

## Walter Mahr – Master of violinmaker – History of this person



Located in the middle of an old village, between agricultural activities and traditional Franconian style cottages, you can find the settlement of a young generation violin-maker. Inside a beautiful restored country house build from sandstone, Walter Mahr set up his own workshop.



The tradition of making fine stringed instruments was handed down from his mother to the Franconian by birth. His grandfather was mandolin-maker, which is well known as a traditional settlement for instrument-makers. Also his great grandfather was a violin-maker. Even then in his early years, Walter Mahr showed the propensity for handcraft works and so the choice of getting educated as violin-maker was rather obvious. After three years of apprenticeship, Walter Mahr graduated 1983 at the chamber of handcrafts as the best of all his participants.

Then he spent some years as journeyman with different masters of violin-makers. In 1990 Walter Mahr passed his trade examination at the chamber of handcrafts in Nuremberg and subsequently found his own workshop.

From January 2000 on Walter Mahr is an expert for stringed instruments. Law-Courts and insurance companies appreciate his opinions.

Walter Mahr manufactures and hires out violins, violas, celli and baroque-instruments

in all sizes. He offers in a wide range of qualities, starting with superior instruments for novice players with a well grained (textured) solid maple back, spruce wood top and ebony fittings, up to excellent made masterpieces from marvellous textured (grained) maple, selected and well seasoned tonal wood (materials), lacquered each by hand with spirit- or oil -varnish.

A special field for Walter Mahr are sonorical improvements. For this, Walter Mahr cultivates good relations with musicians from different categories. His masterpieces are all made of tonal wood which has been carefully seasoned for 20 and up to 100 years. Sometimes the good connections of his families to other old violin-makers are great help to find the exact required material. But also the mixture (composition) of his oil- or spiritvarnish can vary according to the desired (expected) tonal properties (qualities). The customers of our young violin-maker are vendors all over Germany, but his masterpieces and students instruments are also sold in Asia, USA and the rest of the world.

Concerning a higher standard, the term „Made in Germany“ is quite decisive for customers in whole world.

„The clientele of old musicians is very hard to reach“, says Walter Mahr „because they strongly rely to their known violin-makers.“ Confidence is an unwritten law in the relation between musicians and the maker of his instruments. „But I get it, step by step!“

The atelier of Walter Mahr will continue to be traditional handcraft workshop even in the future. It is timed to engage an apprentice and perhaps to employ a journeyman.