

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

**For Immediate Release**

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**FROM TORRES TO FENDER:  
CHRISTIE'S SHOWCASES THE HISTORY OF GUITAR MAKING**

**Christie's Features The Most Valuable Selection Of Guitars At Auction Since  
The Landmark Sale Of Eric Clapton's Guitars For The Crossroads Centre**



**Fine Musical Instruments  
12 October 2007**

**New York** – Christie's bi-annual *Fine Musical Instruments Sale* on October 12 will offer an exciting and extensive range of fretted and stringed instruments, including the largest number of guitars ever offered in a various owner sale to date. Of the 252 lots, the sale will offer 44 fretted instruments, including an exquisite classical guitar by Antonio de Torres and a 1951 Fender "Nocaster" solid-body electric guitar, which will certainly be one of the most desirable guitars in the sale. Among stringed instruments, a superb Giuseppe Guarneri 'del Gesù' violin, circa 1720, is a rare gem from a master second only to Antonio Stradivari. From acoustic to electric guitars, mandolins to violins, this sale confirms Christie's position as the world's leading auctioneer of fine musical instruments.

## Guitars

For performance, and construction, the Spaniards reign supreme in the world of classical guitars. From Manuel Ramirez to Ignacio Fleta, the supremacy of the Spanish makers would have been unachievable if not for the influence of Antonio de Torres. Through his ingenuity, Torres (1817-1892) transformed the modern classical guitar from an accompaniment to a solo instrument. Torres recognized the importance of the symbiotic relationship between musician and maker, and put his instruments in the hands of leading Spanish guitar virtuosos.

This 1864 guitar (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) possesses the classical beauty traditionally associated with Torres's guitars. More jewel-like than any other Torres guitar, this magnificent example, was created for the maker's personal use, as it remained until 1869 when it was sold to Francesco Tárrega. As a guitarist and composer with unparalleled talent, Tárrega (1852-1909) helped transform the guitar to a concert instrument. The tradition of guitar virtuoso united with this guitar continued on with its next owner, Maria Luisa Anido (1907-1996). Purchased in 1917 for the illustrious Argentine guitarist, the instrument remained in Buenos Aires for nearly seventy years. During the mid 1980s the guitar returned to Spain when it was purchased by the Collection of Prat Pallares. The current owner, an American Collector and connoisseur, came into possession of the guitar in 2003.

Another exciting instrument offered is a "Nocaster" solid-body electric guitar by Fender. The sale's opening lot should be one of the most sought after pieces among the pantheon of solid-body electric guitars to be offered in recent years (estimate: \$30,000-50,000).

Lower price points for new collectors can also be found, among them a 1969 Fender Mustang, solid-body electric guitar bearing a red racing stripe (estimate: \$1,000-1,500). Fine works are also present by C.F. Martin, Gibson, D'Angelico, and Hausser.



## Violins

Grandson to the famed Cremonese master, Andrea Guarneri, Giuseppe Guarneri 'de Gesù' stands alone in rivaling the other 18<sup>th</sup> century master Antonio Stradivari. The most celebrated member of the Guarneri family, Giuseppe's violins have been used by some of the most illustrious violinists including virtuoso Niccolò Paganini, whose favorite instrument, known as 'Il Cannone' was a Guarneri 'del Gesù' violin of 1743. The violin offered for auction was made in 1720 and has been the primary instrument for both solo and chamber music for a professional musician (estimate: \$550,000-750,000).

**Auction:** *Fine Musical Instruments*

October 12 at 10am

**Viewing:** Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

October 6 - 11

### **About Christie's**

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / \$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by \$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and 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 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 markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

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*Images available on request*

*Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

More information about Christie's sale of *Fine Musical Instruments* can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.