



25th International Competition

November 17–22, 2024

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
350 W. Maryland St.
Indianapolis, IN 46225

Information for Competitors

General Information • Entry Information • Shipping Guidelines
Rules • Judging • Awards

COMPETITION OBJECTIVE

The competition's objective is to inspire the creation of outstanding, artistic, concert-quality instruments and bows. Artisans and tone judges are instructed to identify those instruments and bows having the greatest artistic merit, technical execution, and in the case of instruments, tone quality.

Deadlines

October 20 – Registration Deadline

October 1–31 – Window for receipt of shipped entries by host shop

November 17, 6:00–10:00 p.m. ET – Competition entry check-in

November 22, 4:00–6:30 p.m. ET – Competition entry early check-out (with fee)

November 22, 10:30–12:00 p.m. ET – Competition entry check-out

There will be no on-site registration of entries. You must present your confirmation in case of any registration questions. The entry deadline is October 20, 2024, 11:59 p.m. (ET)- OR - when the maximum number of instruments or bows in any category is reached. No registrations will be accepted after this date. Please register promptly. Registration is only available through the online system. You will be prompted to print the registration form immediately after payment. Bring that form with you to the

competition or copy it and ship it with your instrument(s) or bow(s). Instrument(s) and bow(s) hand-carried to the competition must be delivered to the check-in location at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown on Sunday, November 17, 2024 between 5:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. ET. Instruments and bows that are shipped (host shop only) must be received between October 1, 2024 and October 31, 2024.

Hotel Information

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
350 W. Maryland St.
Indianapolis, IN 46225

To make room reservations at the convention rate, call 1-877-640-7666 or visit:

<https://book.passkey.com/event/50761439/owner/1463968/home>

Membership

All competitors must be individual members of the Violin Society of America (VSA) in good standing. If you are not a member, you may join using the online entry form at:

<https://www.vsaweb.org/membership>

Fees

In addition to the competition fees, there is an additional charge to attend the lectures, instrument exhibits and other activities that occur during the competition week. **The competition entry fee does not include entry to any events.** These fees are detailed in this packet.

Insurance

Insurance for competition instruments and bows is the responsibility of the competitor. If you would like information about insuring your instrument or bow while it is at the competition, contact:

Heritage Insurance Services, Inc.: 1-800-289-8837

Letters of Invitation

If you need a letter of invitation to accompany a visa application for entry into the United States of America (USA), please indicate this on the registration form. Please check in your own country for any deadlines.

ENTRY INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY

All competitors must be members of the VSA in good standing. Membership information is available on the web at: <https://www.vsaweb.org/membership>

Questions about VSA membership can be sent by email to info@vsaweb.org or by phone to 1-518-313-0023.

ENTRIES

Each instrument maker may enter at most **one** (1) violin, **one** (1) viola, **one** (1) cello, and **one** (1) bass in the competition. Competitors may also enter a string quartet for the quartet competition. If a quartet is entered, **one** (1) violin (to be designated by the competitor - not necessarily the first violin), along with the viola and cello from the quartet must also be entered into the competition. In addition, the first and second violins must be clearly identified. If a quartet is entered, the fees for one violin, the viola and the cello will be paid. Bow makers may enter at most **one** (1) violin bow, **one** (1) viola bow, **one** (1) cello bow, and **one** (1) bass bow in the competition. Baroque instruments, baroque and pre-modern bows may not be entered in the competition. At most, two makers (2), ("co-makers") may together enter one instrument, bow or quartet, but if so, none of the co-makers may also enter an instrument or bow of the same type on their own.

