

THE EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF THE VIOLIN

featuring

Klopoushak & Chiu



Carissa Klopoushak, violin
Philip Chiu, piano

debut atlantic

debut

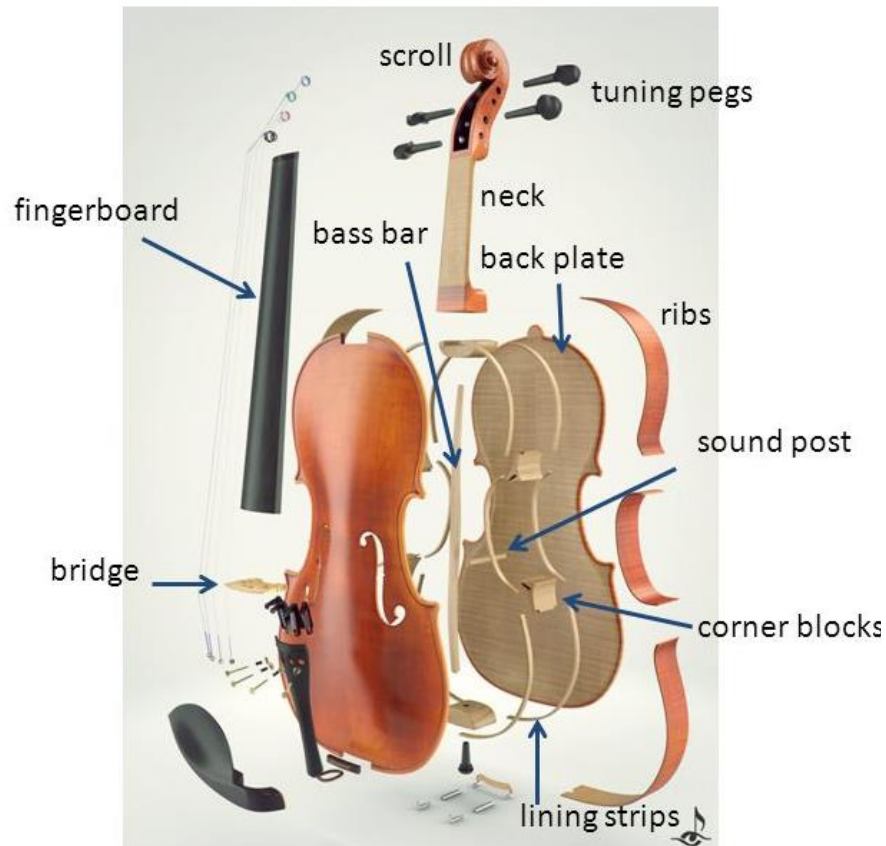
début atlantique

Meet Klopoushak & Chiu

Carissa Klopoushak has made a name for herself as a curious, creative, and versatile musician. Based in Ottawa, she is a proud member of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Ironwood Quartet. A laureate of the 2018 Canada Council for the Arts Instrument Bank Competition, Carissa performs on the beautiful Maggini model 1851 Jean Baptiste Vuillaume violin. She has recently been named Interim Artistic Director of Ottawa Chamberfest, starting in that position in mid-August, 2020. Founder and Artistic Director of the Ritornello Chamber Music Festival in her hometown, Saskatoon, the festival, now in its 12th year, strives to bring the chamber music concert experience into the 21st century through fresh and innovative programming and presentation. Carissa, with her friends in the Ironwood Quartet, serves as co-director of the Classical Unbound Festival in Prince Edward County. Carissa enjoys performing in many different styles, especially Ukrainian folk music.

An exceedingly sociable pianist, **Philip Chiu** concertizes extensively as one of Canada's most sought-after chamber musicians. Along with pianist Janelle Fung, he forms one of Canada's most exciting piano duos, the Fung-Chiu Duo. Dedicated to elevating the standard and art of collaborative piano, Philip is the creator and director of the new Collaborative Piano Program at the Domaine Forget International Festival and Academy. He is an acclaimed accompanist-/coach based at McGill University, has been an invited professor--accompanist for the Conservatoire de musique de Montreal, and regularly accompanies at l'Universite de Montreal.

violin construction



Violin or Fiddle? They are the same instrument!

- A **violin** and a **fiddle** are the same instrument, generally played with a bow, strummed, or plucked. They are identical in their appearance. What distinguishes a violin from a fiddle is the style of music that is played on the instrument; it's all in how you play it!
- The violin is most often associated with classical music, orchestras, symphonies, and chamber music. The fiddle is associated with a wide variety of music styles including Cajun, bluegrass, folk, country, and a Cape Breton ceilidh and kitchen party!



RESEARCH



Put on a Sherlock Holmes hat and investigate the violin, using a range of resources such as the internet or ask a local musician. Let's see what you have discovered!

What is the violin/fiddle made of – body, strings, bow? _____

Where are they found today? _____

Who are some very famous violinists – today and in the past? Famous fiddlers?

Listen to a recording/video of a piece written for a violin AND folk music written for a fiddle. How does the music written for a violin vs. a fiddle sound different?

Draw TWO pictures of what you think the violin vs. fiddle sounds like!

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The “Modern” Violin

The violin has stayed largely the same for over 300 years!

Here are some of the most famous violin makers, called **luthiers**, whose instruments are still being played today!

Antonio Stradivari (1644-1737)



- Italian luthier who perfected the art of violin-making; his instruments are known for their beautiful, unmatched sound.
- Around 650 instruments survived, including 450 to 512 violins.
- Depending on the condition, instruments made during Stradivari's "golden period" from 1700 to about 1725 can be worth millions of dollars!

Giuseppe Guarneri (1698 – 1744)



- Italian luthier who rivals Antonio Stradivari with the awe and perfection of his instruments; Guarneri's violins often have a darker, more robust, and deeper tone than Stradivari's
- Fewer than 200 of his instruments survived
- The quality and scarcity of his instruments have resulted in sale prices in excess of \$10 million!

What instrument does Carissa Klopoushak perform on?



Carissa performs on the 1851 Jean Baptiste Vuillaume violin, pictured on the left, on loan from the Canada Council of the Arts.

The violin is modelled after violins made in the 16th century, and is bigger than most violins made after Stradivari!

How many stickers do you count on Carissa Klopoushak's violin case?





LISTENING



Look up recordings of Carissa Klopoushak and Philip Chiu from YouTube, listen to the media files from the Debut Atlantic website, or retrieve sound files on iTunes. Listen actively and answer the following questions.

What piece did you listen to? Name the composer and piece title.

Describe characteristics of the music (was it loud? soft? fast? slow?).

Describe the mood/character of what you listened to.

Write a poem or short story about the piece you listened to – try and use some of the things you learned above to put in your story!
