

The “Gariel”

Stradivari 1717-2017

300th ANNIVERSARY

The “Gariel” has been described as being amongst the most important 30 violins ever created. Made exactly 300 years ago in Antonio Stradivari’s workshop in the Piazza San Domenico, Cremona. The violin, which is currently played by the multi award winning Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti, is celebrating its tercentenary this year.

This violin is unique in many ways; the beauty of its design, the one-piece back of stunning maple from which it was made, its moderately fresh appearance and of course the sound it produces....

Made in 1717, the violin was one of several Stradivari violins acquired by Luigi Tarisio. A legendary character in the history of the violin trade, who travelled across Europe looking for Cremonese masterpieces and invariably sold them on trips to Paris.

It was on one of these visits to Paris, that Tarisio sold the violin to the great luthier and dealer Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume. In 1881, Vuillaume sold the violin to the eminent French engineer and physician Charles-Marie Gariel, after whom the violin is named. We do not know when Gariel sold the violin, but probably just a few years before his death in 1924. For the next 45 years, the violin changed hands several times as it moved across Europe. In 1962, the violin was purchased by the American violinist Jamie Loredó, who performed on the violin across the world.

In 2011, the violin was purchased by the banker and philanthropist Jonathon Moulds, and was shortly after loaned to Ms Benedetti, in exchange for agreeing to play for him and his friends. The “Gariel” violin has become her main instrument for both performing and recording *“It was love at first sight with the Gariel. I’m extremely lucky because most musicians would never get the chance to play on an instrument like this.”*

As part of the tercentenary celebrations The Sound Post Ltd, has commissioned the well known violin maker Xue Ping Hu, of Beijing, to make a Single Limited Edition of ten replica copies.