

For Immediate Release

February 15, 2008

Contact: Sung-Hee Park

212.636.2680

spark@christies.com

**'THE PENNY' STRADIVARI VIOLIN LEADS CHRISTIE'S MUSICAL
INSTRUMENT AUCTION**

Fine Musical Instruments

April 4, 2008



New York — Christie's New York is pleased to announce an auction of *Fine Musical Instruments* on April 4. The sale will be lead by a Stradivari violin known as *The Penny* (estimate: \$1,000,000- 1,500,000) made in Cremona, Italy, by Antonio Stradivari, circa 1700. Christening it *The Penny*, Christie's pays respect and tribute to the impressive career of Barbara Penny. Christie's holds the world record price for any musical instrument sold at auction with the sale of *The Hammer*, Stradivari which realized \$3,544,000 in May of 2006. Also on offer will be approximately 200 lots of violins, violas, bows, and fine classical and American guitars. The sale is expected to realize in excess of \$3 million.

Barbara Penny (1929-2007)

As both a talented pianist and violinist, Barbara Penny was drawn towards the violin, which would lead to a career as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Britain and Europe. As a graduate of Malvern Girl's College and the Royal College of Music, Miss Penny studied and performed alongside a number of talented musicians and led the Bolshoi Ballet in London and the Festival Ballet Orchestras, and was for many years a member of the acclaimed London Mozart Players. Most impressively she was the first woman accepted in the strings section of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Miss Penny's established career helped pave the way for future female concert performers.

Provenance

The first recorded owner of *The Penny* was purchased by Alfred Hill's father from the English Capel-Cure family. In 1918, Hart & Son sold the violin to the well known connoisseur, Robert A. Bower. That same year, John and Arthur Beare purchased the violin and then sold it to a Miss Jessie Snow. A British violinist and student of W. H. Reed, Miss Snow performed on the violin for ten years before selling it to another British violinist, Frederick Holding in 1927. Holding was best known as the 2nd, then later 1st violinist of the old Philharmonic String Quartet and a pupil of Carl Flesch. The violin remained with Holding until its sale in 1965 to a Miss Barbara Penny.

Auction: *Fine Musical Instruments*

April 4 at 10 AM and 2 PM

Viewing: Christie's New York

March 30- April 3

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. 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 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most 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

###

Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

