuts the wood so carefully that the grain patterns of the sides are reflections of each other.



He cuts the peg holes exactly so that the strings never touch any other.



Note details like the tapered sides and finish of the peg box. He has even developed his own unique bass bar design. No detail is overlooked by Charlie. His instruments are truly well crafted as well as beautiful.



The trueness of all the notes in every position, and the projection each instrument produces is remarkable. But above all, the tone of this violin is moving, better than any new violin I have heard. This all adds up to my having a joyous feeling each time I pick up this work of art. It is inspiring me to become a better player. Thank you Charlie!

