For 45 years, Master Bow Maker and MacArthur Fellow Benoît Rolland has been creating bows which are heard in concert halls throughout the world and are in the hands of illustrious musicians, including Yo-Yo Ma, Anne Sophie Mutter, Leonidas Kavakos and Miriam Fried.

Rolland says, "A sculptor of sound, the bow that was formerly thought an accessory, is the true conduit for the musician's creative energy. My hand is finally trained enough to flow with the intention, and the bow becomes music. The great French cellist Maurice Gendron once told me, 'the most difficult thing in life is to continue.' I have continued to make bows, imposing great effort on myself, and more joy than I knew possible now comes through bowmaking."

Celebrating music and the art of bows, Benoît Rolland made his 1500th bow as a special piece to honor the more than 1,500 musicians who trusted his work. A twin bow, marked 1515, will mirror it. Both violin bows will be ebony and gold mounted, with a gold and diamond inlay on the main side of the frog. Benoît intends bow 1515, that will be proposed to auction, as a gift to help students from disadvantaged schools gain access to great music education.

"To love music and commit to it, is to love life. To embrace life and engage in art is a potent antidote to violence. My donation of bow 1515 is meant to encourage perseverance, artistic dedication, and music sharing."

Boston, February 2016

Benoît Rolland Studio

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71 Russell Avenue
Watertown, MA 02472
Benoît Rolland

Born in Paris in 1954, Benoît studied piano and violin, graduating from the Conservatoires of Paris & Versailles. In 2012 he was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship for his continued extraordinary creative work.

He trained as a bow maker in Mirecourt, France (1971-75) with Bernard Ouchard, the last in a line of historical French bow makers. In 1976, Rolland opened his first studio in Paris, and was soon awarded Meilleur Ouvrier de France (1979, Best Artisan of France), then Archetier d’Art (1983, Master of the Art of Bowmaking).

His bows have since served leading soloists such as Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Mitslav Rostropovitch and Yo-Yo Ma, Anne Sophie Mutter, Kim Kashkashian, Lysa Batiachvili. Professional musicians play his bows in 53 countries. Early 2015 he signed his 1500th pernambuco bow. He has made 1,857 bows by his hands so far. Museums recognized his work as an art form (Isabella Stewart Gardner Department of Contemporary Art, 2004 and Museum of Fine Arts, Boston 2014).

Innovation characterized Rolland’s career, beginning in 1982 when he developed Spiccato®, the first carbon fiber bow of concert quality, for which he was awarded the International Prize Musicora in 1994. In 2012, he presented the first fundamental evolution of the classical bow design since 1780, with setting the bow hair at an angle: Galliano®.

Benoît Rolland trained 15 apprentices in his Studio. He designed the curriculum for the first American bow making school in Salt Lake City in 1999, and served as its director for two years. He regularly lectures at academic institutions, such as New York University and the New England Conservatory, and contributes to books, professional publications and journals, and music magazines.

2016 will see the first phase of Rolland’s Legacy Project. This legacy initiative aims to pass on in a foundation structure Rolland’s knowledge, and the French School of Bowmaking heritage that was entrusted to him. The project will catalyze innovation in the modern art of bowmaking and music.

Benoît’s creative pursuit includes photography and jewelry that he merges with bowmaking.

Benoît Rolland lives and works in Boston.
BENOÎT ROLLAND

Born in Paris, France in 1954. He lives and works in Watertown, Massachusetts.

2014-15: Making his Bow #1500; making bows for Yo-Yo Ma, Leonidas Kavakos, etc. Lectures at MIT (innovation), at Boston MFA (Art legacy), at NEC (bows and music), and for the MacArthur Foundation (the Future of an Art heritage)

2012: MacArthur Fellowship, recognizing "talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits, and a marked capacity for self-direction."

2012-13: Creates Galliane®, a bow frog designed for the ergonomics of strings playing: this is the first functional change in the bow shape since 1750.

2009: A Rolland bow was auctioned by Sotheby's at historical bows market price: a first at auction houses for a living bow maker.

2004: "Bowmaking as Art", a special program presenting Rolland’s work at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston

2001: Permanently moving to Boston, USA

1999: Creates the curriculum for the first bow making school in the United States. Organizes the class and teaches until May 2001.

1996: First Prize Patrimonialis, Foundation for French Patrimony, Paris

1994: First International Prize Musicora, Paris for pioneering the carbon fiber Bow, Spiccate®

1988: Moving back to the main land, Brittany

1983: Master of the Art of Bow Making (Maitre archetier d'Art), Paris. First to be awarded the title by the French Government

1982: Moving to the Island of Bréhat, Brittany.


