



MENTION A CT SCAN
AND MOST OF US THINK
MODERN MEDICINE:
DOCTORS TAKING A
DIGITAL PICTURE OF
OUR BRAIN OR OUR
KIDNEYS SO THEY CAN
SEE IF EVERYTHING IS
IN WORKING ORDER.

But what if we took a CT scan of a more than 300-year-old violin constructed by the great Antonio Stradivari? Could this scan tell us certain secrets about the intricate layers of this instrument's superior architecture — see into its past in order to create a better future for instrument makers and those who play what they make?

Probably not questions Henry Ford, the father of the Model T and the assembly line, pondered when he began collecting an impressive set of 18th-century classical violins — many of them by famous makers such as Stradivari and Giuseppe Guarneri — in the 1920s (see sidebar on Page 30). Ford was indulging his passion for the fiddle and his desire to revive the old-fashioned country dancing of his youth.

But these were questions a team of museum experts, musicians and medical professionals started asking each other. Questions that eventually led to a sweet collaboration among medicine, a museum and music.

THE MEDICINE

"There's a lot that can't be seen by the eye," said Dr. John Bonnett, a radiologist at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

By day, Bonnett watches his patients as they have CT scans, which he then examines looking generally for stomach and other abdominal issues.