



# How to look after your String Instrument

Instruments covered in this guide:

Violin

Viola

'Cello (Violoncello)

Double Bass

We hope you are enjoying playing your new instrument. Below you will find advice on how to care for your instrument and what to do if it breaks.

Do not try to play your instrument before your first lesson, it is very fragile and could get broken.

## 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.
- You can store your instrument on its back or on its side 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 the music shop may re-fit them in house. **Do not try to do this on your own until you have been taught how to.**

### Violin, Viola, Cello & Double Bass

- **Once you start using the bow, always loosen the hair 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

For EMS rented instruments	For personally owned instruments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 fill in a repair slip for you to take to EMS with the instrument. This may incur a charge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 may be able to mend it for you. They will be able to give you advice on how and where to get it repaired. There are also some ideas on the <a href="#">EMS website</a>.</li> </ul>

The EMS website has lots of information regarding the EMS Instrument Hire Scheme, Music Events in Ealing, Ensembles available to join in the borough and advice on practicing.

[www.ealingmusicservice.com](http://www.ealingmusicservice.com)