

Matthias Klotz Violin



The Klotz family has been crafting violins in Mittenwald, Germany, since the mid-17th century. Matthias Klotz (1656–1743) is credited with founding the Mittenwald school of violin making, which helped the town become a renowned hub for violin craftsmanship. Over 25 artisans from the Klotz family have contributed to this tradition, with Sebastian Klotz (1696–1768) being particularly admired for his instruments.

Matthias Klotz, born in 1656, was a German violin maker who initially studied under the renowned luthiers Jacob Stainer and Nicolo Amati. His tutelage under these master artisans greatly influenced his craftsmanship. Upon establishing his own workshop in Mittenwald, Bavaria, Matthias' exceptional work set high standards for future generations. His efforts transformed Mittenwald into a major center for violin production, a legacy that continues to this day.

Sebastian Klotz, one of Matthias' talented descendants, was born in 1696 and became a distinguished violin maker in his own right. His instruments are especially revered for their beauty and sonority, bearing the influence of his grandfather's teacher, Nicolo Amati. The present violin, dated 1770, was likely crafted by Sebastian and labeled shortly after his death. It is an exquisite artwork, both visually and acoustically, a testament to the family's unparalleled craftsmanship. Despite suffering a sound post crack on the back, it has been skillfully and solidly repaired, retaining its exceptional quality.



After a highly skilled back repair the instrument is near perfect and sounds like an Amati. Interesting to note his influential teacher Jacob Stainer was in the 1700's valued even higher than a Stradivarius!

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