



NEWSDAY PHOTOS / I CONRAD WILLIAMS JR.



Maday makes some of his 50 tools, his own varnish from tree resin, and colors from plant pigments. He learned some of his skills from his father, a master woodworker.

Maday, 56, has been at his craft since he made his first violin, guided by library books, at age 15.

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After adjusting a violin for Abigail Fayette, Maday listens to her play. She studies at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music, which trains gifted young musicians for careers as performers.