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TARISIO TO AUCTION EARLY GUARNERI 'DEL GESU' VIOLIN IN JUNE 2012

24 April 2012, London An important early violin by the celebrated Cremonese maker Giuseppe Guarneri 'del Gesù' will be sold at auction by Tarisio on 25 June. Among the most sought after instruments in the world, 'del Gesù' violins rarely appear at auction and this example is expected to fetch upwards of £1.5 million.

Known as the 'Folinari', the violin was made in Cremona, Italy, in around 1725, making it one of the earliest surviving 'del Gesù' instruments. It was discovered in Italy in the 1990s, and little is known about its previous history, although the violin is understood to have been owned by the Folinari family of wine makers.

The violin is a typical early example showing the maker's developing independence from his father, with whom he trained. It is in very good condition and is sold with certificates of authenticity from the three top contemporary experts, J.&A. Beare, Peter Biddulph and Bein & Fushi.

Although Guarneri 'del Gesù' (1698–1744) ranks alongside Antonio Stradivari as one of the two greatest violin makers of all time, his instruments are much more rare, and almost never sold publicly. 'Del Gesù' violins have long been prized by soloists for their dark, powerful tone.

Jason Price, Director of Tarisio, says, "The 'Folinari' will only be the second 'del Gesù' to be sold at auction in the past 10 years. It is a significant event and an excellent instrument, appealing to both players and collectors."

The violin will be exhibited in London in June, with bidding held online at tarisio.com. For more information, visit tarisio.com/folinari.

ABOUT TARISIO

Tarisio is one of the world's leading sources of fine and rare stringed instruments. Launched in 1999, it brought a fresh approach to the instrument market, combining the services of a traditional auction house with the efficiency and accessibility of online sales. Offering first-class expertise and guaranteed cataloging, Tarisio quickly earned the respect of musicians, collectors, restorers and members of the trade the world over. It now sells over 2,000 violins, violas, cellos and bows each year, with offices in New York and London. In 2011 Tarisio sold the 'Lady Blunt' Stradivari violin on behalf of the Nippon Foundation for \$15.9m.