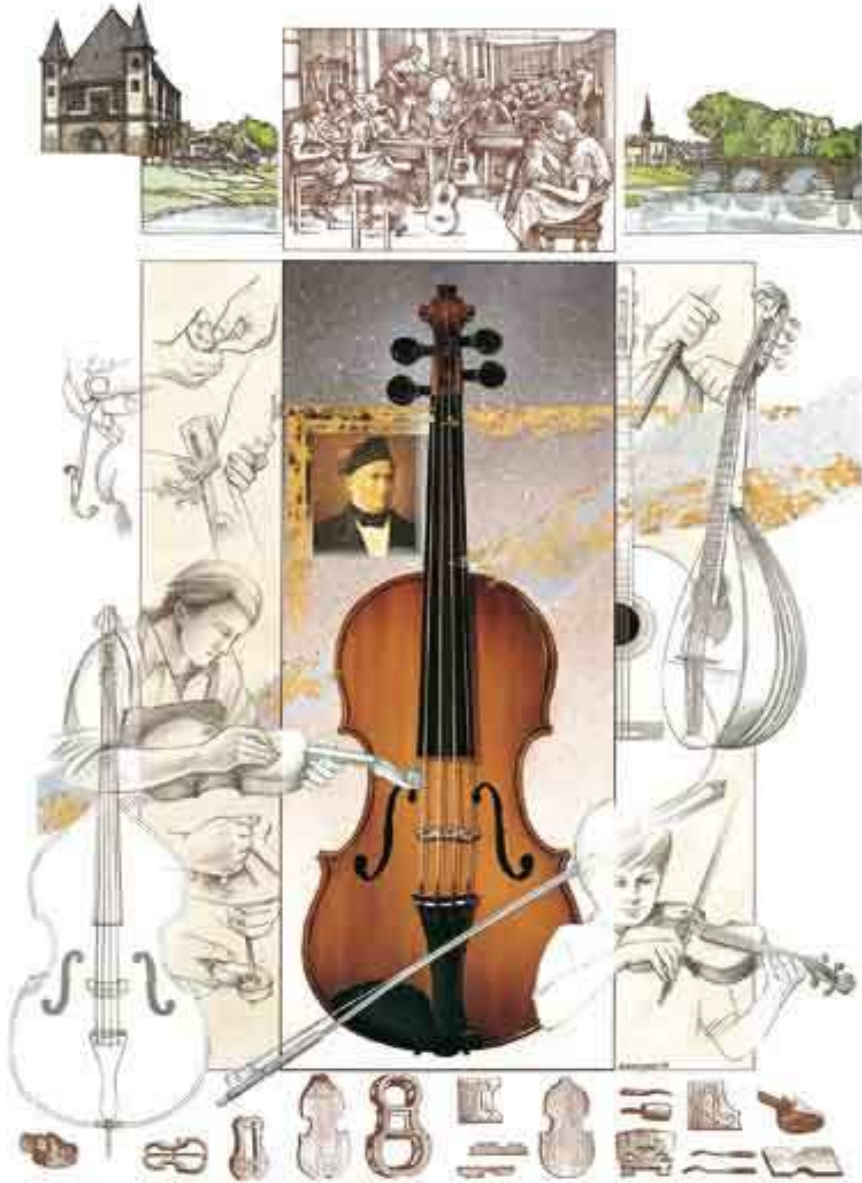


# A Violin With A History

Will Give Your Playing More Depth



**One-century** old violins, originated from the cradle of violin in France, featuring **four-century know-how** and the **eternal** value of a **true antique**. Sought after for you, fully revised and restored by a **master luthier**.  
**An incomparable French sound!**

A Mirecourt violin, obviously **hand-made**, is definitely synonym of tradition, know-how and musicality. **A violin from Mirecourt rings beautifully!** Frédéric Lassuce, a master luthier in France, **tracks** these violins all over France and **restores** them with passion. Most of them were made in **1880/1920**, the golden age of Mirecourt as well as of French music, Debussy Ravel, Satie, Fauré... Ardis Hartley-Billey, a professional musician, concert harpist and violin teacher in the Cleveland area, will **select** for you **the violin of your dreams**.

Violins are available in **half-size** and **three-quarter** (from \$1,500 to \$2,500) or **full size** (from \$2,500). Prices will depend on the quality of the instrument and also on the € vs. \$ change rate.

**Ardis Hartley-Billey** obtained a Bachelor of Music Degree in harp performance from the Cleveland State University. She was elected by the music faculty to the society of Pi Kappa Lambda for outstanding musical and academic achievement. She studied harp with



*Ardis at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes, France*

famed harpist and teacher Alice Chalifoux at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Ardis' track-record includes solo, chamber, and orchestral work. She enjoyed playing under the direction of highly recognized conductors as Martin Kessler, Carl Topilow, Alan Balter, Max Bragado-Darman or Michael Stern as well as performing in such prestigious venues as Severance Hall or the

Palais des Festivals in Cannes, France. She taught Suzuki violin at CIM, the Baldwin Wallace College, etc.

**Frédéric Lassuce** is a young master luthier with a 10-year track record in violin and bow making. Graduated from the Newark School of Violin Making (U.K.) he worked in Paris before establishing himself in Mantes-la-Jolie, a city also known for its world famous clarinet and brass factories. His expertise encompasses totally hand-made violins and restoring antiqued violins that he is assiduously tracking all over France. He has also developed a specialty in making baroque bows, counting among his clients the Berkeley University, and shares his expertise every summer through a training workshop attracting participants from all continents.



*Ardis with Fred in his workshop in France*

**Mirecourt, the Cradle of the French school:** The legend attributed to a certain Tywersus the origin of stringed instrument making in Mirecourt at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Tywersus, an eminent Italian luthier from Cremona and a former servant of the Duke of Lorraine, established himself in Mirecourt, a small city in the East of France and trained several disciples. The parochial and official archives feature apprenticeship contracts, the oldest of which dates from 1629. This is nearly a century before the constitution of instrument makers as a trade, an organization ordered by the duchess Elisabeth-Charlotte and enshrined in the charter signed on 15 May 1732.



*The assembly room of Maison Laberte-Humbert Frères, in Mirecourt in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

Becoming a full trade with its inheritance rules, its policy, and its atypical marketing method, stringed-instrument making in Mirecourt grew rapidly during the 18th century. Reproducing the techniques from German makers and inspired by the Italian stringed-instrument making, the makers of Mirecourt combined these influences with their innate skill and invented another way of making: Lorraine stringed-instrument making. Spreading through instruments and manufacturers well beyond the Lorraine frontiers, Mirecourt stringed-instrument making radiated throughout the world. Today, the small Vosges town prides itself on having generated or trained the greatest stringed-instrument and bow-makers in France for centuries.

Contact **Ardis Billey** – phone: (440) 338 5508 – email: [hoody1@windstream.net](mailto:hoody1@windstream.net)