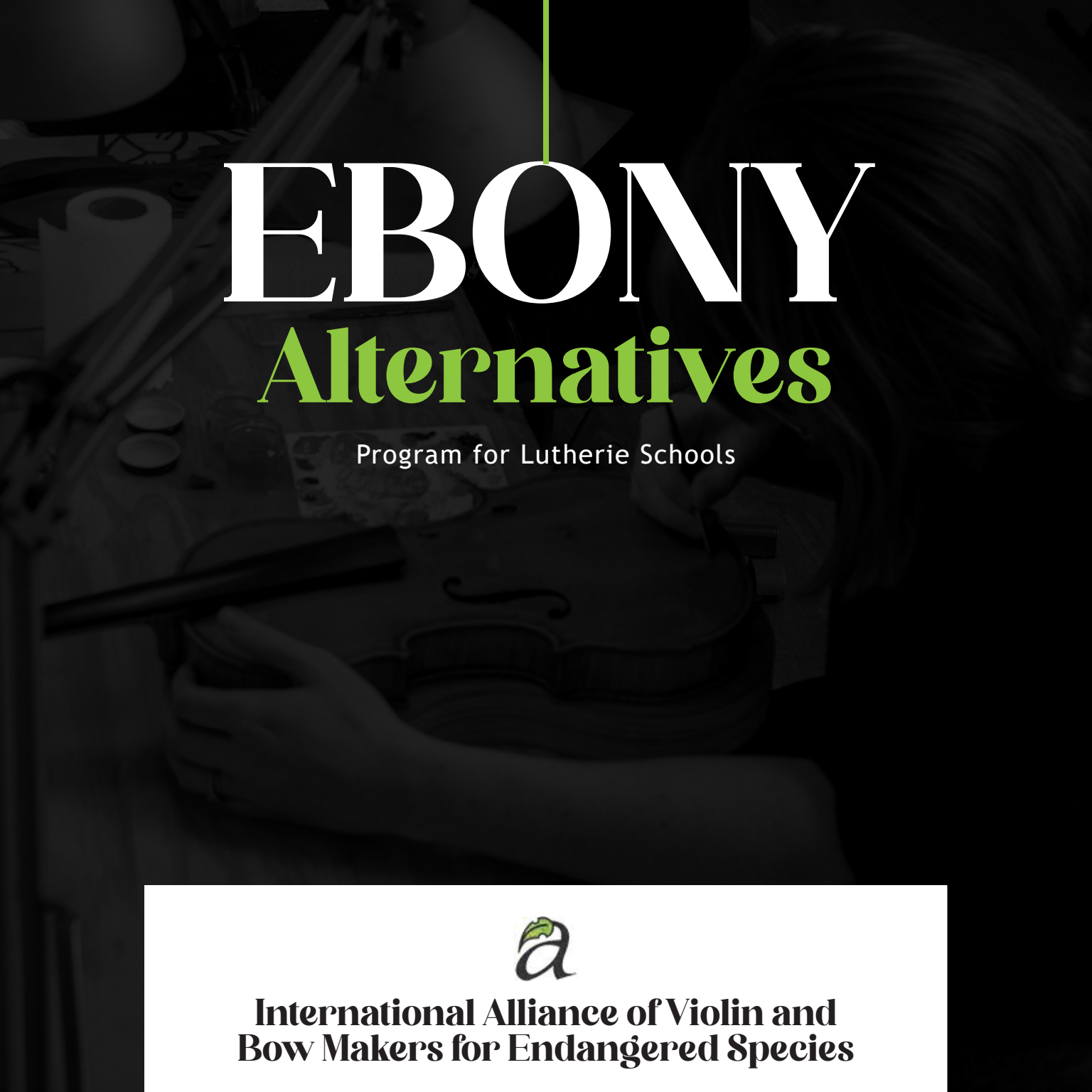




EBONY

Alternatives

Program for Lutherie Schools



**International Alliance of Violin and
Bow Makers for Endangered Species**



GOAL

International Alliance Program

To Assist lutherie schools internationally in the introduction of ebony alternative fingerboards in their curriculum.





The IMPETUS Includes

- 1) The decreasing quality of existing and future commercial ebony makes the use and ongoing maintenance of ebony fingerboards less desirable.
- 2) Illegal logging and an inability to identify species in commercial stock makes luthiers vulnerable to new regulatory penalties like the Lacey Act.
- 3) Climate change regulations like the EUDR will require sustainable source documentation which would be extremely limited or potentially non-existent for ebony species used in instrument making.



The PROGRAM

- Two Ebony PowerPoint Presentations developed by the Alliance-International Curriculum Committee for lutherie schools. The first PowerPoint discusses the different species included in what we use as “ebony”, the environmental issues, CITES and other regulations. The second PowerPoint focuses on the function of fingerboards - the forces that cause a neck to warp, comparisons of physical characteristics of ebony species and ebony alternatives, and tooling used to work with ebony alternatives. Both PowerPoints give an overview of the topics covered.
- An Introductory package of ebony alternative materials including (2) Sonowood fingerboards, (2) Ebenprex fingerboards, (2) GaiaTone fingerboards, two or three carbide blade holders and inserts for standard block planes used by the school. The package can be adjusted to accommodate larger or smaller programs.
- A day long workshop including a presentation of materials combined with an opportunity for students to practice working with the alternative materials. The workshop would be coordinated with the lutherie school.
- Coordination with the school on how to encourage and provide easy access for students to the ebony alternative materials.



FINANCIALS

Alliance-International will fund 3 schools each year for the initial implementation of the project including introductory materials, the workshop and the establishment of an accessible supply of ebony alternatives for students. The ebony PowerPoints are accessible free of charge from the Ecole nationale de lutherie Quebec in different languages through the Alliance-International website links:

<https://www.alliance-international.org/our-work/education/>

OR SCAN



EXPECTATIONS

The expectation is that the schools will incorporate ebony alternatives for fingerboards, pegs and other accessories into their curriculum. We hope that students will be encouraged to continue using ebony alternatives. In the interests of improving alternatives, we encourage the schools and students to share their feedback with the Alliance-International and/or the manufacturers of the products. The Alliance-International encourages suggestions for other alternative materials schools would like to see included in the program.



International School Of Violin Making, Cremona - Italy



Chicago School Of Violin Making, USA



Endangered woods: eco-sustainable violin making

Presented some alternative materials to ebony, an essence increasingly less available

Nicholas Arrigoni
narrigoni@laprovinciacr.it



JANUARY 25, 2025 - 05:25



CREMONA - The ebony used to make the fingerboard, the rosewood used to make pegs and tailpieces, and the pernambuco raw material for bows are increasingly rare, protected and increasingly difficult to find woods. Protecting the environment and not giving up the quality of stringed instruments: Cremonese violin making adapts to the times and seeks alternatives . This is the meaning of the initiative that saw the International School of Violin Making collaborate with The International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species , which offered students and master violin makers the opportunity to learn about and try out new materials that science and research have invented to make up for the lack of precious woods and to protect species that risk extinction .

READ FULL ARTICLE:

<https://www.laprovinciacr.it/news/cronaca/488061/legni-in-via-destinazione-liuteria-ecosostenibile.html>





CONTACT

For further information, please contact

Lynn Hannings,

vicepresident@allaince-international.org

or any member of the Curriculum Committee including

kathy@vermontviolins.com.