REGISTRATION AND DEADLINES

Complete the online competition entry form and enter your payment information by October 20, 2024, 12 Midnight (ET). No registrations will be accepted after this date, and no hard-copy registrations will be accepted. Please register promptly since registrations may be rejected when the maximum number of instruments in any category is reached. You will be prompted to print a copy of your form after your registration is completed. **Bring this confirmation with you to the competition or copy it and ship it with your instrument.**

Instruments and bows shipped must be received at the host shop between October 1, 2024, and October 31, 2024 (see shipping rules for details). Instruments and bows hand-carried to the competition must be delivered to the check-in location at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown on Sunday, November 17, 2024 between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. ET. **There will be no on-site registration of entries. You must present your confirmation in case of any registration questions.** Please indicate at registration if you will be hand delivering or shipping your instrument(s) or bow(s) to the competition.

WHERE TO ENTER

Competitors may only enter the competition on the VSA website, using a credit card. The deadline is midnight ET, October 11, 2024.

<http://www.vsaweb.org/competition-registration>

With respect to online entries, the VSA is not responsible for lost or delayed entries due to computer system, phone line, hardware, software or program malfunctions or other errors, failures, delayed computer transmissions, network connections, or entries sent to wrong addresses.

COMPETITION ENTRY FEES

Instruments (each)	\$250
Quartets (2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello)	\$750
Bows (each)	\$150

OTHER FEES

Convention Registration

EARLY BIRD: Student Member Registration	\$150
STANDARD: Student Member Registration	\$175
SINGLE-DAY: Student Member Registration	\$95
EARLY BIRD: Regular Member Registration	\$495
STANDARD: Regular Member Registration	\$550
SINGLE-DAY: Regular Member Registration	\$195

All shipping fees and all insurance coverage for instrument(s) and bow(s) to, from and during the competition are completely the responsibility of the competitor.

WITHDRAWALS AND REFUNDS

All withdrawals from the competition must be in writing sent by email. Competition fees will be refunded less an \$85.00 processing fee if a refund request is received by October 25, 2024. No refunds will be given for requests received after October 25, 2024.

LIABILITY

The VSA will take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of instruments or bows entered in the competition. However, the VSA is not responsible for any loss, damage, or destruction of any instruments or bows during the competition and

during the period in which instruments are stored at the host shop. The VSA is also not responsible for damage or losses of items during shipping to or from the competition or the host shop. **Competitors are responsible for insuring their own instruments.**

WHITE RECEIPT REQUIRED TO RETRIEVE INSTRUMENT(S) or BOW(S)

A ***white VSA receipt*** with a red number on it will be issued to the maker of each instrument(s) or bow(s) at the time it is delivered to the competition check-in desk. When the competition is over, this ***white receipt*** must be presented to the VSA check-out personnel to obtain redelivery of the instrument(s) or bow(s). **It is especially important that every maker obtain this *white receipt* and keep it safe until the competition is over.** If an instrument(s) or bow(s) is shipped rather than hand-carried to the competition, the maker must present their registration confirmation at the instrument check-in table before 10 p.m. on Sunday, November 17, 2024 (ET), to obtain the ***white receipt***. The only exception is if the shipping instructions tell the VSA to ship the instrument(s) or bow(s) directly back to the maker (prepaid) after the competition is over. In that case, a ***white receipt*** will not be required for redelivery.

EARLY REMOVAL OF ENTRIES

One of the purposes of the competition is to allow the attendees to examine and play the instruments that have been judged in the competition, through Friday, November 18, 2024. To remove your instrument(s) or bow(s) after 4:00 p.m. ET but prior to 6:30 p.m. ET on Friday, November 22, 2024, an \$85 per item early withdrawal fee will be charged. If the competitor must leave early and chooses not to pay the early withdrawal fee, arrangements must be made to have the instrument(s) or bow(s) shipped to the competitor after the final day at the maker's expense. Instrument(s) and bow(s) may be picked up without penalty on Friday evening, November 22, 2024, between 10:30 p.m. and 12:00 midnight ET.

PHOTOGRAPHING AND MEASURING INSTRUMENTS AND BOWS

By entering this competition you agree to have your instrument(s) or bow(s) photographed by the VSA and to have these photographs used by the VSA for publication or for any other purpose, without the prior permission of the maker. Photographs taken by the VSA of competition instruments or bows will be made available to their makers for personal or professional use. You also agree to have acoustical measurements taken of your instrument(s) for use by the VSA.

