

Swiss Rosewood Marquetry Musical Box with Bells, Circa 1860

£1,250



Description

A fine Swiss musical box in a richly figured rosewood case with marquetry decoration, dating to circa 1860. This elegant mid-19th-century piece combines the warmth and decorative appeal of fine cabinetmaking with the remarkable mechanical precision for which Swiss musical boxes are celebrated.

The polished rosewood case is enhanced with delicate marquetry, giving the exterior a refined and luxurious presence. Beneath the lid, the musical mechanism is programmed to play six airs, its revolving pinned cylinder operating a finely tuned steel comb to produce the clear, resonant sound associated with the best Swiss boxes of the period. The addition of bells brings a bright, sparkling layer to the music, creating a particularly charming and animated performance.

During the 19th century, Switzerland became the world's leading centre for the production of mechanical musical instruments. Musical boxes were treasured as sophisticated domestic entertainments and were often displayed in drawing rooms, libraries, and bedrooms, where their combination of music, craftsmanship, and decorative beauty made them prized possessions.

This example is especially appealing for its handsome rosewood case, ornamental marquetry, six-tune repertoire, and bell effect. It would make a distinguished addition to a collection of antique mechanical music, a beautifully decorative object for an interior, or a memorable gift for a collector of 19th-century craftsmanship.