
NEWS FOR CELLISTS - AUTUMN 2005

Cello Measurements

Several cello friends have suggested that it would be useful to have a chart showing the back lengths of small-sized cellos to use as a reference when ordering strings or assessing what size of instrument a student will need next. On page two we give a chart of cello sizes and detailed instructions on how to measure a cello's back length.

Cello Exchange

The Cello Exchange brings together buyers and sellers of fine cellos. Details of cellos currently for sale can be found on page four. For more information about the Exchange: www.aitchisoncellos.com

'Thank you for your sincere interest in selling cellos in the best possible condition and adapted closely to the customer's needs. I also very much appreciate your straightforward answers to my questions; I have learnt more about cellos and set up through you than I have over the last twenty years.'

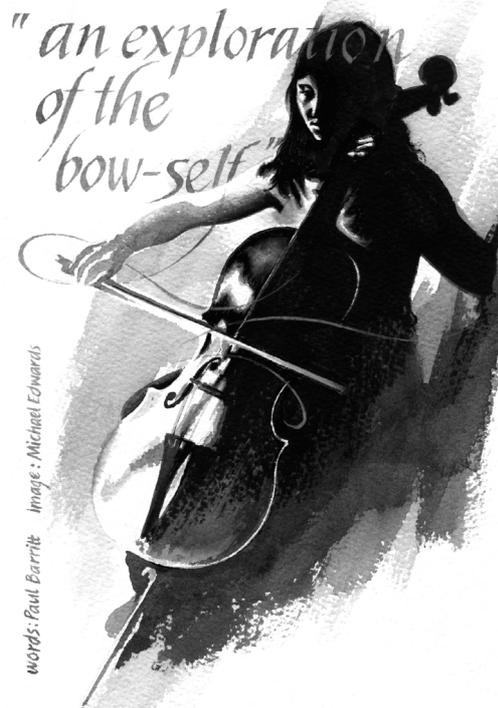
Dr Matthew Rubeli, Switzerland

Art Exhibition

During *Take a Bow 2005* we will be exhibiting paintings by Michael Edwards, the artist who illustrates all our publications.

Take a Bow 2005

Take a Bow opens on Saturday 1st October. Selected provisional prices for baroque and modern cello bows are listed on page three. A complete list of bow prices can be found at www.aitchisoncellos.com/bowprice.htm



To arrange your visit to
Take a Bow 2005, telephone 01353 668559.

A GUIDE TO CELLO MEASUREMENTS

CELLO SIZES

The size and shape of full-sized cellos is far more variable than that of violins. Although these differences may seem small compared to the size range of part-sized cellos, they can feel huge to a sensitive adult player.

Back length is not the only significant factor in cello size: the widths of the upper and lower bouts, the string length and the length of the neck relative to the string length also have a considerable impact on the player. Cellists can also grow accustomed to the feel of a particular neck shape (particularly in 4th position) and this can be a major contributor to the feeling of comfort and security when playing an instrument.

The modern standard for back lengths is shown in the chart below. The back lengths shown for full-sized, $\frac{7}{8}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ sized cellos are based on average measurements; each cello size can vary up to 10mm or $\frac{1}{2}$ " either side of the average.

STANDARD CELLO BACK LENGTHS

	Full-sized	30"	760mm
	$\frac{7}{8}$	29"	730mm
	$\frac{3}{4}$	27"	690mm
	$\frac{1}{2}$	25½"	650mm
	$\frac{1}{4}$	23"	580mm
	$\frac{1}{8}$	21"	530mm

BACK LENGTH

Back length is traditionally used to determine the size of stringed instruments. To measure back length, place one end of the tape measure level with the very outer edge of the bottom of the cello at the centre line, stretch the tape over the length of the back and finish measuring at the extreme edge of the instrument just beside the button (the button is not included in the length measurement).

Since the tape lies over the arching of the instrument, the tape-measured length will be slightly greater than a true straight-line measurement. However, this error of a few millimetres is understood in the standard measurements shown in the chart below. It is safest to use a cloth dress-maker's tape rather than a metal version when measuring instruments as cloth tapes are less likely to damage the varnish.

HOW TO MEASURE BACK LENGTH

TAKE A BOW 2005 - PROVISIONAL PRICES

MODERN CELLO BOWS

John B. Aniano	Silver	£2,000
Steve Beckley	Silver	£1,890
Sylvain Bigot	Silver	£2,200
Franck Daguin	Silver	£2,110
Hugo Gabriel	Silver	£1,410
Josef Gabriel	Silver	£1,480
Thomas Gerbeth	Silver	£2,400
Thomas Gerbeth	Gold	£3,600
Klaus Grünke	Silver	£2,110
Richard Grünke	Gold	£2,110
Thomas Grünke	Silver	£1,550
Marcin Krupa	Silver	£1,830
Yannick Le Canu	Silver	£1,900
Yannick Le Canu	Gold	£2,400
Joh. Tino Lucke	Silver	£2,150
Michael Maurushat	Silver	£1,850
Andrew McGill	Silver	£1,950
Stéphane Muller	Silver	£3,520
Stéphane Muller	Gold	£4,580
Gilles Nehr	Silver	£2,400
Jean-Pascal Nehr	Silver	£3,520
Jean-Pascal Nehr	Gold	£4,580
Pierre Nehr	Silver	£2,150
Robert Pierce	Silver	£1,600
Robert Pierce	Gold	£2,170
Pierce & Co	Silver	£890
Peter Riedl	Gold	£2,960
Roy Quade	Gold	£3,980
Wolfgang Romberg	Silver	£1,760
Wolfgang Romberg	Gold	£2,610
William Salchow	Silver	£2,780
Stephen Salchow	Silver	£2,350
David Samuels	Silver	£2,900
Jochen Schmidt	Silver	£2,110
Jean-Luc Tauziede	Silver	£2,250
Georges Tepho	Silver	£2,180
Georges Tepho	Gold	£2,950
Gregor Walbrodt	Silver	£2,680

