

Markneukirchen Viola

\$7,500.00



This instrument is almost certainly a well-made German workshop instrument from the interwar period, a time when many Markneukirchen and Mittenwald makers produced high-quality interpretations of classic Italian models. These workshops often selected impressive tonewoods—broad, flamed maple and straight, even-grained spruce—and applied warm amber-brown varnishes that age beautifully. The craftsmanship from this era can be remarkably consistent: clean arching, neatly cut f-holes, and a solid internal structure that has allowed many of these instruments to develop a rich maturity of tone. While not an original Guaragnini, a fine 1930s German viola can easily rival far more expensive instruments in projection, depth, and reliability.

Markneukirchen and Mittenwald makers produced high-quality reproduction of classic Italian models. At 17½ inches, this viola belongs to the rare class of large-pattern instruments prized by violists seeking a truly massive sound. The extra body size gives the lower register impressive authority—broad, chocolatey C-string resonance—and adds a complex bloom to the middle and upper ranges. Players often comment that instruments of this stature “fill the room” with little effort, making them excellent choices for orchestral section leaders, chamber musicians who favor a commanding presence, or soloists who enjoy a darker, more powerful tonal palette. For a player who can comfortably manage the size, a big-bodied 1930s German viola like this can be an inspiring, charismatic partner with a voice far larger than its price category.

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