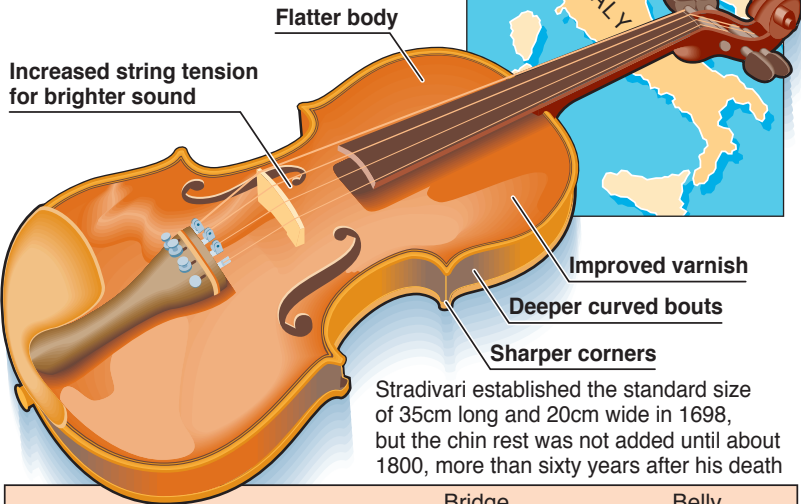


The genius of Antonio Stradivari

Two Stradivari instruments are to be auctioned in London by Christie's. The Bonjour violoncello, circa 1690, and the Schreiber violin of about 1712 are expected to raise over £1 million

Stradivarius violins are considered the finest ever made. A pupil of Nicola Amati in Cremona, Antonio Stradivari opened his own workshop in 1680. He developed the classic violin shape, with the finest instruments produced between 1700 and 1720



Stradivari established the standard size of 35cm long and 20cm wide in 1698, but the chin rest was not added until about 1800, more than sixty years after his death

How a violin's tone is produced

When a string is sounded the vibrations are transmitted from the bridge to the belly and via the sound-post to the back of the instrument.

Stradivari's classic design enabled playing techniques to develop and created a clearer, fuller and more brilliant tone. This was reflected in contemporary music, by composers such as Vivaldi and J. S. Bach

