

16 ~ BIELSKI VIOLIN



This is a klezmer's violin. Most klezmers were self-made and self-taught musicians with a natural talent for music. While many arts were not encouraged by Jewish tradition, music became one of the very few venues available to artists.

It was quite common for young children to play the violins. I.L. Peretz, the Yiddish writer, wrote in one of his short stories that one could tell how many boys were in a Jewish family by counting the number of violins hanging on the wall.

This is probably the reason why so many klezmer instruments were decorated with the most known Jewish symbol, a Star of David. Most klezmer violins were cheap, made in Czechoslovakia or Germany, in shops that specialized in making ornamented violins.

The klezmer tradition was almost lost during WWII, but lately there is some revival in Europe as well as in Israel and the United States.

The restoration work on this violin is dedicated to the Bielski partisans who lived, fought and saved 1,230 Jews during the war. Assaela Weinstein, Amnon's wife, is the daughter of Assael Bielski, one of the three brothers who formed the Bielski brigade in Belarus.

Play Level: Very good



Mother of pearl Star of David