

## Instructions for using the Online Database of Historical Viols

### Overview

When first opened, the database shows all 1,624 records in order by their DHV serial number, with a dozen of the most important data fields appearing in a columnar display. To view complete information on any individual viol, click on its line in the list, which will open a new window devoted only to that instrument. To obtain a subset of instruments, enter or select the desired criteria in the search boxes provided, and the list will instantly change in response to your input.

Once a list of instruments has been sought and found, it can be sorted on most of the data fields—including some not visible in the primary columnar display—using up to three criteria in any desired order of priority. As usual with databases, records with no information in a given field chosen for sorting appear in the resulting list before those that do contain data.

### Details for Searching

For some kinds of data—Size, Number of strings, and Sound holes, and the country portion of the Place made and Current location fields—a drop-down menu is provided from which you can make a selection.

For other parameters—including the DHV number, Date made, Maker's name (first and last), the Collection in which the viol is found today, the kind of Head found on the pegbox (scroll, female, male, lion, etc.), and the city portions of Place made and Current location—you instead type the names or words corresponding to your search criteria in the blank search box.

A third method combines these two approaches: to search based on any of six basic Measurements, or for Text found within ten other fields, first choose the field to be searched from a drop-down menu and then type what you're looking for in the adjacent box. Two choices are available simultaneously in each of these categories.

Finally, checkboxes provide an easy way to search for viols whose Maker or Current location is unknown, and those whose Body shape corresponds to one of five predetermined choices.

For more information on the conventions and limitations relevant to each of the data fields, you may wish to consult a separate document available via a different link from the database's home page. Note that it is presently not possible to search for a range of numerical values, in either the Date made or any of the measurement fields. Also, for this online version of the database the names of nearly all private owners have been removed to preserve their privacy, except for a handful of well-known performers who have themselves publicized the instruments they own.

### Details for sorting

To sort a list of viols, simply choose the desired field from the drop-down menus for Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Sort. As with searching, the display will be updated instantly.

If a field chosen for sorting includes a question mark for some records—for example, to indicate uncertainty about the date, or whether the maker named actually made that viol—those records will appear after records that do not contain the question mark.

Note that if you do a new search, the results will appear sorted by the criteria used for your previous search, unless you change them either before or after requesting the new search. Alternatively, the yellow Clear Search button at the top right-hand corner of the page will clear existing choices for both searching and sorting.