

STRINGS

FOR PLAYERS OF
VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO,
BASS & FIDDLE

A Colorful, Consistent Guadagnini

The power and beauty of David Park's violin inspires confidence

By [David Park](#) posted June 2013



Player David Park is the assistant concertmaster of the Utah Symphony. The Juilliard-trained musician also is an adjunct professor of violin at the University of Utah and an enthusiast of wines from the Bordeaux region of France. His recent debut solo CD is titled *Violin Meditations*.

Instrument 1850 Antonio Guadagnini, strung with Thomastik Dominant A, D, and G, with Jargar E. I've tried few brands [of strings], but this seems to have a nice cohesion.

Condition The violin has a deep burgundy varnish with striking flames in the back.

Bows James Tubbs and Émile Ouchard

How does the Guadagnini compare to your previous primary violin?

My previous violin was also a 19th-century Italian, but this fiddle has more power and different layers of sound.

What gift does this instrument bring to your playing that cannot be found in any other instrument?

It has nice power with a certain finesse.

How does this violin inspire you as a performer?

As I grow as a musician, the instrument seems to bring out more characteristics that I didn't know existed. Also, different colors that it can produce give me more options in my interpretation of the music.

What is its history?

I wish I could tell you an intriguing story like in *The Red Violin*, but I'm afraid there is no fascinating history that I'm aware of.

Have you thought about the people who have handled it before you?

It must have been someone who had respect for the violin, since it's in very nice condition.

Do they resonate in your violin? In your performance?

I think so, since the health of the instrument is very vital in terms of the tone production.

How did you come into possession of this instrument?

Word of mouth.

Do you own it? Is it on loan? Can you share the value?

I have been fortunate to perform on Strads and a Guarneri del Gesù, including the 1718 "Firebird" Strad, which was once owned by French writer and aviator, Antoine de St. Exupéry, who wrote *The Little Prince*. But the Guadagnini is what I play regularly, and the value, as you can imagine, is rising ever so highly.

What drew you to this violin?

Versatility, power, and finesse for solo and ensemble playing.

What is your instrument's personality?

The more the instrument can produce what the player asks for, the better. And this is not always possible. In my case, over time, my violin has given me more possibilities of sound

colors to work with. Consistency is very important in one's playing and this affects the personality of the instrument.

What are your violin's strengths and limitations?

Strengths are that it is in the process of development, and limitations are it still has ways to go.

What are your violin's likes and dislikes?

A violin is like a close person who responds to the player. So when I feel confident, the violin responds accordingly, and vice versa.

Have you given your violin a name?

No, but if I had to give it one, I would call it Ruby, a dog I felt attached to growing up.

When and how did you truly learn about who your instrument is, the soul of the instrument?

In 2011, I used the Firebird at a concert at the Château Branaire-Ducru in Bordeaux, France, and I was so inspired by the moment that I felt completely connected with the music and the violin.

Have you ever done anything that might have robbed your violin of its "mojo" such as a repair or changing the strings, etc.? What was the result?

As a violin player, I think it's important to know the make-up of the violin. This will affect the sound of the instrument. A few times when I experimented with different brands of strings, I could tell the violin didn't quite agree. So it's important to try different strings to see what fits best with one's particular instrument. You can also look into changing your bridge; if it's high quality, it can make a noticeable difference, like it did in my case.

If given the ability, what would your violin say to you if the two of you sat down for tea?

How come you realized so late what my temperaments are? And, my answer would be, Better now than never.