



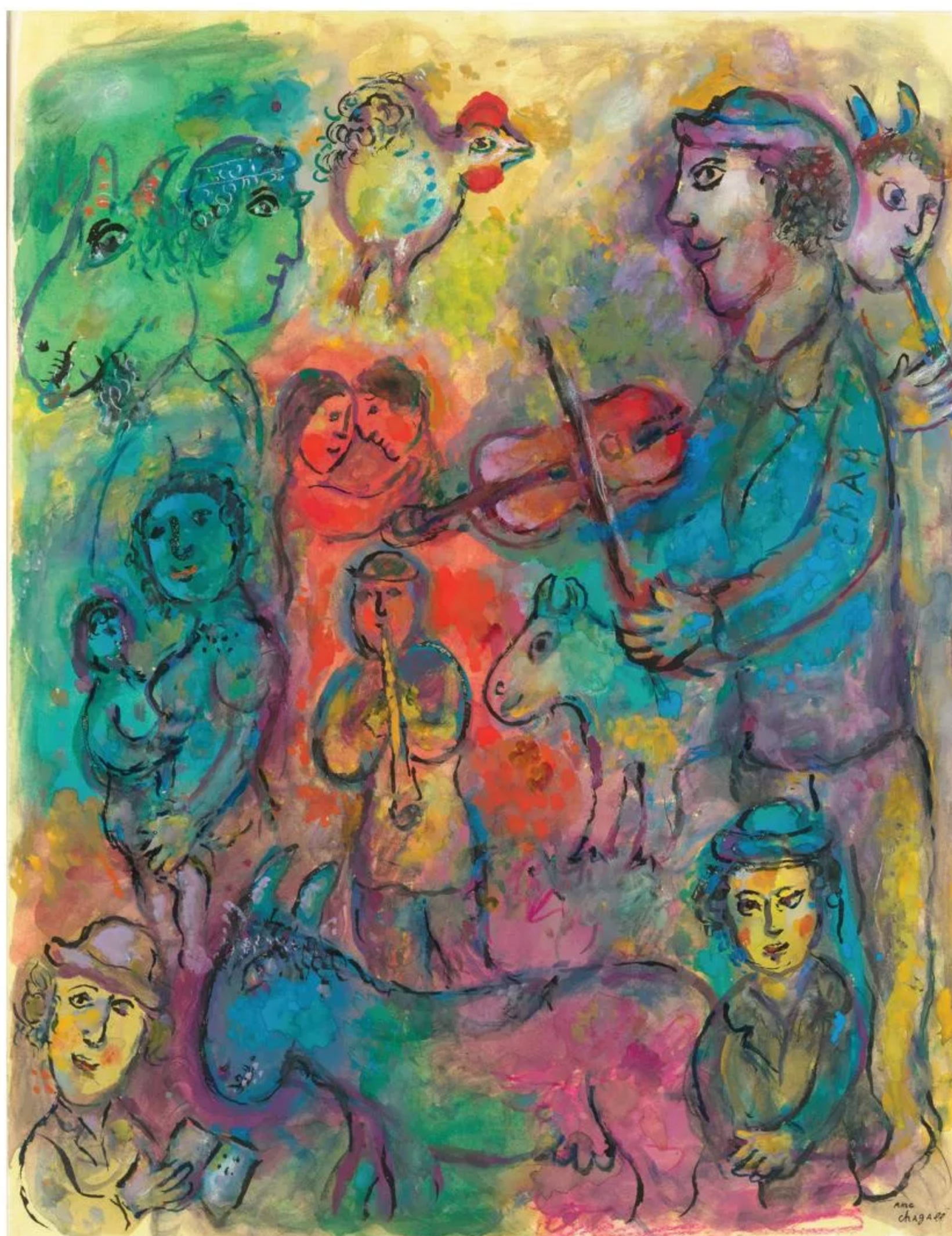
# Marc Chagall

1887-1985 | Russian

*Musiciens sur fond multicolore*

M.S.  Rau  
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS





Marc Chagall's 1981 masterpiece *Musiciens sur fond multicolore* offers a captivating glimpse inside the mind of the artist. With an all-over array of figures and colors, the composition showcases a kaleidoscopic collection of the artist's most cherished motifs, realized in a brilliant variety of hues. This work includes Chagall's signature rooster and a pair of his euphoric flying lovers along with several other motifs alluding to his childhood in the rural town of Vitebsk, including farm animals like cows and goats, a nursing mother figure and a plentiful array of musicians. In Chagall's oeuvre, music appears as a recurring motif, signifying Chagall's heritage, with his popular Fiddler figure recalling the artist's memories of listening to his uncle play the fiddle. This work, with its dizzying combination of colors and figures, recalls the overwhelming polyphony of the most complex and jovial musical movements.

