

Care of your String Instrument

1. Handle your instrument with care whether you are renting your instrument or it is yours. Keep your instrument clean with a soft rag.
2. **Never** leave your instrument unattended. Always put it in its case when you are not playing it. Make sure your case is latched.
3. **Never** leave it on your chair at school.
4. **Never** hang your violin or viola by the scroll, from your stand.
5. When putting on your shoulder rest, do not turn the violin or viola over on its bridge. Sit down, turn the instrument over and allow the bridge and strings to be “between” your legs.
6. Do not expose your instrument to extreme hot or cold temperatures.
7. Use a device (Dampit) to provide humidity for your instrument during the winter months or in an air-conditioned environment.
8. Do not attempt to repair your instrument or move the bridge. If you need to replace a string or adjust your bridge, ask your teacher or private instructor for help.
9. Do not place anything on top of your case. Make sure your case is in an upright position at all times.
10. Do not let others play your instrument.
11. Cellists and String Bass players: If you use a soft case, take your bow out first before removing your instrument from the case. This will help avoid accidental breakage of the bow. When you put your cello or bass away, put the bow in last.

Care of Your Bow

1. Handle your bow with care, and always store your bow in your case when not in use.
2. Do not touch the hair of your bow. Moisture, dirt, perspiration and oil from your skin will damage the hair so that it cannot be rosined.
3. Always tighten the hair before playing and loosen the hair when finished. This will help to prevent warping of the bow.
4. Rosin your bow when you feel the hair no longer gripping the strings. Be careful not to rosin your bow too much or too often. Excess rosin can build up on the instrument and harm the finish.

Accessories

1. Rosin, (“start” the rosin by scratching it. A car key works best.)
2. Soft cloth for wiping away rosin.
3. Shoulder rest
4. Extra set of strings
5. Pencil
6. Music stand
7. Chromatic tuner, (battery powered)
8. Metronome