

Presentation for Strings

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- You can make changes to the playability, voice, response, etc. by trying different types of strings.
- We are living in the golden age of violin-making!
 - There are more makers at a higher level of making than there has ever been in history!
- Two things: Always take care of your instrument, and constantly hone your concept of sound.
 - Caring for your instrument - your current instrument is your Stradivarius
 - Harmful environmental factors (cold, heat, rain, high humidity, low humidity)
 - Bad playing technique and foreign objects can be detrimental to the instrument



- NEVER step over your instrument!
- Always pack up your instrument when you're not playing it.
- Do not leave cello cases standing upright (with a cello in it)
- Keep an eye on your bridge so that it is perfectly straight (not leaning AT ALL) in order to work as efficiently as possible
 - Picture a straight line on the edge of the bridge closer to the tailpiece
 - Make sure there is no gap between the bridge feet and the instrument
 - A 2oz violin bridge holds about 50 lbs of down-force

- Be aware when tuning, especially using the pegs because it can make the bridge lean toward the scroll
 - When changing strings, put some pencil graphite on the notches in the bridge. This allows you to move/tune the strings with limited friction and preserve the life of the strings and the bridge.
 - When straightening the bridge, hold the violin/viola securely (on your lap) and securely grip the bridge on all 4 sides
 - Frequently clean your instrument and strings with a microfiber cloth to remove rosin dust.
 - Use peg dope to balance the amount of “grip” and “slip” with the pegs
 - Take your instrument to a luthier for tone adjustments (placement of bridge and soundpost)
 - Get to know a Luthier!
 - Adjustments, soundpost, bridge, pegs, seams, bow rehairs, etc.
 - Different seams are glued together with different strengths of glue
 - Seams can open up if exposed to extreme humidity
- Bows:
 - When you are not playing, LOOSEN THE BOW!
 - The bow is purposely curved. When the hair is tightened, the bow loses its curve a little. If the bow is tightened for too long, it could lose its curve and then a luthier will have to fix it
 - Don't touch the bow hair! Your skin has oils in it that when put on the hair will not allow rosin to stick onto the bow hair
 - If you play on the side of the bow, over time the bow will get warped
 - Humidity and temperature changes also affect the bow's functionality (The frog moves)
- Get to know your instrument. Know how it sounds and feels when it is at its best so you can notice when something is off.
- Generally change strings at least once a year (for lower strings) and at least twice a year (for upper strings). This also depends on how much you play your instrument.
- Older strings don't hold their tuning as well
- Wolf tones can be eliminated by adjusting technique when playing them (more vibrato, bow pressure, confident approach, etc.). You can also use wolf tone eliminators (especially for cellos)
 - Tone modulators (a more advanced wolf tone eliminator)
 - Eliminators that you put on the string mute the instrument a little
- Get your bow rehired about twice a year, more frequently depending on how much you play your instrument
- Most common causes for buzzing:

- Loose fine tuner
- Open seam
- Chin rest mount
- Chin rest touching the tailpiece
- E string protector loose
- Something in the peg box (loose string, end of string hitting something, etc.)
- A string is touching the fingerboard
- Endpin
- Something in the bow
- If buzzing occurs on a specific note, keep playing the note and ask someone to gently squeeze different parts of the cello and different places on seams.
- E string whistle
 - Occurs when crossing strings to the E string and not getting a good grip on the E string
 - Can avoid by adjusting the bow speed, weight, and distance from bridge
 - Also different types of E strings that are less likely to whistle