Shipping Rules & Guidelines

Host Shop for this competition:

Indianapolis Violins

1047 Churchman Ave

Indianapolis, IN 46203

Contact: Chris Ulbricht — 1-317-624-0441

info@indyviolins.com

Do not ship instrument(s) or bow(s) to the VSA office or hotel.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Shipping is an option for instruments and bows not delivered to the competition in person. Shipments are to be sent to the host shop at the above address and must be received between October 1 and October 31. All shipments must be sent "Signature Required." Competitors are required to forward all tracking information and customs documentation (when applicable) to the host shop at: info@indyviolins.com

Shipping costs, including return shipping costs, duty fees and insurance are the sole responsibility of the maker. The VSA will not accept any instrument(s) or bow(s) into the competition for which incoming shipping costs or customs duty fees are due.

The VSA will not pay for the return shipment of any instrument(s) or bow(s). All arrangements for return shipping costs must be made in advance of the competition. These arrangements are to be included in the box containing the instrument(s) or bow(s) or made in writing directly with the host shop before the beginning of the competition. You must enclose shipping labels and any special directions for repacking.

To arrange for return shipping, one of the following is suggested: 1. Establish a shipping account with a shipping company and provide your shipper number or the return shipping documents to the host shop. 2. Pay the host shop in advance with a bank check; ask the host shop for an estimate of shipping costs. 3. Authorize the host shop to use your credit card for shipping costs.

If no prior shipping arrangements have been made, instrument(s) and bow(s) returned to destinations within the U.S. will be sent C.O.D. For shipments outside the US, the VSA will keep the instrument(s) or bow(s) in its possession at the host shop until the return shipping cost plus a \$85 storage/handling fee, has been paid directly

to the host shop. If after 6 months these costs still have not been paid, the VSA will take possession of the instrument(s) or bow(s) to be disposed of at its discretion. In this case, the competitor is responsible for any import customs duties owed.

PACKAGING AND HANDLING

Please enclose a card with your instrument(s) or bow(s) with your email address and phone number. We will contact you upon arrival of the instrument(s) and/or bow(s).

It is the responsibility of the competitor to make sure that each package that has been shipped contains a clearly worded packing slip stating exactly what the package contains. Because of similarities between some violin and viola bows, the viola bow should be tagged 'viola'. Enclose a copy of your competition registration confirmation as well.

Should an instrument arrive in need of adjustment or minor repair prior to the start of the competition, the VSA will have an expert luthier on call. In case of any major damage in shipping, you will be notified immediately.

The instrument(s) and bow(s) will be removed from their cases and placed on linen tablecloths during the competition. They will remain there for the duration of the competition. It is the responsibility of the contestant to be certain that the varnish is dry. Instruments with sticky varnish may be damaged by the tablecloths. The VSA assumes no responsibility for such damage.

Due to the number of instrument(s) and bow(s) anticipated, please allow **six (6)** weeks for their return.

It is highly recommended that shipments from outside the U.S. be sent by FedEx or UPS. The VSA has had difficulty returning shipments sent by other shipping companies.

Please do not ship in airtight plastic bags unless the instrument(s) and/or bow(s) are protected from contacting the plastic. The plastic may cause damage to the varnish.

Questions concerning shipping should be directed to the host shop.

Questions about customs or international shipping laws should be directed to your in-country shipping agent.

Do not ship instrument(s) or bow(s) to the VSA office or hotel.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS

Carnets

Competitors from outside the U.S. are advised to post a carnet, an international customs document that facilitates temporary imports into foreign countries. For more information contact the customs department in your country. The following web site may have information about the issuing agency in your country.

<https://www.uscib.org/what-is-a-carnet-ud-1843/>

Lacey Act and Materials Declarations

The VSA now requires Lacey Act paperwork be submitted for all international competitors shipping their instrument(s) and bow(s) to the host shop.

