



ARTS MUSIC™

Exclusive *String Instruments* for traditional & contemporary musicians



Arts Music was founded in 1989 by Paul Davies, a violin maker with an established reputation, who has made violins, violas, cellos and basses to meet the diverse requirements of musicians from around the world.

Current players who now use Paul's outstanding instruments include members of major symphony orchestras, contemporary solo performers, studio musicians, passionate amateurs, and even prominent rock bands. The 'Davies sound' can be heard on many recordings, including two Grammy award winning albums and international best selling CD's.

"This is the best sounding fiddle I've ever played. Made by the finest fiddle maker I know. Thanks for the great work Paul." Larry Campbell: Bob Dylan Band, Americana Music Association Lifetime Achievement – Instrumentalist Award

Paul has been motivated to apply the same artistic inspiration and meticulous mastery displayed in his individual custom instruments to the Arts Music range of instruments, offering discerning musicians exceptional choice and quality at affordable prices.

Respect for the past...

At one end of the Arts Music spectrum are accurate copies of famous makers' instruments that respect the work of past masters including Stradivari, Guarneri, Testore and Maggini. Fine traditional tonewoods are chosen for their tonal response and aesthetic appeal, and various varnish processes are applied that range in colour and patina. Players who appreciate correct period performance can choose any of the Arts Music traditional models with the appropriate baroque or classical set up, essential for correct early performance practice.

Vision for the future...

At the other end of the Arts Music spectrum are the contemporary instruments for independent, modern players with unrestricted musical horizons.

The semi-acoustic models, and soon to be released electric violins, are designed to amplify the creative demands of musicians with a singular artistic focus on the present. Acoustic instruments with a modern edge continue the creative spirit from the golden period of violin making by introducing elegant designs and eco-sustainable timbers which are entirely appropriate for the 21st century. Arts Music also provides a custom shop service to cater for the individual needs of discriminating players. From simple diagnostic adjustments to complete original instruments, Paul Davies and his range of Arts Music violins, violas, cellos and basses can help you to realise your dream instrument.

Paul Davies' vision was recognised by the Shanghai Violin Factory, China's oldest and most awarded Atelier, with its invitation to form a co-operative venture with Arts Music. Now established in both Shanghai and Melbourne, the evolution of an Arts Music instrument is shared between both locations, with the model of instrument determining the amount of construction done in either workshop. This East /West relationship utilises the traditional skills passed on to the Chinese from the French masters who worked in the 'Paris of the East' during the late 19th century, and the creative vision and quality craftsmanship of the Melbourne workshop.

All instruments in the Arts Music range are made from the very best available materials, highest levels of craftsmanship and, where appropriate, modern technology. Every instrument is precisely thickened by hand, individually varnished and set up to exacting tolerances using superior fittings. Each Arts Music violin, viola, cello

and bass is a unique creation... *'Inspired by Art and Music'*.

The Arts Music range of instruments truly represents Paul Davies' original concept for Arts Music "respect for the past... vision for the future."

Allans Music + Billy Hyde is proud to be the exclusive supplier of Arts Music Instruments.





TRADITIONAL

From impeccable copies of famous makers' instruments to completely new contemporary designs, each Arts Music traditional instrument is made from wood selected for its tonal response and aesthetic appeal, and offers a high level of quality workmanship and attention to detail. Each instrument is accurately thickened by hand, individually varnished, and set up to precise measurements.

“respect for the past...”



VIOLIN AM100VLN



CELLO AM100VLC



VIOLA AM200VLA



AM100 SERIES

CONCEPT: Our handmade benchmark - sonorous tonal response and pleasing visual aesthetics at a moderate price.

DESIGN: Based on a standardised Stradivari model.

MATERIALS: Seasoned Maple back, ribs & neck. Medium grained Spruce, and select Ebony & Rosewood fittings.

CONSTRUCTION: Traditional methods including hand carved belly & back, graduated to regular thicknesses and hand-carved scroll.