Chagall's later works are characterized by a rich use of jewel tones and bright colors, and a turn toward even more personal and introspective compositions. While Chagall populates his composition with a familiar cast of characters from the imaginative world he built over several decades, the work's bold use of intense color

firmly situates this painting in the remarkable latter years of his life—a most desirable and sought-after period in his oeuvre. More than any of his later more vibrant compositions, this multi-color dream, with its brilliant use of rainbow hues, demonstrates the deep influence of Chagall's work on stained glass windows. The remarkable spectrum of colors recalls Chagall's beautiful rainbow of stained glass windows in Jerusalem. In *Musiciens sur fond multicolore*, Chagall's rainbow-hued dream dazzles the eye, sparking nostalgia and cultural pride.

In his lifetime Chagall produced an incredible body of work that continues to demand the highest attention in the art community. Today, his works belong to the collections of prestigious museums across the globe including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Guggenheim Museum in New York, Tate Modern in London and the National Museum of Modern Art in Paris. The intense use of color and thematic depth in this painting is similar to works in the collections of top institutions, such as *Les Amants au ciel rouge* (*Lovers in the Red Sky*), 1950, at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

This work is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity issued by the Comité Marc Chagall. ●





## OVERVIEW



Marc Chagall  
1887-1985 | Russian

*Musiciens sur fond multicolore (Musicians on a multicolored background), 1981*

Signed "Chag" (sleeve of right figure) and "Marc Chagall" (lower right)  
Tempera, gouache, colored ink, India ink and pastel on paper

Canvas: 25 1/2" high x 19 3/4" wide | 64.77 x 50.17 cm  
Frame: 41 1/2" high x 35 5/8" wide x 2 1/2" deep | 105.41 x 90.49 x 6.35 cm

## PROVENANCE

Estate of the artist

M.S. Rau, New Orleans




Private Collection, United States

M.S. Rau, New Orleans





## AUCTION COMPARABLES

	1	<b>Marc Chagall</b>
	Title	Fleurs et fruits rouges aux amoureux dans le ciel
	Description	stamped with signature 'Marc Chagall' (lower left)oil, tempera and India ink on canvas
	Medium	oil, tempera and India ink on canvas
	Year of Work	1975
	Size	Height 28.7 in.; Width 21.3 in. / Height 73 cm.; Width 54.1 cm.
	Misc.	Stamped
	Sale of	Christie's New York: Tuesday, November 5, 2013 [Lot 00029] Impressionist & Modern Evening Sale
	Estimate	1,200,000 - 1,600,000 USD
	Sold For	1,985,000 USD Premium
	2	<b>Marc Chagall</b>
	Title	Les mariés au bouquet de fleurs
	Medium	oil on canvas
	Year of Work	1975
	Size	Height 28.6 in.; Width 20.2 in. / Height 72.6 cm.; Width 51.3 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's New York: Wednesday, May 9, 2007 [Lot 00077] Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale
	Estimate	800,000 - 1,200,000 USD
	Sold For	1,832,000 USD Premium
	3	<b>Marc Chagall</b>
	Title	LE PEINTRE
	Medium	Oil on Canvas
	Year of Work	1976-1976
	Size	Height 25.6 in.; Width 21.3 in. / Height 65 cm.; Width 54 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's New York: Tuesday, May 15, 1990 [Lot 00081] Impressionist and Modern Paintings & Sculpture, Part II
	Estimate	1,000,000 - 1,500,000 USD
	Sold For	1,430,000 USD Premium





## Marc Chagall | *La danse*

1950-52

**Medium:** Oil on linen

**Dimensions:** 93<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 69<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches | 238 x 176 cm



Centre  
Pompidou



Centre Pompidou  
Paris, France





## Marc Chagall | *A midi, l'été*

1954-56

**Medium:** Pencil, ink and gouache on paper

**Dimensions:** 16<sup>1/2</sup> x 12<sup>1/2</sup> inches | 42 x 32 cm



Centre  
Pompidou



Centre Pompidou  
Paris, France





# Marc Chagall | *Les mariés de la Tour Eiffel*

1938-39

**Medium:** Oil on linen

**Dimensions:** 59 x 53<sup>3/4</sup> inches | 150 x 136.5 cm



Centre  
Pompidou



Centre Pompidou  
Paris, France





## Marc Chagall | *Green Violinist*

1923-24

**Medium:** Oil on canvas

**Dimensions:** 77<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 42<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches | 197.5 x 108.6 cm



GUGGENHEIM

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum  
New York, NY, United States







---

[msrau.com](http://msrau.com) | 800-544-9440