



## Museo del Violino

Ten years is certainly a long period of time but it seems to have passed in a flash. I well remember my first meeting with Mark Lakirovich who explained to me his previous experience in Regensburg and his idea of developing in Cremona a summertime music academy, to bring young musicians and teaching staff to the city of violins, to the home of Stradivari, to this city iconic for music.

It was the spring of 2010 and Mark's idea fascinated me immediately in spite of some concerns on the logistics of its implementation in Cremona, not least because the city was not then prepared for this kind of residential activity. However, the opportunity was too good to let go.

Thanks are due firstly to the Chamber of Commerce, whose operative right-hand, the indomitable Ilaria Casadei, right from the start believed in the project as I did; to the Monteverdi Conservatorium, which, with no little effort, put at our disposal their space and decided to join us in this risky venture. Crucially, the Commune of Cremona never stinted its essential collaboration.

The success of the Cremona Academy was evident right from its very first edition and the conditions for an organizational surge in successive editions were quickly established. This resulted in an increase not only in participant numbers but also and above all in an improvement in technical and artistic quality.

Furthermore, the Cremona Academy has also been the stimulus and the foundation stone for other constantly growing initiatives, coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce in the Cremona Summer Festival, which sees thousands of musicians performing in Cremona every year to inspire and animate our city during many months of the year.

Our well known Cremona Violin Museum could not fail to be a part of this "music feast" and gladly contributes to the Cremona Academy by hosting in its splendid Auditorium Arvedi the most important concerts of this rich and vivid enterprise.

Therefore many thanks to all who have collaborated to the success of this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and particularly to Mark Lakirovich and his staff for having believed in Cremona's potential and having created a genuine level of international recognition which both honours our city and enhances its value.

A final wish is that this road might be followed for many years to come: to this end the entire community of Cremona, I believe, wants to commit itself to continuous improvement in its organizational capacities and accommodating facilities.

Happy birthday, Cremona Academy!

Paolo Bodini  
CEO Museo del Violino  
President "Friends of Stradivari"