

Care of the Instrument and Bow

String instruments and bows are fragile and can easily be broken or damaged if dropped, bumped or struck against other objects. Remember to put a name tag on your instrument case. Below are the steps students should follow in order to keep their instrument and bow in proper working condition.

- 1) Hands should be clean before handling the instrument and bow.
- 2) A clean cloth should be kept in the instrument case to wipe fingerprints off the instrument and rosin from the strings, instrument and bow stick after playing the instrument.
- 3) **DO NOT TURN THE PEGS ON THE INSTRUMENT!** The strings and other parts of the instrument can be easily broken
- 4) Never let others play or handle your instrument.
- 5) The instrument and bow should be stored in the case in a safe place in the house when not in use.
- 6) The instrument should be stored in a place of moderate temperature. Never leave the instrument in an extreme hot or cold environment like a car.
- 7) Do not attempt to repair the instrument or bow yourself. Consult with your teacher.
- 8) Violin/Viola Students:
 - Always remove the shoulder rest from the instrument before placing the instrument back in the case.
 - Never hang the instrument from your music stand.
- 9) Cello/Bass Student:
 - The bow should be taken out of the case before unpacking the instrument.
 - The endpin must be pushed back into the instrument when placing the instrument on the floor before casing up.
 - Never lean your instrument against a chair or wall in an upright position. We have seen major instrument damage done because of this. Always lay your instrument on its side on the floor regardless of whether it is in the case or not.

NEVER store your instrument like this



or this



This is the correct way to store your cello or bass when not playing.



- 10) The Bow:
 - Never touch the bow hair or place the bow hair against other surfaces other than your instrument's strings or rosin.
 - Before playing tighten the bow hair with the adjusting screw.
 - After playing, loosen the bow hair with the adjusting screw (do not remove adjusting screw from the bow).
- 11) Never leave your instrument unattended for long periods when uncased.