The US law that regulates the import and export of plant and animal-based products is enforced through the Lacey Act and administered by the USDA. New rules require a declaration form be submitted that names all the plant and animal-based materials' species and origin that comprise the instrument or bow. These requirements extend to every importer, commercial or otherwise.

To remain compliant with the law, The VSA will require Lacey Act declarations with all instruments and bows submitted to the competition as well as the New Instrument Exhibit at the 2024 VSA and beyond. This declaration will accompany the carnet, or EU-required customs declaration. **International shipments of competition instruments or bows sent without the required Lacey Act paperwork will not be received by the host shop and will be returned to the competitor at their own expense.**

Some plant and animal species are prohibited from import into and export from the US, including but not limited to elephant ivory, tortoiseshell, or genuine whalebone. Violations of U.S. laws may result in seizure and forfeiture of the instrument or bow. It is the competitor's responsibility, and not the VSA's, to obtain all necessary export or import licenses, permits, and/or certificates.

A guide to help international competitors with their Lacey Act filing requirements is available. Visit the following website for a video tutorial and to download custom instrument and bow specific forms that will make completing the Lacey Act materials declaration form a relatively straightforward process.

<https://www.vsaweb.org/the-lacey-act-trainings>

Indianapolis Violins, our host shop, will be the importer of record. **You are encouraged to be in touch with the host shop directly by emailing info@indyviolins.com.**

RULES

GENERAL RULES

Rules and judging procedures for the international competition have been designed to ensure fairness to all competitors. Instrument(s) or bow(s) submitted for competition must have been completed after November 2022. **Instrument(s) and bow(s) may not be entered if they have already received awards in other recognized international competitions.** The decision of the judges is final.

Hors Concours status is granted to a maker who has been awarded Gold Medals in three different VSA competitions. Hors Concours status will not be granted for three Gold Medals awarded in one or two competitions. Makers designated Hors Concours status are not allowed to enter further VSA competitions. A maker who has been awarded Hors Concours status in the category of instrument making may still compete in the bow making competition. Likewise, a person holding Hors Concours status as a bow maker may enter the instrument competition.

***RESTRICTIONS ON MATERIALS**

Instruments and bows having tortoiseshell, elephant ivory, or genuine whalebone (baleen) are banned from the competition. Under the Endangered Species Act, U.S. Customs does not permit the importation of elephant ivory, tortoiseshell, or whalebone. Items made from these banned materials that cross U.S. borders may be confiscated by U.S. Customs.

All instruments and bows that are accepted into the competition must have essential parts that are hand crafted from traditional legal materials. For stringed instruments, essential parts include the top, back, sides, and scroll. Synthetic or composite materials are allowed for the fingerboard, fittings, and accessories of the instrument such as the tailpiece, pegs, endpin, chin rest and strings.

The essential part of the bow that must be handcrafted from traditional legal materials is the bow stick. Examples of traditional stick materials include solid woods such as Pernambuco, Snakewood, and Ipe. The bow frog can be made from either traditional legal materials or synthetic/composite materials, as long as it is crafted or shaped in a traditional manner. Additionally, synthetic or composite materials are allowed for the following parts of the bow: head plate, head plate liner, eyes, the slide over the mortise, the heel plate, and winding. Bows that incorporate tortoiseshell, elephant ivory, genuine whalebone (baleen), or any other banned materials will be automatically disqualified from the competition.

Questions about traditional material use may be directed to the VSA Competition Rules Sub-Committee before entry. Please send questions to the VSA office. The VSA Competition Rules Sub-Committee reserves the right to restrict from the competition any instrument(s) or bow(s) that doesn't adhere to these standards.

INSTRUMENT SETUP

Access to instruments and bows will not be permitted from the time they are checked in until all judging is completed. Proper setup of the instrument(s) submitted at the competition check-in desk is the responsibility of the maker or their representative. For shipped instruments, an official of the VSA may assist with the final setup according to instructions provided by the maker.

