

Exceptional Inlaid Italianate Cello – Possibly Venetian / Northern Italian Circle, Late 17th to Early 18th Century



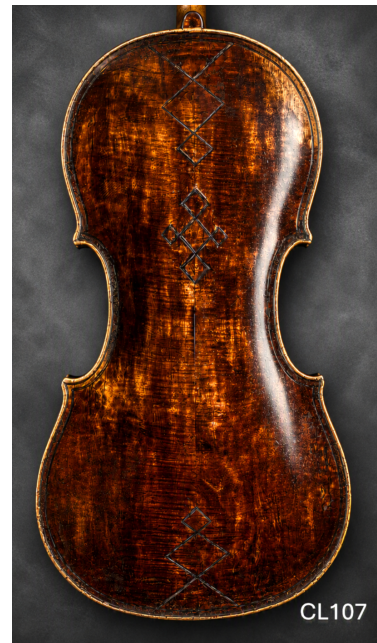
This remarkable and visually arresting cello represents a rare surviving example of an early Italianate instrument with highly unusual geometric inlaid decoration to the back. The instrument displays a deeply flamed maple back of handsome medium curl beneath a rich amber-brown varnish of great depth and transparency, exhibiting the warm oxidation and luminous patina associated with fine old Italian workmanship.

Particularly striking are the engraved and inlaid diamond motifs running along the center joint, a feature seldom encountered and suggestive of either a distinguished commission, aristocratic ownership, or regional decorative traditions associated with certain Venetian and North Italian circles. The broad arching, powerful outline, and textured varnish surface evoke comparisons to late 17th-century Venetian and

Brescian influences, while certain structural aspects may also suggest provincial Northern Italian workmanship of considerable sophistication.

The cello possesses an especially commanding tonal personality, with exceptional projection in a hall setting and a broad, dark sonority that expands under the bow. Unlike many heavily restored period instruments, this example retains tremendous visual character and individuality, qualities increasingly sought

after by collectors and performers alike. The varnish exhibits the beautiful reddish-brown to golden transitions associated with age and oxidation, creating dramatic optical depth under changing light.



Its mysterious decorative symbolism and distinguished old-world appearance place it far outside ordinary commercial production. Instruments of this nature are often the subject of continuing scholarly debate, especially where Venetian, Tyrolean, or early provincial Italian influences overlap. The cello stands as both a serious performing instrument and a fascinating historical object with tremendous visual presence.

Whether ultimately attributed to a particular master, workshop, or regional school, the instrument possesses the artistic authority, tonal strength, and aged elegance associated with important early European stringed instruments.

Contact: Inquiry@Bergonziviolins.com