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From Bows to Sound-chests: Tracing the Ancestry of the Violin

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The subject of the ancestry of the violin is something that has been largely studied, researched, debated, and written about in great detail. However, despite all of the research and study, the ancestry of the violin is still not certain. This paper first presents two different schools of thought, each proposing different theories as to how the ancestry of the violin should be determined and what instruments should be included in the ancestry of the violin. The first school of thought proposes that the violin's ancestry should be traced through the bow. The second theory proposes that the violin's ancestry should be traced through the sound-chest of the violin. This paper secondly presents the different arguments for and against each theory, the importance of this topic, and the paper's position on this topic. Research for this paper was accomplished through the use of scholarly books on the subject of the history of the violin.