

# PITCH PERFECT

FROM CENTURIES-OLD RESTORATIONS TO BRAND-NEW INSTRUMENTS OF THE FINEST QUALITY, MUNI STRINGS IS REDEFINING THE ART OF MUSIC.



Tucked into a nook in Hannibal Square, Daniel and Allison Muni of Muni Strings are hard at work creating some of the most beautiful sounds you've ever heard. In 2010, the duo opened their professional stringed instrument shop in Winter Park, where they not only craft and sell their exquisite handmade instruments, but also offer quality rentals, instrument and bow repairs, and museum-quality restorations. We recently caught up with Daniel, a trained luthier, to learn more about what goes on behind the strings.

## Q First off, what's a luthier?

A Luthier is the official term for a violin maker and restorer. It comes from *luth* (lute), which is Old French for a stringed musical instrument. A luthier has extensive experience and training in the art of building and restoring stringed instruments. My passion is for the historical preservation of violins, violas, and cellos, which means I use traditional methods to restore instruments in historically accurate ways to preserve as much of the original materials as possible.

## Q How did you develop your passion for the violin?

A I started playing violin when I was 9 and started working on instruments as an apprentice at the age of 11. At 14, I knew it was my calling. Before starting college at the University of Florida, I received formal luthier training in New England and ran my own instrument repair business while in college. At UF, I also met my wife, Allison, a classical pianist and English major. After graduation, we ran a violin shop together before deciding to open our own store in Winter Park.

## Q What makes Muni Strings stand out?

A We are dedicated to the local community by not selling online. Playing an instrument is an expression of your soul, and we believe that instruments need to be tried before an emotional connection can be made. Each instrument has its own personality, just like the person who plays it, so we custom-fit our instruments for every player. We offer a wide variety of tonal colors at every price range so that each player can find their unique sound.

## Q What are the benefits of selecting an instrument from your shop?

A We don't sell factory instruments and reject the idea of expanding to meet demand because it would diminish our quality. All of our instruments are handmade in small quantities by trained luthiers. They sound and perform better because our craftspeople, who are also musicians, can perceive the minutest issues that affect the instruments' playability and tonal quality. [MuniStrings.com](http://MuniStrings.com)



**FUN FACT**  
Muni Strings has several hundred-year-old instruments, with some dating back to 1750. This violin was made by renowned luthier Eliseo Secchi in Paris circa 1882 around the same time Winter Park was founded.

