

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

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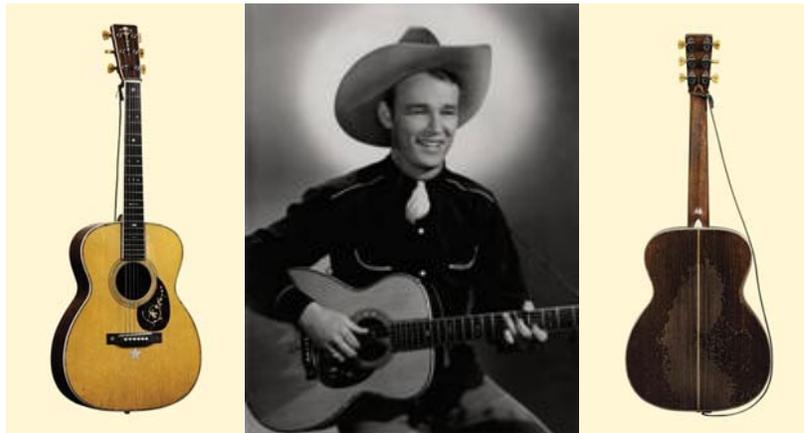
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**ROY ROGERS' GUITAR LEADS  
FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS SALE AT CHRISTIE'S**



**Fine Musical Instruments**

**April 3, 2009**

**New York** – Christie's spring *Fine Musical Instruments* sale on April 3 will present an exciting and extensive range of fretted and stringed instruments, including the rare and highly-coveted Roy Rogers' OM-45 Deluxe guitar, made by C.F. Martin and Co. Of the 113 lots, the sale will offer 42 guitars ranging from classical to electric, 18<sup>th</sup> century Baroque era through the modern 20<sup>th</sup> century. The sale also offers a classical selection of violins, cellos and bows, leading with a 1765 violoncello by Gennaro Gagliano.

**Property from The Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Museum**

Christie's is honored to offer four guitars from The Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Museum. Leading the sale and never before offered at auction is a rediscovered OM-45 Deluxe made by C.F. Martin and Co. (*image above*- estimate: \$150,000-250,000). Until now, it was traditionally believed that only 14

OM-45 Deluxe's were manufactured in 1930. Further research has since brought to light that the C.F. Martin and Company in fact manufactured 15 of these instruments including Rogers' guitar. Bearing the serial number 42125, this guitar was the first example in the series to be produced and was shipped by Frank Henry Martin on May 29, 1930 to the San Francisco firm of Sherman Clay. It was in the possession of Rogers by 1933.

Nicknamed "The King of the Cowboys", Roy Rogers, born Leonard Franklin Slye, is an enduring icon of American culture. A two-time inductee into Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame, Roy Rogers along with the Sons of the Pioneers had a syndicated radio show, and recorded 32 songs for Decca Records before going on to appear in over 100 films and star in *The Roy Rogers Show* on television. This prized guitar, which accompanied Roy Rogers throughout his career, remains in its original condition including his green sash cord used as a guitar strap.

### Guitars

For performance, and construction, the Spaniards reign supreme in the world of classical guitars. A guitar made by Antonio de Torres (estimate: \$70,000-90,000) is a fine example of his ingenuity in transforming the guitar from an accompaniment to a solo instrument. This 1864 guitar possesses a classical beauty traditionally associated with Torres' guitars. Another classical guitar offered is a 1939 guitar made by Herman Hauser Sr. (estimate: \$70,000-90,000). Its full and balanced sound provides effortless playability and a powerful resonance. German born, Hauser is considered by many to be the finest non-Spanish luthier to create guitars in the Spanish tradition.

Other highlights include a rare and iconic Gibson Flying V guitar from 1959 (estimate: \$150,000-250,000), one of only 98 Flying V's produced from 1958 to 1959; a 1960 Les Paul guitar (estimate: \$150,000-250,000); an early 1952 Fender solid-body electric guitar, Telecaster (estimate: \$20,000-30,000); and other fine works by C.F. Martin, Gibson, and Fender.

### Stringed Instruments of the Violin Family



This season, Christie's will offer a diverse group from the violin family including violins, violas, cellos as well as bows and a selection of fine plucked instruments. One of the many highlights is an extremely significant violoncello, by Gennaro Gagliano, Naples, circa 1765 (*image left*- estimate: \$200,000-300,000). This extraordinary violoncello was made by Gennaro, the second son of the famous Neapolitan family of violin makers lead by father Alessandro Gagliano. This violoncello's finish represents a departure from the family's traditional orange-yellow varnish; rather, the deep, red-orange pigment makes this particular example stand in a class of its own.

Additional highlights include a violin by Nicolas Gagliano, Naples, circa 1740 (estimate: \$70,000-90,000); a violin by Giovanni Battista Ceruti, Cremona, circa 1800 (estimate: \$60,000-80,000); a violin by Gaetano Gadda, Mantua, circa 1928 (estimate: \$26,000-35,000); and a violin by Joseph Panormo, London, 1819 (estimate: \$12,000-18,000).

The sale also features an impressive selection of bows including examples by three renowned Parisian makers spanning from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Among the most noteworthy is silver-mounted violin bow by Nicolas Maline, circa 1835 (estimate: \$10,000-15,000); a violin bow by Hippolyte Camille Lamy, circa 1920 (estimate: \$6,000-8,000); and a violin bow by Eugène Nicolas Sartory, circa 1920 (estimate: \$6,000-8,000).

**Auction:** Fine Musical Instruments  
**Viewing:** Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

April 3 at 10am  
March 28- April 2

#### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totaled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 70 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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*Images available on request*

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