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RUSSELL CROWE

The Art of Divorce

PREVIEW HIGHLIGHTS OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS & AWARDS



A violin by Leandro Bisiach Snr (Milan, 1864-1946), used by Russell Crowe as the character 'Captain Jack Aubrey' in the film, *Master and Commander* (2003), Milan, dated 1890. Estimate \$110,000-140,000

On 7 April 2018, Sotheby's Australia will auction the private collection of actor, film producer, director and musician, Russell Crowe. The sale features a selection of significant musical instruments and awards, including a concert level violin by Leandro Bisiach Snr, a 1986 Grammy award, a selection of electric and acoustic guitars of which a highlight is a rare 1870 Martin 2-42 Parlour guitar. Consisting of 227 items, the sale is estimated at \$2.6 million to \$3.7 million and will be held at Carriageworks, Sydney.

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Russell Crowe commented: 'My life has always been interwoven with music. Beat, rhythm, tone, pitch, they all contribute to elevating or grounding the soul. Captain Jack Aubrey's violin has a special place in my heart. It is a serious concert violin and it should be played rather than just sit accusingly across from me in my office gathering dust.'

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Russell Crowe has a deep love of songwriting and playing music that began in his teens and has continued through the bands *30 Odd Foot of Grunts* and *The Ordinary Fear of God*. More recently he has performed and recorded with *Indoor Garden Party*, an assembly of songwriters, musicians and singers. Russell Crowe's collection of instruments includes many items of historical significance, from the rare 1870 guitar which can still be played, through to the Grammy Award that acknowledges the importance of the interviews of the artists whose musical careers started at Sun Studios.'



The 1986 Grammy Award Presented to Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, Sam Phillips, Rick Nelson and Chips Moman, For Best Spoken Word or Non Musical Recording for *Interviews from the Class of '55 Recording Session*. Estimate \$200,000-300,000

1986 GRAMMY AWARD

Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, Sam Phillips, Rick Nelson and Chips Morman were presented the 1986 Grammy Award for the Best Spoken Word or Non Musical Recording for *Interviews from the Class of '55 Recording Session* (estimate \$200,000-300,000, lot 90, pictured). Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Roy Orbison all commenced their careers at Sun Studios in Memphis in the 1950s, along with Elvis Presley and many other rock and roll and country greats. Together with producer Chips Moman they created a momentous collaborative album called *Class of '55: Memphis Rock & Roll Homecoming* which reached number 15 on the country music charts. The artists spent two days in the original Sun Studio where their careers had begun thirty years ago and then two more in the American Studio. During these historic recording sessions, interviews with the stars and other alumni of Sun Records in the 1950s, such as Rick Nelson, were recorded and made into an album.

A VIOLIN BY LEANDRO BISIACH SNR (MILAN, 1864-1946)

Leandro Bisiach Snr was one of the leading Italian violin makers of the late 19th century and early 20th century. The two main centres of violin making in Italy at the time were Turin and Milan, with Bisiach's the leading Milanese workshop. The concert level violin used by Russell Crowe as the character 'Captain Jack Aubrey' in the film *Master and Commander* (2003) was crafted by Leandro Bisiach Snr and dated 1890 (estimate \$110,000-140,000, lot 31, pictured first page). This violin was inspired by the violins of Andrea Guarneri who worked in Cremona from circa 1650-1698. 'At the beginning of the Master and Commander shoot in Rosarito, Mexico, the props department handed me this dark and heavy German violin to use in the movie. It was my thought that Captain Jack

Aubrey, as gruff as he may be, would play a finer instrument. Peter Weir (the director), agreed with me, but the film's budget couldn't take the extra cost, so I took the decision to purchase a more suitable instrument myself. With the assistance of Richard Tognetti (Australian Chamber Orchestra) and my violin teacher Robert Greene, they found me this beautiful Leandro Bisiach which was the shape and style that Aubrey would have played,' said Russell Crowe.

- Listen to the violin played by Bridget O'Donnell, Australian Youth Orchestra and former Sydney Symphony Orchestra Fellow <https://vimeo.com/259237248>

A RARE MARTIN 2-42 PARLOUR 'NATURAL' ACOUSTIC GUITAR, CIRCA 1870

Since their introduction in 1870, Martin's 'Style-42' instruments have existed as the pinnacle of flattop guitar artistry. This rare, Martin 2-42 Parlour 'Natural' acoustic guitar, circa 1870 and crafted in New York is beautifully ornamented (estimate \$50,000-100,000, lot 84, pictured). While small by today's standards (size 2) this guitar was the third largest of the manufacturer's line when it was crafted. Often referred to as a 'parlour' guitar, this is in reference to the small reception rooms or 'parlours' in which, historically, compact instruments were played. 'To have on offer an example of such a preciously crafted antique instrument, so rich with heritage, so stunningly ornamented, which retains such a high level of playability, is truly a rare and exciting opportunity' said instrument specialist, Matthew Liveriadis.



A rare Martin 2-42 Parlour 'Natural' acoustic guitar, circa 1870. Estimate \$50,000-100,000

GUITARS

In addition to the rare Martin guitar, there are 18 acoustic and electric guitars dating from the 1950s to 2006 that Russell Crowe has collected. These include;

- An American made 1976 Fender Telecaster 'Black' electric guitar (estimate \$3,000-5,000, lot 68)
- A Korean made Epiphone Les Paul Deluxe 'Metallic Blue Sparkle' electric guitar, 2000 inscribed 'To Russell, Keep Pickin! Les Paul' (estimate \$1,500-2,500, lot 69)
- An American made Gibson ES-150 'Sunburst' electric guitar manufactured in 1955, which provides a rare opportunity for collectors to acquire a Gibson dating from this period (estimate \$2,500-3,500, lot 70)
- An American made Gretsch 6192 'Sunburst' from 1965. This model was regarded as the top of line for Gretsch (estimate \$4,000-6,000, lot 74)
- An American made limited edition Gibson Elvis Presley 'The King' J-200 'Black' acoustic guitar 1997 which Russell Crowe collected from Graceland in 2001 when travelling from Austin to New York to shoot *A Beautiful Mind* (estimate \$7,000-8,000, lot 80)

'As young man in my teens when playing in bands I always coveted a Gretsch but couldn't afford one. So in later years, I made up for this by assembling a diverse collection of Gretsch models from the early '50s Electromatics and 6120s through to the Brian Setzer models of the early 2000s' said Russell Crowe.

AUSTRALIAN GOLD RECORDS

Johnny Cash was presented with three Australian gold records in March 1971 by Australian Record Company Limited for the albums *Johnny Cash at San Quentin* (pictured), which sold over 37,000 albums; *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison*, which sold over 12,000 albums; and *Ring of Fire: The Best of Johnny Cash*, which sold over 18,000 albums. Russell Crowe acquired these gold records from the *Estate of Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash* in 2004 (combined estimate \$21,000-24,000, lots 87, 88, 89).



An Australian Gold Record presented to Johnny Cash in recognition of record sales in excess of 37,000 for *Johnny Cash at San Quentin*, in 1971. Estimate \$7,000-8,000

AT A GLANCE

Russell Crowe: The Art of Divorce

Estimate \$2.6 million to \$3.7 million | 227 lots

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Auction in Sydney, 7 April 2018, 6 pm

Carriageworks, 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh, New South Wales

Exhibition in Sydney 4-7 April, 10 am to 5 pm

Carriageworks, 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh, New South Wales

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