Jutta Walcher	Silver	£2,710
Christian Wanka	Silver	£1,510
Christian Wanka	Gold	£2,460
Herbert Wanka	Silver	£1,440
Matt Wehling	Silver	£2,100
Richard Wilson	Silver	£1,800

BAROQUE CELLO BOWS

John B. Aniano	Transitional	£1,000
Pieter Affourtit	French 1690	£850
Pieter Affourtit	Italian 1720	£920
Pieter Affourtit	Dodd 1800	£990
Sylvain Bigot	Tourte copy	£1,500
Philip Davis	French Bq	£800
Philip Davis	Flemish Bq	£830
Andrew Dipper	French Bq	£1,180
Andrew Dipper	Tourte copy	£1,280
Christopher English	Transitional	£1,000
Atelier Groppe	Italian 1680	£1,050
Atelier Groppe	French 1720	£1,260
Atelier Groppe	French 1750	£1,190
Atelier Groppe	French 1770	£1,260
Atelier Groppe	Tourte 1790	£1,610
Andreas Grütter	Bach-Mozart	£1,130
Andreas Grütter	Dodd copy	£1,130
Michel Jamonneau	Baroque	£1,490
André Klaassen	1700-1750	£1,080
Gerhard Landwehr	c. 1700	£880
Gerhard Landwehr	High Bq	£950
Gerhard Landwehr	Transitional	£860
Stephen Marvin	1700-1750	£1,330
Stephen Marvin	1750-1800	£1,440
Rüdiger Pfau	c. 1720	£1,320
Rüdiger Pfau	c. 1770	£1,490
Rüdiger Pfau	c. 1780	£1,490
Jean-Yves Tanguy	Baroque	£1,130
David Van Edwards	c.1780	£1,000
David Van Edwards	c.1700	£1,050
David Van Edwards	c.1740	£1,100
Jutta Walcher	Baroque	£1,710

CELLOS NOW AVAILABLE

Lockey Hill Cello circa 1780

Length of back 750mm
Price: £25,000 (Cello Exchange)

Lockey Hill is the best known and most prolific of the violin making sons of Joseph Hill I. This instrument is in exceptionally fresh condition with original edgework and very well preserved varnish. The tone is richly textured and very resonant.

George Craske Cello circa 1850

Length of back: 755mm
String length: 670mm
Price: £23,000 (Cello Exchange)

This handsome cello is a fine example of Craske's work and is in excellent condition. The cello has a rich and powerful tone with excellent projection and is a great pleasure to play. It has dark orange brown varnish over a golden ground.

Wilfred Saunders Cello 1988

Length of back: 755mm
String length: 695mm
Price: £12,000 (Cello Exchange)

One of the few cellos made by the late Wilfred Saunders MBE, one of the UK's most respected luthiers. Labelled 'Cello no. 4', the instrument was made for a close friend of the maker. The cello has rich red varnish, a bright, open tone and is very responsive.

Wamsley cello circa 1740

Length of back: 745mm
String length: 685mm
Price: £10,000 (Cello Exchange)

This cello by the first great English cello maker has a rich, colourful tone and excellent projection. It has dark, richly textured Italianate varnish and is exquisitely made. Its refined proportions make it very comfortable to play.

Kennedy School Cello circa 1820

Length of back: 738mm
String length: 692mm
Price: £10,000

This cello was probably made by an associate of Thomas Kennedy who was a prolific and influential cello maker. The cello is unpurpled, has dark red-brown varnish and a rich, colourful tone. It has been fully restored in our workshop.

David Rubio Baroque Cello 1985

Length of back: 700mm
String length: 650mm
Price: £6,000 (Cello Exchange)

This baroque cello would make a very comfortable instrument for the smaller player. The back, ribs and scroll are carved from tightly figured maple and the instrument has a warm brown varnish laid over a golden ground.

Giacomo Gabbai cello 1998

Length of back: 763mm
String length: 690mm
Price: £5,000 (Cello Exchange)

An attractive contemporary cello labelled Giacomo Gabbai London 1998. The back, ribs and head are made from handsomely figured maple and the instrument has orange brown varnish laid over a golden ground.

Otto Gütter Cello 1941

Length of back: 759mm
String length: 695mm
Price: £4,500 (Cello Exchange)

Otto Gütter was descended from an old Mittenwald violin making family. This attractive, well conceived cello is based on a Stradivarius model, with an orange varnish laid over a golden ground. The tone is open and the cello is rewarding to play.