

The 10th "Antonio Stradivari" International violin makers competition", in 2003, is 10 years old.

Twenty-seven years ago, exactly in October 1976, the City Council, the Province, the Chamber of Commerce, the Tourist Office and the Stauffer Foundation of Cremona, with the first support of the major professional Associations, decided to create a Violin making Committee. This Committee was finalized at the promotion of the violin activities and, in particular, at the organization in Cremona of an international violin making competition.

We remember the success of the first edition, that took place from 2nd to 10th October, characterized by an exhibition of old instruments and other important cultural events. These events reinforced the director's of local organizations conviction about the positive response that the name of Cremona could have at an international level, towards everyone who, with different title, gravitate in the world of violins and stringed instruments.

The organizing committees have in fact understood that the start of an international competition was the best instrument to revive the fame of the art of violin in Cremona and contributed to move away the indifference that, since the first years of the second post-war period, didn't allow the city to take off with the right enthusiasm.

The response was reassuring and immediately attracted around Cremona's manifestations and around the city itself, the attention of violin makers and musicians from distant Countries.

In 1981, approximately a year before the 3rd Triennale, the City Council, the Province, the Chamber of Commerce, the Tourist Office and the Stauffer Foundation of Cremona founded, with notarial deed, a "private organization" assuming the denomination which is nowadays the same and starting immediately the complex procedure for the regional recognition that finally arrived in February 1988.

It always happens that ten years are enough to look back and now, we can consider in the right dimension, how the intensity incisiveness of the events organized by the Ente Triennale has always corresponded, in the right way, to the major development of the violins activities in Cremona.

The violin making contest, since its origin, is every three years and Triennial is also part of the denomination of the Organization characterized for so long only by competition activities that during the course of the years have enriched a contest which includes violins executions at a very high level entitled to Antonio Stradivari

played by a string quartet. Also, from 2004 there will be a competition for young violinists dedicated to Andrea Amati.

Though, every year and always during the month of October, there are retrospective exhibitions, concerts and the Commercial Exhibition of Musical Instruments and Violin Making Accessories Cremona Mandamusca. This was first linked only to the Triennale and from 1995 has been detached and organized independently. We remind you that, from 2002, Cremona Mandamusca is organized in collaboration of Cremona Fiere and takes place in their head office and, at every edition, has increased the number of exhibitors and visitors.

Always looking back at the last ten years we cannot forget the importance of few retrospective exhibitions dedicated to the great masters of the violins of Cremona and, among the latest, we remember in 1998 Gli strumenti dei Guarneri and in the following year, 1999 percorsi di Giovanni Battista Guadagnini that gathered works made by the master in every place he lived. In 2000 the Ente celebrated the turn of the century with a grand retrospective... e furono liuti in Cremona where all the violins of Cremona from the past centuries were exposed.

Also the year 2001 and 2002 have reinforced the tradition to organize, during the month of October, important exhibitions about subjects of present interest such as Original Modelli e Copie and La luteria lombarda del '900 both organized together with conferences about the above-mentioned arguments. Finally, to mark Capolavori cremonesi della Royal Academy that, with the final concert of the manifestation realized with the instruments exhibited, will certainly make unforgettable this celebration.

The Ente Triennale closes, with this ten year period of its Competition of Violins, a first phase of activity that is characterized by a gradual development. In fact, in less than 30 years we have seen the violins events in Cremona to affirm at an international level with all kind of cultural manifestations and even more commercial events.

Nowadays the name of Cremona, city of violins, is well known all over the world and in the future years the Ente Triennale will try, with the same tenacity that has consecrated and still consecrate the success of the violins from Cremona, to give to Cremona the fame in the musical field that is so linked to the violins.

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