



## **Conservation and restoration of historical musical instruments**

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Objects such as musical instruments that are part of a collection, and particularly those that are part of public collection, acquire a particular status: they disseminate material and immaterial cultural values. These musical instruments are simultaneously technical objects and works of art. They are also the vector of an artistic functionality. Musical instruments are not only at the heart of musical history but also at the crossroads of art history. The Musée de la musique is in charge of the conservation of part of the national collection of musical instruments. Traditionally, instruments under our charge may undergo interventions with three different scopes: to conserve the instrument, to prepare the instrument for presentation, to return the instrument to playable conditions. Whatever the goal, research in natural science, engineering, chemistry, physics and biology (for example) all contribute to the conservation and restoration of musical instruments. The link to acoustics is obvious when returning an instrument to playable conditions. In this context we present our current scientific approach. A few case studies illustrate the use of musical acoustics to conceive and choose interventions made on instruments of the collection or their facsimile. By showing the link with problems usually treated by musical acoustics, we wish to continue the fruitful partnership between our two communities for the service of knowledge and conservation of our common heritage: musical instruments.