VARNISH: Spirit varnished with a semi-gloss, soft lustre finish. Available in Golden/Amber or Red/Brown colours.

SET UP: Individually set up to precise measurements, using quality components.

TESTING: Pre-delivery checklist, signed by authorised technician.



AM200 SERIES

CONCEPT: Quality consistent with the AM100 series, but greater individual visual aesthetics without a significant increase in price.

DESIGN: Based on the standardised Stradivari model, plus a double row of purfling.

MATERIALS: Seasoned Maple back, ribs & neck. Medium grained Manchurian Spruce, and select Ebony & Rosewood fittings.

CONSTRUCTION: Traditional methods including hand carved belly & back, graduated to regular thicknesses and hand-carved scroll.

VARNISH: Spirit varnished with a semi-gloss, soft lustre finish and slight antique patina. Available in Golden/Amber or Red/Brown colours.

SET UP: Individually set up to precise measurements, using quality components.

TESTING: Pre-delivery checklist, signed by authorised technician.





CONTEMPORARY

The Arts Music Semi-Acoustic instruments are as old as they are young.

Made from fine tonewoods that are individually hand carved, and featuring inlaid purfling with traditional varnish, the DNA of these exciting instruments belongs to the history of violin making - yet their design and application are a vanguard for the future.

...vision for the future."



VIOLIN AMSA200VLN



VIOLA AMSA200VLA



CELLO AMSA200VLC



DOUBLE BASS AMSA200CB

Originally inspired by early instruments including the viola d'amore plus the more contemporary guitars of the 20th century, the Arts Music semi-acoustic range motivates contemporary musicians to plug in and turn on. These beautiful instruments have been designed to achieve a narrower frequency response that will produce a dynamic and complex tonality when amplified. To accomplish this, both acoustic and electronic principles have been considered equally.

The narrow ribs and flat back reduce the air volume inside the instrument, limiting feedback and, together with the single sound hole, control the movement of air and shape the resonant frequency. The pickup system is built into a fully adjustable soundpost that provides easy manipulation of the acoustic and amplified tone colour. This system provides substantial output gain, yet is completely passive and does not require batteries.

Follow the sensuous curves of the sound hole and explore how this line connects with the shape of the fingerboard and peg box to realise the potential of contemporary musical performance. From the stage of a live concert or recording studio to connecting with audio interfaces or computers, the Arts Music Semi-Acoustics will connect your soul and amplify your mind.



STUART DUNCAN (ACADEMY OF MUSIC (USA), AWARD WINNING FIDDLE PLAYER) EMMYLOU HARRIS, ALISON KRAUSS



CONTEMPORARY VIOLINIST, XANI KOLAC



SARAH CURRO

"Since I was a teenager I'd always imagined classical music filling a stadium. Acoustic instruments just don't cut it. As soon as I tried the Arts Music acoustic strings I knew I'd found a way to show the real power and intimacy of the symphonic sound."

Sarah Curro, Violinist - Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and contemporary solo performer.
www.shostakovichplugged.com.au





AM300 SERIES

CONCEPT: Quality and exceptional value. This series was inspired by the very best workmanship of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with meticulous attention to detail.

DESIGN: Styled after the instruments of Lorenzo Storioni, one of the last makers from the golden period of violin making to develop his own model.

MATERIALS: Beautifully figured Maple is air dried, and the two piece back has matching wood for ribs & scroll. Fine grained Spruce chosen for tonal response, and quality Ebony is used for all fittings.

CONSTRUCTION: Experienced technicians in the French system of violin making hand craft each component to exacting standards using traditional tools and methods - each stage is overseen by Paul Davies.

VARNISH: Traditional French transparent spirit varnish for depth of colour, refractive qualities and optimum tonal response. Scroll chambers are carefully outlined with black ink in the early traditional style.

SET UP: The finest accessories including Despiau bridges from France, Super Sensitive strings from America and Wittner tailpieces from Germany. Individually set up for ease of playing.