The VSA will designate a qualified luthier to oversee small simple repairs should the need arise. This will include replacing broken strings, adjusting chin rest mounts, if necessary, and closing open seams between the ribs and plates. It is expected that some instruments may experience open seams during the competition. A luthier designated by the VSA will close any such open seams with diluted hide glue to enable the instrument to participate in the tone competition. The judges will be informed of the repair and shown its location on the instrument.

A competitor who would prefer that no one repair their instrument or bow should mark "No" in the appropriate place on the registration form. In this instance, any instrument which experiences seam openings or other problems will be removed from the competition and will be returned to the competitor at the conclusion of the competition. The competition fee will not be refunded. If a problem occurs during the Judging phase of the competition, the VSA cannot contact the competitor because this would necessitate a breach of security concerning anonymity.

AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHENTICITY

All makers must sign an affidavit on the entry form indicating that the instrument(s) or bow(s) have been made entirely by themselves. Fittings such as pegs, tailpieces and endpins on an instrument may be commercially produced. Bass machine gears and C extensions that are commercially produced may be used by the maker listed. Bow frogs and buttons may not be commercially produced. Makers are not permitted to sub-contract work on instruments or bows submitted.

ANONYMITY RULES

All instruments and bows must have a LEGIBLE label, brand, or stamp mark. This is so that the maker may be positively identified, if necessary, at the conclusion of the competition after the judging has taken place. To ensure impartiality, the identity of

the makers of the instrument(s) and bow(s) is withheld from the judges during the competition. To prevent the judges from identifying the maker by looking at the instrument's label, brand, or stamp mark, **it is the responsibility of the contestant to make sure that all such labels, brands, or stamp marks are covered or otherwise concealed at the time of entry.**

Additionally, to ensure anonymity, maintain the integrity of the competition, and prevent any potential biases resulting from public exposure, competitors are strictly prohibited from posting photos of their competition instruments or bows online or on social media prior to the competition. Any previously posted photos of competition instruments or bows must be taken down prior to registering for the competition. Compliance with this rule is mandatory, and any violation may result in disqualification.

Once the instruments and bows have been entered into the competition, each is given a randomly assigned identification number. In the unlikely event of a problem, the appropriate VSA committee will want to examine the hidden maker's label, brand, or stamp to ensure that the instrument or bow is returned to its rightful owner. **Any violation of these rules will lead to disqualification.** Competitor lists will not be available until the completion of the judging.

RULES COMMITTEE

The responsibility for interpretation of **on-site** competition rules, the settling of disputes, and dealing with questions arising during the competition lies with the VSA Competition Rules Sub-Committee. All final decisions remain the responsibility of the VSA Executive Committee.

RULES INFRACTIONS

Potential rules infractions will be investigated by the Rules Sub-Committee with consultation from the appropriate judges. After the investigation, the Rules Sub-Committee will report their findings and recommendations to the VSA Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will then make the final decision on whether the rules have been broken and determine the appropriate response if a violation has occurred.

Instruments or bows that do not comply with competition rules will be disqualified, and all entry fees for disqualified items will be forfeited. Anyone caught attempting to commit fraud in the competition will be disqualified and may receive up to a lifetime ban from future VSA competitions.

JUDGING

JUDGES

The Competition Committee Chairs, in consultation with the Competition Committee, are responsible for selecting judges. The selection process emphasizes diversity, taking into account aspects such as nationality, tradition, and professional background. To ensure the highest level of integrity, all judges have agreed not to engage in buying, owning, or conducting any transactions involving instruments or bows that are part of this competition.

BOW JUDGING

Bow judging will be accomplished by **three** (3) judges and will be divided into **two** (2) rounds, Evaluation and Medal. In the Evaluation round, each judge will evaluate each bow independently and without consultation with the other judges.

