

HANS J. NEBEL

VIOLIN REPAIR WORKSHOPS

JUNE 8 – 26, 2026

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts



HANS J. NEBEL

Hans J. Nebel, a master craftsman and internationally known violin restorer, is a fourth-generation violin maker and a graduate of the Bavarian State School of Violinmaking in Mittenwald.

Mr. Nebel started his professional career at Rembert Wurlitzer, Inc., in New York City, where he worked for 18 years. He became a long-term disciple of Maestro S. F. Sacconi, the universally acknowledged dean and originator of modern repair and restoration techniques. On suggestion of Dario D'Attili and Maestro Sacconi, he was appointed head of the restoration department at Wurlitzer, a firm that was considered the mecca of the violin business in the United States.



Programs are built on a 4-year, eight-part cycle and offer more challenging topics each year.



Since 1974, Mr. Nebel has headed his own business in New Jersey, where he specializes in major restoration and the sale of quality stringed instruments and bows. He accompanied the New York Philharmonic on its tour of the Far East as caretaker of their fine instruments and was invited by the Liuteria Parmense in Parma, Italy, and the Violin Making School in Bilbao, Spain, to teach master class courses in violin restoration.

Mr. Nebel has taught violin restoration for over 50 years at several universities and continues his violin repair workshop efforts at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA).

FUTURE COURSES INCLUDE:

sharpening of tools, such as plane blades, knife, gouges, scrapers, as well as proper instrument setup, to include fit pegs, plane finger board, fit sound post and bridge, glue sides, proper clean and polish, discussion on strings and tonal adjustment, and to include basic violin identification.

ADVANCED COURSES INCLUDE:

bushing of peg holes; fit new Upper and Lower blocks; rib-crack repair and straightening/reinforcing warped ribs; crack repair and reinforcement; edge repair, edge replacement and edge doubling; reshaping sunken arching by means of a mold and fitting sound post patch etc; neck resetting; making neck graft and culminating with retouching the varnish.

What you will learn

WEEK I

This program is designed for those who wish to learn about the correct set up of violins, proper maintenance, tool sharpening, and minor exterior repairs on quality stringed instruments. We will set aside time for show-and-tell to study Basic Violin Recognition and the differences among various schools, countries, and individual violin-making families. Workshop I is the *Bread & Butter* course for every violin maker and repairer, music educator, and stringed instrument musician. You will find the Workshop to be a useful week, a great refresher course, and a knowledge enhancer. Five days of lectures and demonstrations in Basic Maintenance and repairs will be featured, as is done in the finest shops in this country and abroad. If you have taken this course before, ... do not hesitate to take it again!

You will observe how to care for and sharpen tools, fit pegs, plane finger board, finish top nut and lower saddle, fit new sound post and bridge, glue sides and minor exterior crack repair, properly clean and polish instruments, and learn about various strings and tonal adjustments.

The utmost importance will be placed on careful demonstrations, and you will find this workshop a very instructive and challenging week.

For Workshop I only: Open shop sessions will be available in the evening for students to continue practicing the techniques and methods shown during the workshop session.

First-time participants and those not proficient in woodcrafts may wish only to observe and take notes, possibly bring along a notebook, or still camera and presently owned tools, and decide which additional tools to purchase after the program. More skilled participants may wish to work along during shop hours and evening open shop sessions, and should, of course, bring along proper sharpened tools.



WORKSHOPS



Week I

Monday - Friday, June 8 – 12, 2026
8-11:30 a.m. and 1-5 p.m.

Introduction to Proper Violin Set-up and Basic Violin Identification and Recognition

Sharpening of tools and minor exterior repairs.

Week II

Monday - Friday, June 15 – 19, 2026
8-11:30 a.m. and 1-5 p.m.

This is the first week of an 8-part workshop cycle.

Workshop in Advanced Violin Repair:
Fitting of Upper and Lower Block and Lining Repair

Week III

Monday - Friday, June 23 – 27, 2025
8-11:30 a.m. and 1-5 p.m.

This is the second week of an 8-part workshop cycle.

Workshop in Advanced Violin Repair:
Crack Repair and Crack Reinforcement

Please note that Week II and Week III are designed to go hand-in-hand. You can attend either or both workshops

What you will learn

WEEK II

This week's focus is on fitting/replacing Upper & Lower Block (necessitated due to shrinkage of instrument & wear and tear). We will carefully remove the Upper and Lower Blocks, separate & pull-in ribs, re-glue the ribs & fit new Upper and Lower Blocks.

WEEK III

Remove top, separate cracks; clean/wash, reglue and reinforce cracks; trim and reshape cleats. This course will provide detailed instructions & demonstrations. Given the small class size and hands-on nature of the programs, this will be a very informative and challenging week.

Open shop sessions will be available in the evening for students to continue practicing the techniques and methods shown during the demonstration session.



For Week II & Week III only

Students will work alongside a master artisan to improve their ability to perform major repairs on high-quality instruments. Students who have previously attended Mr. Nebel's workshops, as well as those with advanced-level skills and training in violin repair, may wish to apply.

Violins, Materials, and Tools

WEEK I

Students should bring one or two violins — quality grade Student-level violins, suitable for this program (no celli, please).

WEEK II & WEEK III

Students should bring one or two violins suitable for Fitting of Upper & Lower Blocks and/or Crack Repair and Crack Reinforcement (no celli).

A list of tools & materials suggested for the course will be sent after registering and paid for the program you wish to attend.



**Are you
ready to
enroll?**

Register online at www.mcla.edu/violin
Due date for registration is May 31, 2026.

Week I: June 8-12, 2026

Introduction to Proper Violin Set-up and Basic Violin Identification and Recognition,
including Sharpening of Tools and Minor Exterior Repairs \$1000.00

Week II: June 15-19, 2026

Advanced Violin Repair: Fitting of Upper and Lower Block and Lining Repair \$1000.00

Week III: June 22-26, 2026

Advanced Violin Repair: Crack Repair and Crack Reinforcements \$1000.00

DISCOUNTS FOR ATTENDING MULTIPLE WORKSHOPS

Attend 2 or more workshops and receive a 10% discount of total cost.

Workshops will take place in Bowman Hall on the MCLA main campus in North Adams, Massachusetts.

LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS

Lodging accommodations are the responsibility of the workshop participants. On-campus summer housing is available to workshop participants for the duration of the program. To request campus housing, please fill out the [Violin Workshop Housing Request form](#). Additional lodging options are available throughout North Adams. Please visit the Discover North Adams website for more information about lodging options in North Adams. [Stay — Discover North Adams](#)

For questions, please contact the Division of Graduate & Continuing Education at dgce@mcla.edu or 413-662-5575

