

MARKET & CLASSIFIEDS



Shop Around the Corner *Jeffrey Allen Federowicz*

J.R. Judd Violins

Owner: Jeffrey Judd

Address: 1964 Lycoming Creek Road, Williamsport

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Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Thursday & Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.; Closed Sunday & Monday

Using a chisel and the hair from a black stallion, Jeffrey Judd's work captures the vibrant sounds of a sonata and the heated and passionate score from Ravel's "Boléro." His work has touched tens of thousands of people, bringing beauty and art to their lives through the power of music.

Since 1989, Judd, owner of J.R. Judd Violins in Williamsport, has been creating and hand-repairing exquisite violins, cellos, violas, and bass violins for aspiring and professional musicians across Pennsylvania and in nearby states, as well as for several customers across the nation. His shop, filled with hundreds of violins—some made by Judd and some imported from other craftsmen—is a mecca for musicians of all ages and abilities. "Being able to help young musicians discover the importance of music, something that will last with them their entire life, is a great feeling," says Judd. "We'll have parents bring their child into the shop for an instrument—some as young as three years old—and they are amazed at all the violins we have on display."

The three-level shop features two showrooms filled with amber-hued violins, a room of bass violins and cellos, a large assortment of cases, and a selection of more than 600 bows. The upper level is comprised of office space and a large

workshop filled with a variety of hand tools, ebony and tone woods such as maple and spruce for the construction of the violin bodies, and bundles of the finest horsehair, which are used to create the handmade bows—one of the shop's many signature items.

The lower level features a large space for recitals and three private music rooms that local music teachers use for lessons. "We serve music students from more than thirteen public schools and seven colleges and universities. It is incredible the amount of young talent that is in our area and the interest they have in music."

Judd first began playing the violin when he was five years old. Several years later, in high school, he was not only playing violins but also restoring them as an apprentice at an area shop. He went on to college where he earned a bachelor of music degree in music education with an emphasis in voice and violin from Grove City College. He continued his education by earning a master of music degree in music education with an emphasis in double bass from Ithaca College.

Although Judd still plays the violin today for his own enjoyment, his heart really belongs to the creation of the instruments. After college, he went on to learn more fully the art of becoming a luthier (the French term for violinmaker) as an apprentice with the late Richard Menzel, an experienced and highly regarded luthier in Livingston, New Jersey. "Pretty much anyone that knows how to make instruments or repair them

learned so as an apprentice. I was fortunate enough to have [a teacher] that was skilled in the European tradition of violinmaking," he says. Judd believes that continuing on with a tradition that has been turning out high-quality instruments for centuries is the best way to go. "I am also fortunate enough to have a very talented and dedicated group of people working here and continuing on with the art of creating and repairing fine instruments."

Judd's shop is a testament to the quality and care that goes into the instruments they sell and the repairs they undertake. Additionally, the shop offers an extensive rental program and personal advice from knowledgeable musicians. Aided by the presence of J.R. Judd Violins, the sound of music will continue to grow and thrive through young musicians.

Williamsport resident Jeffrey Allen Federowicz is a freelance writer and an occasional contributor to Mountain Home.

Top: Jeffrey Judd, owner and founder of J.R. Judd Violins, in his shop.



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