



Museo del Violino

1724-2024 Three centuries of history of a Stradivari and its custodians

Museo del Violino, 6 September 2024 – 6 January 2025

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From **6 September 2024 to 6 January 2025**, the Museo del Violino, in collaboration with the Musée de la Musique de la Philharmonie de Paris, will host the *Sarasate* violin made by Antonio Stradivari on the occasion of the three hundredth anniversary of its construction. The violin, trusted stage companion of the famous Spanish virtuoso and composer Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908), will play the lead role in a monographic exhibition entitled ***Sarasate, the violin of the virtuosos. 1724-2024 Three centuries of history of a Stradivari and its custodians.***

This event is part of a collaboration project involving the two institutions - custodians of collections that are "complementary" for their **historical and cultural relevance**- launched last autumn with the exhibition of the 1715 *Cremonese* violin in the French museum. The opening of the ***Le Stradivarius Cremonese à Paris*** exhibition took place on 7 September 2023, in the presence of the Premier Conseiller of the Italian Embassy in Paris, the Deputy Director General of the Philharmonie de Paris, the Director of the Musée de la Musique and a delegation from Cremona composed of the Councilor for Culture and the General Director and Conservator of the Museo del Violino. The exhibition ended on 7 November 2023 with the *Cremona meets Paris* event at the Italian Embassy in France, attended by the Mayor of Cremona, the General Director and the Conservator of the Museo del Violino, during which the *Cremonese* violin, just transferred from the temporary exhibition venue in Paris, was played by the violinist Sara Zeneli.

The *Sarasate* is an **exceptional Stradivari**. **Thanks to recent studies conducted by the Musée de la Musique, it has been possible to trace back the complete history of this precious instrument starting from its construction during the full maturity of Antonio Stradivari's workshop** – a guiding thread that sees the *Sarasate* guarded by the most important figures in the history of violin and violin making, including Count Cozio di Salabue and the luthiers Giovanni Battista Guadagnini, Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume and Charles-Eugène Gand.

And it wasn't just Pablo de Sarasate who played on the fingerboard of this violin: before him, the instrument also belonged to the virtuoso par excellence, Niccolò Paganini. Although his name is inextricably linked to his *Cannone*, made by Giuseppe Guarneri *del Gesù* in 1743, Paganini was also an enthusiast and expert in classical Cremonese violin making.

The monographic exhibition highlights the extraordinary history of the instrument and its prestigious custodians that culminates in the sixty-year-long relationship between Pablo de Sarasate and the violin that would later take his name, emphasizing the link between music and violin-making. The visitor will discover *Sarasate's* role in the evolution of musicianship at the dawn of the contemporary age, with the appearance of the first intercontinental tours and the first

recordings, while appreciating the construction details of a Stradivari on which numerous scientific studies have been carried out.

The exhibition, accompanied by graphic and multimedia elements, will relate the instrument to other works in the Museo del Violino's collections.

During the violin's stay in its hometown, conferences will be held for further learning and discovery about this violin and its amazing history.