

# CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.

*Established 1977*

Dealers, Makers & Restorers of Fine Violins, Violas, Cellos & Bows

April 23, 2024

## **INSURANCE APPRAISAL**

To Whom It May Concern:

I have examined the photos of the hardanger fiddle provided by Ben Stiegelmeier of 1613 Elm Avenue, Harvey, North Dakota 58341. This appraisal is based solely on many detailed pictures of which six are included in this appraisal.

## **HARDANGER FIDDLE DESCRIPTION**

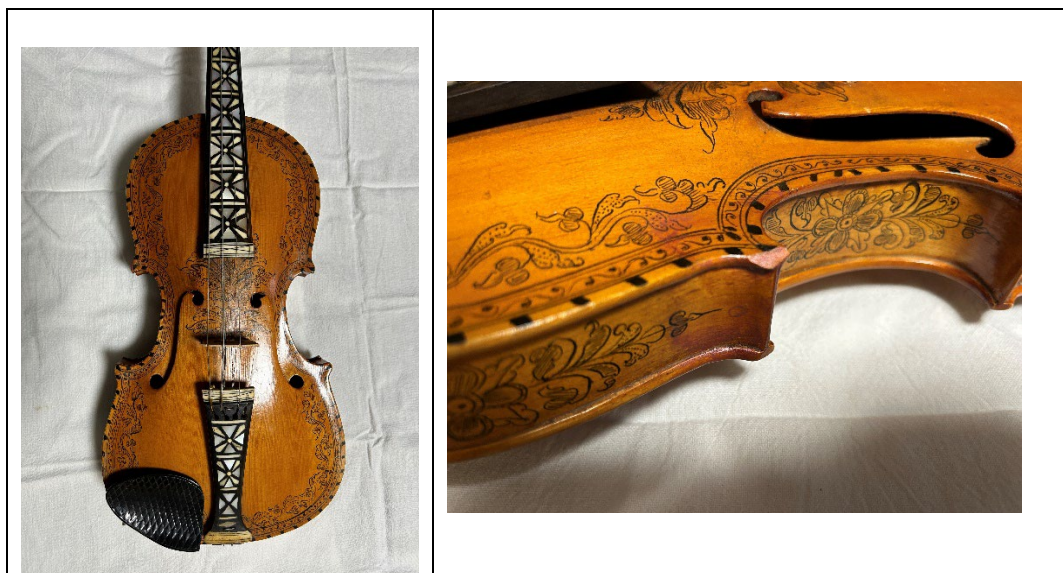


This hardanger bears the label:

*Gunnar Helland*  
*Violinmager*  
*BØ 1924*



Belly:	Spruce, Two Pieces, Fine Grain with traditional rosing that is typical of work from the Bo, Telemark region.
Fittings:	The fingerboard and tailpiece are original, inlaid with mother of pearl and bone.
Back:	Birch, Two Pieces, Medium Flames with traditional rosing that is typical of work from the Bo, Telemark region.
Ribs:	Match Back with traditional rosing that is typical of work from the Bo, Telemark region.
Scroll:	Birch, The peg box is of the traditional dragon or Lion of Norway design with the tongue and teeth still intact and a gold crown.
Varnish:	Medium Golden-Brown
Condition:	Based on the pictures, the condition of this instrument is good, just needing a current set-up (pegs, bridge, soundpost and strings) and a lower treble corner replacement. A previous repair at the end button area is also noticeable.



### **The maker: Gunnar Olavsson Haugen**

Gunnar Olavsson Haugen was a brother-in-law of Knut Eriksson Helland who was married to his sister, Liv Olavsdatter Haugen (1849-1883). In 1871, Gunnar Haugen married the twin sister of Knut Helland, Gunnhild Eriksdatter Helland (1851–1907).

Following his marriage to Gunnhild, Gunnar Olavsson Haugen re-located to Helland and shortly after began learning the art of making violins from his brother-in-law. He became a successful violin maker, winning prizes and medals both in Norway and abroad. When Knut Helland died in 1880, Gunnar took over both the family farm and the fiddle workshop, at which time he adopted the surname Helland. He had the farm for 26 years and then bought a larger farm below Bø Church (*Bø kyrkjebygd*), now the site of the trade and research center *Hellandtunet Forsknings og Næringscenter*.

(Wikipedia)

The sound and playability of a hardanger fiddle is a significant aspect of determining value. It was not possible to assess this given that only pictures were used for this appraisal. In my opinion, a hardanger of this quality, condition and originality would have a retail replacement value of \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Sincerely,



Claire Givens

President

Accredited Member of the Appraisers Association of America

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Permit #: LE01723B-0

CGV/sl