TESTING: Pre-delivery checklist, signed by authorised technician.



AM400 SERIES

CONCEPT: To provide a choice of tone with exceptional quality at a reasonable price. Design influence plus additional detailing and contrasting accessories differentiate this series both tonally and aesthetically from the AM300 Series.

DESIGN: Styled after the instruments of Andrea Guarneri, with more open f holes and slightly higher arching to produce a darker tone with excellent projection and volume.

MATERIALS: Particularly fine tone woods, with one-piece backs on violins and violas. Highly figured Maple and the irregularity of the well figured wood give each instrument unique individual appeal.

CONSTRUCTION: Hand crafted to exacting tolerances. Ebony crown on the button of the neck creates a sense of times past. Paul Davies is directly involved with the final assembly, and also confirms the thicknesses of both back and top plates.

VARNISH: Traditional French transparent spirit varnish in a wide choice of colours. Each instrument is also given a soft patina, creating a subtle illusion of age to complement the tonal complexity and delicacy of these beautiful instruments.

SET UP: Quality Despiau bridges and Wittner tailpieces, with a choice of either Pirastro Obligato or Evah Pirazzi strings to complement the more complex tonal response of this series.

TESTING: Pre-delivery checklist, signed by authorised technician.



VIOLIN AM300VLN



DOUBLE BASS AM300CB



CELLO AM400VLC



PAUL DAVIES



AM500 SERIES

CONCEPT: Inspired by the instruments of 18th century violin maker C G Testore, highly prized for their tone. A unique and desirable instrument for an advanced player at an affordable price.

DESIGN: Embraces the asymmetry of the highly prized C G Testore made instruments, particularly evident in the contrasting size and shape of the f holes and fluid shape of the body.

MATERIALS: Timber selected for its excellent tonal characteristics. Rib wood may vary in appearance from that of the scroll or back, in the traditional style of Testore.

CONSTRUCTION: Moulds constructed from Paul Davies' original Testore model, drawings and templates to create a consistent series standard.

VARNISH: Each instrument is individually varnished by hand, under the direct supervision of Paul Davies, using a variety of varnishes and polishes to simulate the natural wear of an 18th century instrument.

SET UP: Fitted with an A grade Ebony fingerboard, the finest Despiau bridges, choice of Pirastro Obligato or Evah Pirazzi strings and perfectly matched pegs, tailpiece and chin-rest in either Boxwood, Ebony or Rosewood, and bone nut.

TESTING: Pre-delivery checklist, signed by authorised technician.



AM600 SERIES

CONCEPT: Showcases Arts Music's exceptionally high technical ability by offering a choice between the contrasting attributes of two pre-eminent violin makers - the precise symmetry, minute attention to detail and elegant tone of Antonio Stradivari, and the sculptural immediacy and more masculine bravura of Guarneri Del Gesu.

DESIGN: The main characteristics of each maker's work were incorporated into Arts Music's designs after extensive research and analysis of both Stradivari and Guarneri Del Gesu instruments.

MATERIALS: Traditional tone woods used by Stradivari and Guarneri Del Gesu - Maple back, sides & neck, and Spruce belly. In addition, Stradivari's preference for a Willow block, and Guarneri Del Gesu's preference for a Spruce block are incorporated. Timber is sourced from Europe, Asia, Canada and America.

CONSTRUCTION: Specialists focus individually on the various components of each instrument - the rib cage, scroll, belly/back, f holes and purfling - to create an exceptionally fine degree of tolerance. Paul Davies controls the thickening of both top and bottom plates and the shape of the bass bar for each instrument.

VARNISH: Each instrument is sealed and varnished by hand with an oil varnish made with natural gums, oils and resins, creating a beautiful transparency and lustre. A range of colours are available from clear golden hues to rich red/brown with great depth.

