

Thomas Bertrand, violin-making

Son of a sculptor who was also a music lover, Thomas Bertrand was born in Brussels in 1963. Once completed his general studies, which included the study of cello, and a brief period at university, he left for Italy in 1982. He immersed himself in the spirit, styles, and techniques of classic Italian violin making in Cremona. After graduating from that city's International School of Violin Making (IPIALL) in 1986, he went on to further training in Germany, where he learned about the restoration of the masterpieces of the past.

In 1991 he opened his workshop in Brussels, where he both makes instruments and carries out sound optimisation.

Thomas Bertrand participated in the major international violin making competitions: Cremona, Mittenwald, Carlisle (USA), Manchester, Albuquerque (USA), Paris. He was awarded numerous certificates of merit, two silver medals (in Cremona in 1991 and in Carlisle (USA) in 1992) and a gold medal in Baltimore (USA) in 2006.

His principal inspiration comes from the masterpieces of the great Cremonese and Venitian makers of the classical period. His research on sound and sound adjustment is sustained by his close relationship to music as well as an intense dialogue established with the musicians.

His instruments are appreciated in Europe as well as North America and the Far East.

Thomas Bertrand is member of the French "Association des Luthiers et Archetiers pour le Développement de la Facture Instrumentale" (ALADFI) and the Violin Society of America (VSA).