



BRIDGING TRADITIONS: THE USE OF BAJAU SAMA DILAUT VIOLIN BOWS IN WESTERN VIOLIN PERFORMANCE

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ABSTRACT

The intersection of Eastern and Western violin craftsmanship focuses on the potential of tropical Bajau Sama Dilaut violin (Bajau Violin) bows to perform Western violin bowing techniques. Six samples of Bajau violin bows were made from cost-effective, rainforest-sourced woods—jackfruit and kapok – offering a sustainable alternative to traditional Western violin bows, typically crafted from Pernambuco or Brazil wood. Crafted using mainly natural materials and minimal luthier tools, Bajau bows are unique, utilizing nylon fishing lines as bow hair instead of the conventional horsehair, further reducing production costs. The researchers examined the compatibility of these tropical wood bows with Western violins, noting that while the sound produced is clear and solid, there are areas requiring improvement. Specifically, the Bajau bows are heavier than standard Western bows, and their irregular sizes and lengths affect playability. Despite these challenges, the Bajau bows effectively performed various violin techniques, demonstrating their potential in Western classical performance. This study highlights the yin-yang balance between Eastern simplicity and Western complexity, presenting the Bajau violin bow as a cost-effective and innovative alternative for musicians, particularly in regions where traditional violin materials are scarce. Further development and refinement could make these Bajau violin bows viable for broader use in Western music contexts.

Keywords: *Bajau Violin Bow; Tropical Tone Wood; Sustainable Violin Craftsmanship; Nylon Bow Hair; Western Violin Techniques*