NBSS trains students for careers in traditional trades that use hand skills in concert with evolving technology. Our mission is to preserve and advance craft traditions while promoting a greater appreciation of craftsmanship.

For more than a century, our exceptional programs, master faculty, and inspiring community have helped students to achieve meaningful lives and careers. The School’s 64,000-square-foot facility is located in Boston’s historic North End, the community in which it was originally founded in 1881.

We offer nine full-time, accredited programs to those seeking a career in traditional trades. A variety of short-term Continuing Education courses are also available.

The three-year, comprehensive Violin Making & Repair program is one of the few full-time instrument making programs in the U.S. The curriculum provides a solid foundation to the art and science of stringed instrument making, and an introduction to restoration.

Violin Making & Repair is learned through hands-on work. The program follows the highest standards of the craft and teaches repair, restoration, and set-up of stringed instruments. Over the course of this three-year program, you’ll build six violins and a viola. Students, alumni, and faculty regularly receive international recognition for the craftsmanship and tonality of their instruments.

FACULTY

Roman Barnas is an instructor and the Department Head. He began making his first violins at age 14, and later went on to study music and violin making at the Paderewski Academy of Music in Poland. Since then, Roman went on to work as a violin maker and restorer, working at the highest levels of quality and expertise. In 2010 Roman earned a Certificate of Merit for Time for His violin at the Violin Society of America competition.

In addition, we often have established artisans visit the School to lead workshops and special classes. Some of our guest lecturers have included:

— Andrew Ryan
— Philippe Raynaud
— Paul Weingreber
— David Hawthorne
— Marco Coppiardi
— Kevin Kelly VM ’92
— Chris Reuning
— Ben Ruth

CAREERS

Graduates of our Violin Making & Repair program are often employed by the most prestigious violin shops as makers and restorers. Other graduates choose to become self-employed luthiers. Others go on to be shop owners of full service string instrument shops. They repair, restore, and build violins and cellos.

Learn more about NBSS and our Violin Making & Repair program, including student life, career options, tuition costs, admissions requirements, and more at nbss.edu/violin.
Ready to get started? nbss.edu/apply

STUDENT LIFE & CAREER SERVICES

We provide a supportive and stimulating learning environment for those seeking a career in fine craftsmanship. Outside of the classroom, students attend social events, career workshops, a business preparation course, and public lectures that enhance their hands-on instruction. Our alumni are also well-connected to the School, offering students both mentorship and employment opportunities.

ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID

Our students are hard-working, patient, and determined to excel in a rigorous environment. They value fine craftsmanship and the satisfaction of learning a traditional trade. We welcome applications throughout the year with the class start for Violin Making & Repair occurring each February and September.

Financial aid, scholarships, and veterans benefits are available to qualified students. To learn more and apply, visit nbss.edu/financialaid.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO SCHEDULE A VISIT?

Contact Rob O’Dwyer, Director of Admissions, at 617.227.0155 x111 or admissions@nbss.edu.

ACCREDITATION AND LICENSING

North Bennet Street School is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges. Visit accsc.org or contact them at 703.247.4212 or ACCSC, 2101 Wilson Boulevard #302, Arlington, VA 22201. The School is licensed by the Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure’s Office of Private Occupational School Education. Contact them at occupational.schools@state.ma.us or 617.727.5811.