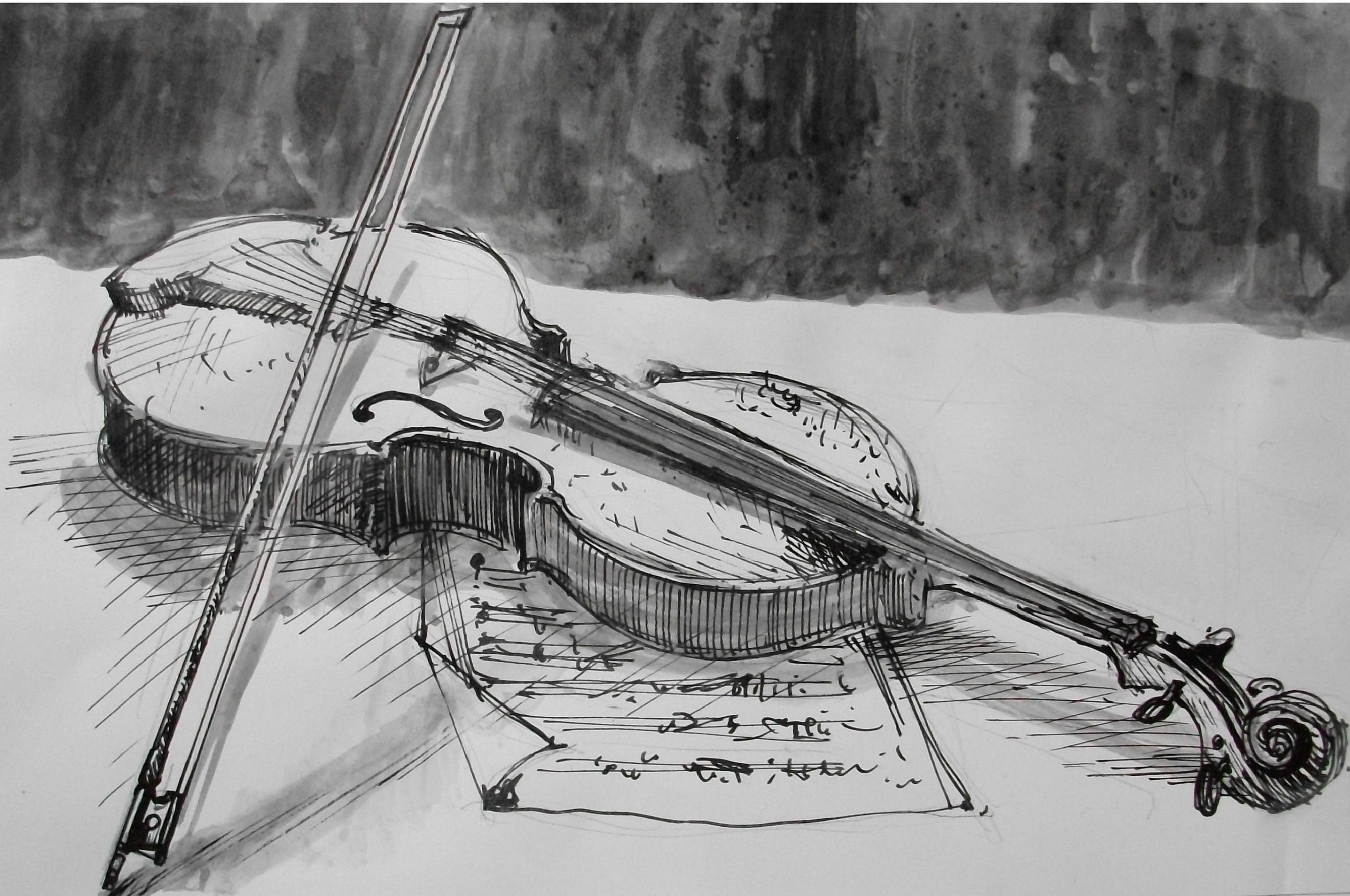


365 Stories

07. The violin!



07. The violin!

One day in 1831, a grimy old black violin was put up for sale at a private auction in London.

It was said to have come from Cremona, Italy... and was believed to be 120 years old. It had been made by the famous Stradivarius.

The auctioneer started the bidding at £10 and painfully made it up to £200. But then the bidding stopped!



"Gentlemen! Please! £200 for such an instrument that is worth its weight in gold, and dates back to the 1700s! A true, genuine Stradivarius!"

The auctioneer's efforts seemed to be in vain, when all of a sudden a figure dressed in a velvet coat, entered the room.

Drawn like a magnet, he approached the table.

He removed the violin from its case, examined it with a connoisseur's eye, then lifted the bow.

Silence fell. Whispers were heard all around the room as many recognized the man. "Paganini! Paganini!"



The first notes he played sent shudders through the audience. Heads bowed as in a church.

Many were moved to tears. As the tempo changed, it was as if they were dancing. Others laughed uproariously. The artist kept changing air. A battle song rang out, and everyone stood up for combat. When he finally finished, Paganini placed the violin back in its case, and half a dozen voices cried out, "£250! 260! 270! 280! 290! 295!" At last, to thundering applause from the crowd, the famous musician got it for £500!

Clearly, Paganini had added huge value to the instrument. The same is true for each of us, when we allow the Master, our creator, Jesus Christ to take hold of our lives...



That evening, Paganini appeared before a huge crowd, playing that old violin as only he could, while everyone shared in the enthusiasm and triumph that could be felt.



Perhaps, today, like the poor old violin, you have been despised or rejected by others and even by yourself!

But take heart! If you commit your life to Jesus Christ, the Divine Artist, you will see how He can take hold of an old instrument, and draw out of it a heavenly melody to the glory of God!