

How to care for your String Instrument

Instruments covered in this leaflet:	Violin Viola Cello	Double Bass
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We hope you enjoy learning your new instrument. Below you will find advice on how to care for your instrument and what to do if it breaks.

Please do not try and play your instrument before your first lesson, it's very fragile and could get broken. Your teacher will let you know which tutor book to buy so you can get started!

Caring for the instrument

- Never leave your instrument next to a radiator, in direct sunlight or in a very cold room.
- Never leave your instrument in the car on hot days (even in the boot!)
- Always keep your instrument in its case when you are not playing it and always make sure it is securely closed!
- Never leave the instrument out of its case when you are not playing it, even if you are only having a short break.
- Never let anyone else play your instrument, unless they are your teacher.
- You can store your instrument on its back (violin and viola) or on its side (cello and double bass) but never with the strings face down.
- Do not try to tune the instrument until you have been shown how to do this! (If the pegs are stiff then ask your teacher for help).
- Strings may break from time to time. You will need to buy replacements from a music shop. Your teacher may be able to help re-fitting the string or a music shop may re-fit them in house. Do not try to do this on your own until you have been taught how.

Good Bow Health

- Once you start using the bow always loosen the hairs after you have been playing.
- At times you may need to add rosin to your bow. Your teacher will show you how to do this.

Repairs

If your instrument stops working properly or you have an accident with it, do not try to repair it yourself. Show your teacher at your next lesson and they will either mend it for you or ask you to return it to the instrument store to get a replacement. This may incur a charge.