Bow Evaluation will be divided into six categories, totaling 100 points.

1. Stick **15 points**

Includes planing, facets, diameter and taper, camber, mortise (for eyelet), and straightness.

2. Head **8 points**

Includes elegance and precision of work, proportions, and mortise (tip).

3. Frog and Button **15 points**

Includes proportions, finish, elegance, precision of work, fit of frog to stick and alignment with head, and fit of button.

4. Playing Function **14 points**

Includes integration of camber, dimensions, height of head and frog, balance, and selection of wood.

5. Finishing **8 points**

Includes finish, hair, and grip.

6. Overall Impression **40 points**

Includes originality, choice of materials, elegance, overall consistency of style from frog to head and artistry.

Bows that proceed to the Medal round will receive at least a Certificate of Merit.

During the Medal round, the Certificate of Merit bows from the Evaluation round will be reviewed by all judges working together. Bows that receive a unanimous vote for superior Artisanhip will be designated Gold Medal winners.

INSTRUMENT ARTISANSHIP JUDGING

Artisanship judging will be accomplished by **three** (3) judges for violins, **three** (3) judges for violas, **three** (3) judges for cellos and **three** (3) judges for basses. Judges assigned to judge violins will have no input into the decisions affecting violas, cellos, and basses and vice versa. Judging will be divided into three rounds: Preliminary, Evaluation, and Medal. In the Preliminary round, each instrument will be evaluated independently by three judges who will then select those instruments that will be given further consideration in the Evaluation round. In the Evaluation round, each judge will again evaluate each instrument independently. Based on the results of the Evaluation round, the judges will select those instruments to proceed to the Medal round. Instruments in the Medal round will receive at least a Certificate of Merit for Artisanship. The instruments in the Medal round will be reviewed by the judges working together. Instruments that receive a unanimous vote for superior Artisanship will be recommended for Gold Medals. Please read the rules explaining the awarding of Gold Medals, Silver Medals, and Certificates of Merit below.

Both antiqued and pristine instruments may be submitted. The judges are instructed to show no preference for either type.

Instrument Evaluation (second round) will be divided into six categories, totaling one hundred (100) points.

1. Setup **16 points**

Includes bridge, post, pegs, tailpiece, fingerboard, nut, saddle, and endpin.

2. Varnish **8 points**

Includes color, transparency, evenness of application, ground, texture, and patina (if present).

3. Modeling **8 points**

Includes arching, surface texture, and f-holes, including positioning of f-holes, and shape relative to arching.

4. Scroll **8 points**

Includes model, flowing lines, pegbox, finish work, and overall character.

5. Construction **20 points**

Includes outline, glue joints, bending and fitting of ribs and purfling, execution of neck, edges, corners, f-holes, scroll, and finish work.

6. Overall Impression **40 points**

Includes originality, choice of materials, elegance and overall consistency of style, and artistry.

INSTRUMENT TONE JUDGING

Tone judging will be divided into **three** (3) rounds: Preliminary, Evaluation and Medal. In the Preliminary round, each instrument will be evaluated independently by **three** (3) playing judges who will then select those instruments that will be given further consideration in the Evaluation round. In the Evaluation round, each instrument chosen from the Preliminary round will be further evaluated by the judges to determine which should proceed to the Medal round. Instruments in the Medal round will receive at least a Certificate of Merit for Tone. The instruments in the Medal round will be reviewed by the judges working together. Instruments that receive a unanimous vote as being of the highest tone quality will be recommended for Gold Medals. Please read the rules explaining Gold Medals, Silver Medals, and Certificates of Merit under the heading 'Awards.'

QUARTET JUDGING

Following the individual instrument competition, quartets will be judged for Artisanship and tone. Makers must have previously designated which violin is first and which is second. Makers may enter any combination of models within the quartet.

