Instrument Care Guide

**Note: This instrument is not insured by the University of Texas.**

**Individual insurance is highly recommended.**

**You are responsible for all damages to the instrument during the rental period.**

**DAILY**

INSTRUMENT AND BOW CARE

INSTRUMENT CARE

*Do the following each time you play the instrument:*

* After playing, wipe off the strings and wood with a soft, dry cloth to remove all rosin, dirt, and fingerprints.
* Handle the instrument gently (by the neck) to prevent scratches and damage to wood and bridge.
* Unpack with the case flat on the floor to prevent falling and breakage.
* For soft cello and bass cases, always unpack the bow before the instrument when getting ready to play. When finished playing, put the instrument in the case before the bow.
* Be sure the instrument is stored in the case properly and that the case is securely latched/zipped before picking it up.
	+ Violins and violas must remove shoulder rests/pads before storage.
	+ Cellos and basses should stop the zipper on either size of the endpin so that the endpin pokes out slightly. This will avoid excess wear on the zipper.
* Put the endpin in any time the instrument is not being played (cello/bass).
* Always keep your instrument in the case when it is not in use.

*Do not:*

* Do not leave the instrument in a car or other place where it may get too hot or too cold. The glue that holds the instrument together can melt in the heat, or the wood can crack from the cold. In general, never leave your instrument in any place where you would not be comfortable.
* Do not use any type of cleaner or polish on your instrument that isn’t designed specifically for string instruments. Do not apply water or any kind of furniture polish to your instrument.
* Do not hang the instrument on a music stand or leave it on the floor or chair unattended.
* Do not lay the instrument on its side with the endpin out or walk around with the endpin out (cello/bass).
* Do not let the instrument be played by anyone other than the student whose name is on the instrument rental contract.

BOW CARE

*Do the following each time you play the instrument:*

* Tighten the bow hair before playing.
* Loosen the bow hair after each use.

*Do not:*

* Do not touch the bow hair. Finger oils damage them and they will no longer hold rosin.
* Do not tighten or loosen your bow too much. The bow should never be so tight that the stick is parallel with the hair. This will stretch out the hair and warp the stick.



**PERIODIC**

MAINTENANCE

* Bows need to be rehaired every year (if financially feasible), or sooner if the hair starts to thin or turn yellow.
* Strings should be replaced yearly on instruments that are played often.
* Note: The String Project has a limited supply of strings and bows available. Feel free to stop by the instrument room to check in if you think you may need new strings or bow hair.

If you have any questions about the care and maintenance, feel free to ask any String Project teacher or contact the String Project Instrument Room Steward at joannarosscello@gmail.com