

# How to Take Care of Your Instrument:

Important Tips for the Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass

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**Regular attention to the following details will help keep a string instrument in the best playing condition. These are things YOU can do!**

## **PROTECTION:**

Always keep your instrument and bow in the case when it is not in use. Never run with your instrument. Never let someone else play with your instrument. Be sure your case is fastened after putting your instrument away.

## **TEMPERATURE:**

Store your instrument as close to room temperature as possible. NEVER leave it in the sun, in front of a heater or air conditioner, or in a car trunk.

## **CLEANING:**

Fingerprints and rosin dust should be removed after each playing. A clean, soft cloth for cleaning should be kept in the case. NEVER use water or furniture polish to clean your instrument.

## **BRIDGE:**

The bridge is NOT glued to the instrument. You should be very careful when handling your instrument not to bump the bridge. Never lay your instrument on its front, always lay it on its back, or on its side if you play the cello or bass. If the bridge should fall down, keep it in the case and let the TEACHER put it back at your next lesson.

## **CARE OF THE BOW:**

**STICK** – The stick will become warped if the hair is not tightened and loosened properly. Tighten the hair so that a pencil can barely go through the space between the hair and the stick at the middle. ALWAYS loosen the hair after each use (hair should be loose, but not falling off the bow). Rosin dust should be removed from the stick with a clean, soft cloth (if stays on the hair!).

**HAIR** – NEVER touch the hair with your fingers. Never let oil or grease touch it. Apply only a few strokes of rosin for each use. If you are seeing clouds of rosin as you play, do not rosin again for awhile.

## **WHEN TO GET PROFESSIONAL HELP:**

- If your instrument has cracks or a part has broken off (such as the neck)
- If it is missing a part (such as a chin rest)
- If you hear something rattling around inside the instrument (sound post)

All repairs should be done by a professional...no getting out the tool box and wood glue! ☺

\*Please feel free to check with me first, as sometimes I am able to do minor repairs or can recommend where to go for repairs. I am able to assist with minor repairs such as string replacement and chin rest tightening.