QUARTET ARTISANSHIP JUDGING

The violin Artisanship judges will not participate in quartet Artisanship judging due to their greater workload. Quartets will be judged in two rounds, Evaluation and Medal. The viola and cello Artisanship judges will evaluate the quartet as a unit in one Evaluation round considering the following categories, totaling 100 points:

1. Construction 40 points

Includes technical aspects of making, including the body, neck, scroll, setup, and consistency of construction among all four instruments.

2. Varnish 20 points

Includes color, transparency, application, texture, patina (if present), and consistency of varnish among all four instruments.

3. Artistic 40 points

Includes sense of taste and artistry, considering stylistic and material similarities within the realm of overall impression.

Quartets that proceed to the Medal round will receive at least a Certificate of Merit for Artisanship. Quartets that receive a unanimous vote as being of superior quality in Artisanship will be recommended for Gold Medals. Please read the rules explaining

Gold Medals, Silver Medals, and Certificates of Merit under the heading 'Awards.'

QUARTET TONE JUDGING

Tone judging will be divided into **two** (2) rounds: Evaluation and Medal. During the Evaluation round, each quartet will be played and evaluated by **four** (4) players serving as tone judges and **one** (1) listening tone judge on a pass/fail basis. Each judge will have an equal vote. Quartets that pass into the final round will be further reviewed by the **four** (4) playing judges and **one** (1) listening tone judge to reach a consensus for Certificates of Merit or recommendations for Gold Medals. Please read the rules explaining Gold Medals, Silver Medals, and Certificates of Merit below.

AWARDS

There is no compulsory number of awards given, however, judges are given a general guideline of expected numbers before the competition starts.

GOLD MEDALS (see Appendix 1)

For an instrument to receive a Gold Medal it must be recommended by all designated judges for such a Medal in one category and have at least a Certificate of Merit in the other category. A Double Gold Medal is awarded to instruments receiving a recommendation for a Gold Medal in both Tone and Artisanship categories.

A Gold medal is awarded to bows that receive a unanimous vote by the judges for superior Artisanship.

SILVER MEDALS (see Appendix 1)

A Silver Medal in Artisanship or Tone is awarded if judges recommend a Gold Medal in one category and do not have a recommendation for Gold Medal or Certificate in the other category.

Bows are judged on Artisanship only. There are no Silver Medals awarded in the bow making competition.

BRONZE MEDALS (see Appendix 1)

A Bronze Medal is awarded if judges recommend an instrument for a Certificate of Merit in both Tone and Artisanship categories.

Bows are judged on Artisanship only. There are no Bronze Medals awarded in the bow making competition.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (see Appendix 1)

An instrument will receive a Certificate of Merit in a category if it reaches the Medal round in that category and does not receive recommendation for Gold Medal in either category.

Bows that proceed to the Medal round but do not receive a Gold Medal will receive a Certificate of Merit.

POLICY FOR ADVERTISING OF MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

It is the policy of the VSA that all awards granted by the VSA, including Medals and

Certificates of Merit, are personal to the award winner. Any advertising, publicity, or promotional materials, in any format or media, which refer to or relate to a VSA award shall be accompanied by the award winner’s name. Failure to comply with this VSA policy may result in expulsion from VSA membership, forfeiture of VSA awards, or other remedies. Instruments and bows that receive medal awards will be photographed for publication by the VSA. These photos will be made available to the award winners for their own private or public use.

APPENDIX 1

Medal Round for Instruments

Medal Round Flowchart: Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, & Quartet		Tone Judging		
		Recommendation for Gold ↓	Recommendation for Certificate ↓	No Recommendation ↓
Artisanship Judging	Recommendation for Gold →	Double Gold Medal	Gold Medal	Silver Medal for Artisanship
	Recommendation for Certificate →	Gold Medal	Bronze Medal	Certificate for Artisanship
	No Recommendation →	Silver Medal for Tone	Certificate for Tone	No Award

Medal Round for Bows

ARTISANSHIP JUDGING	
Recommendation for Gold ↓	No Recommendation ↓
Gold Medal	Certificate for Artisanship