SET UP: Exclusively set up by Paul Davies using superior grade Despiau bridges, Les Bois De Harmonie fittings and a choice of Pirastro Obligato or Evah Pirazzi strings. AAA Grade Ebony fingerboard.

TESTING: Pre-delivery checklist, signed by authorised technician.



AM700 SERIES

CONCEPT: The custom-made series. Choose from a range of limited edition instruments based on the work of Maggini, Da Salo and Andrea Amati, or from completely new contemporary designs. These instruments meet the demands of the modern day musician for increased playability and volume. This series embraces and respects the creative spirit and past traditions of violin making, while providing an exciting vision for the future.

DESIGN: Various designs developed by taking measurements directly from existing older instruments, and using both traditional drafting techniques and modern methods such as digitising models, CAD and CNC.

MATERIALS: The early violin makers generally preferred the use of Maple for the back, sides & neck, with some using Pear, Walnut and Platan. Spruce and Pine Wood were used for the soundboards. The AM700 Series uses these same timbers, together with others from around the world including Australian King William Pine and Tasmanian Blackwood.

CONSTRUCTION: Utilises a mix of traditional hand skills and, where appropriate, modern equipment and methods, depending on the standard of finish or efficiency of production required at each stage of making.

VARNISH: A range of varnishing recipes and processes, including both spirit and oil, are utilised depending on what is appropriate for each individual instrument. Contemporary models also introduce non-traditional methods of varnishing.

SET UP: Introduces some new designs for pegs, tailpieces and fingerboards to optimise tonal performance of the traditional designs and enhance the visual appeal of the more contemporary designs.

TESTING: Pre-delivery checklist, signed by authorised technician.



VIOLIN AM500VLN



VIOLIN AM600VLN

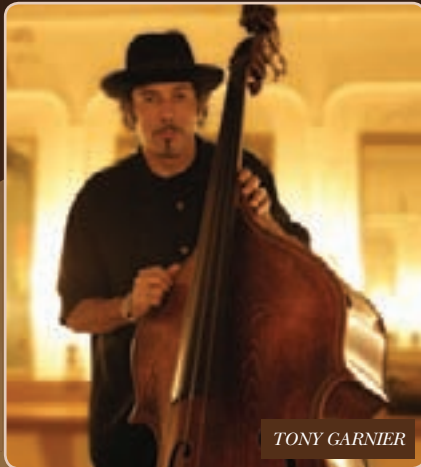


VIOLIN AM700VLN

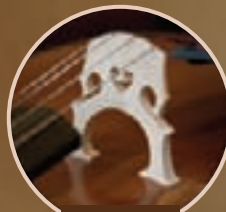
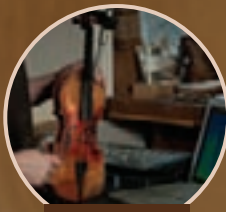


the EVOLUTION of an *Arts Music Instrument*

The internal spirals of the nautilus shell trace the journey of the creation of each Arts Music instrument. The journey from concept to testing, and the ultimate production of a unique instrument, follows a prescribed 'manufacturing model' to ensure that the highest standard of quality control is maintained throughout.



"Great axe man... the whole band loves it... its first American gig was at the Ryman Auditorium." Tony Garnier, Bob Dylan Band



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Images courtesy of Pete Walker Photography and John Tozer | www.petewalkr.tumblr.com

Arts Music instruments are available at the following Allans Music + Billy Hyde stores. Please refer to our websites for updates to this list.

Melbourne
152 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 03 9654 8444

Kew
56 Cotham Road
Kew VIC 3101
T 03 9852 7645

Ballarat
219 Mair Street
Ballarat VIC 3350
T 03 5331 1266

Sydney
228 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
T 02 9283 7711

Alexandria
108 Botany Road
Alexandria NSW 2015
T 02 9318 2255

Adelaide
58 Gawler Place
Adelaide SA 5000
T 08 8223 5533

Brisbane
90-112 Queen Street Mall
Brisbane QLD 4000
T 07 3229 2155

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