1979: Best Artisan of France, Gold medal (Meilleurs Ouvriers de France); was then the youngest ever awarded in the history of the competition.
1976: Rolland’s First Bow Making Studio in Paris, 34 rue de Laborde

1971-75: Mirecourt Bow Making School with Bernard Ouchard

1970-71: One year training to woodworking prior to entering Mirecourt, while playing the violin professionally

1970: Prize of the Conservatoire de Paris in music theory

1968: Prize of the Conservatoire de Versailles in violin

1965: Prix Léopold Bellan in violin

1963-69: Secondary education at Lycée Condorcet and private preparatory Cours Hattemer, Paris (entering Lycée Condorcet 2 years ahead of his class)


To date, Benoît Rolland has made 1,850 Pernambuco bows by his hands and about 1,500 carbon fiber bows were made in his workshop.
His bows are played by musicians of 53 countries across four continents.
He has trained 15 apprentices, several of whom already won recognition.
He publishes and lectures about bow making.
He helps philanthropic programs bringing music to disadvantaged neighborhoods, and talented musicians with limited means.
SOME OF THE MUSICIANS WHO PLAY THE 1850 BOWS SIGNED
BENOIT ROLLAND

Anne Akiko-Meyers  Lynn Harrell  Jean-Luc Ponty
Lisa Batashvili  Paul Huang  Gérard Poulet
Gérard Caussé  Susanna Yoko-Henkel  Julian Rachlin
Ye-Eun Choi  Aleksey Igudesman  Mstislav Rostropovich
Christian Ferras  Kim Kashkashian  Heinrich Schiff
Julia Fischer  Leonidas Kavakos  Arabella Steinbacher
Miriam Fried  Yo-Yo Ma  Josef Suk
Maurice Gendron  Leonid Kogan  Kazutaka Takahashi
Ivry Gitlis  Lord Yehudi Menuhin  Christian Tetzlaff
Stephane Grappelli  Anne-Sophie Mutter  Jean-Pierre Wallez
Arthur Grumiaux  Yumi Okada  InMo Yang
Narek Hakhnazaryan  Parker Quartet

ALSO PLAY BENOIT ROLLAND BOWS:

Jeriny Ahn  Anna Egger  Elita Kang
Gabriele Ardizzone  Jennifer Ellowitch  Ani Kalyajian
Vladimir Babeshko  Leonard Elschenbroich  Beckey Kalish
Yuko Beppu  Ken Freudigman  Roussanka Karatchivieva
Paer Bjorkum  Jan Fuller  Alexi Kenney
Zino Bogacheck  David Fulmer  Ahrim Kim
Emmanuelle Boisvert  Alexis Galperine  Benny Kim
Robyn Bollinger  Robert Gendre  David Kim
François Brochet  Nell Gotkowski  Ga-Yeon Kim
Emile Cantor  Walter Grimmer  Hye-Jin Kim
Harry Chang  Ulrich Groener  Rudolf Koelman
Philippe Chao  Se-Ho Ha  Min-Jeong Koh
Lucy Chapman  Gudbjartur Hakonarsen  Hu Kun
Lydia Chernicoff  Mason Hangen  Jacques Israelievitch
Hélène Clément  Robert Hauswald  Jaime Laredo
Miki Cloud  Lesley Hatfield  Tessa Lark
Amaury Coeysaux  Jakub Haufa  Hwayoon Lee
Thomas Connelly  Robert Hauswald  Ying-Hao Lee
Nick Cords  Yusuke Hayashi  Laurent Le Flecher
Manuela Costi  Peter Herresthal  Lawrence Lesser
Ricardo Cyncynates  Margherita Hoeglinger  Sharan Leventhal
Michael Dabroski  Hans-Peter Hofmann  Loewi Lin
Jürg Dähler  Maximilian Hornung  Shih-Kai Lin
Giacomo Della Volta  Ronald Hudson  Jano Lisboa
Lindsay Deutsch  Christof Huebner  Miranda Liu
Glenn Dikterow  Jay Ishin  Alfred Loewenguth
Tatiana Dimitriadis  Yoo-Jin Jang  Wolfram Lohschutz
Charles Dimmick  Marc Jeanneret  Malcolm Lowe
Enrico Dindo  Jaesung Jeon  Fulvio Luciani
Jacopo Di Torro  Mihail Jojatu  Rocco Malagoli
Michael Dolan  Earl Johns  Sam Magill
Tim Eddy  Jaehee-Ju  Alessandro Milani

Quelques uns des musiciens jouant les archets Rolland dans le monde
Quelques uns des musiciens jouant les archets Rolland dans le monde
Dear Valued Customer,

As you are probably aware, on the 1st of January 2003, many countries around the world, including the USA, have implemented the “Kimberly Process”. In order for our companies to continue our successful relationship, we feel it necessary and useful to send you this letter officially confirming that our company abides by all the principles set therein.

“The Kimberley Process is a mechanism whereby world governments and the diamond industry will eradicate the trade in diamonds that are used to fund war and atrocities. Rio Grande fully supports the Kimberley Process and abides by all its principles and directions. We do not and will not buy or sell conflict diamonds”

In addition the following statement will be added to all of our invoices:

“The Diamonds herein have been purchased from legitimate sources not involved in funding conflict and in compliance with United Nations resolutions. The seller hereby guarantees that these diamonds are conflict free, based on personal knowledge and/or written guarantees provided by the supplier of these diamonds.”

Sincerely,

Shannon DeMoulin G.G., A.J.P
Rio Grande
7500 Bluewater Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87121

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