

Instrument Care

Violin and Viola:

- Always lay the case right side up on a flat surface with the handle toward you to open. Lift the lid. Do NOT open vertically like a book, the instrument may fall out.
- Do not place a sponge over the bridge; the neck/fingerboard area is safer.

Cello and bass:

- Do not leave a bow in a soft case without the instrument: if the case is folded or stepped on the bow could break.
- Always lay the instrument on its side, never the back. More specifically, lay it on the side of its top string: A for cello, G for bass.
- When carrying, hold the instrument with the bridge away from you so it doesn't bump against your legs. Be very careful walking through doors!
- Take care with the zipper on the case. If it gets damaged it can be difficult to get your instrument out.

All String Instruments:

- Label the outside of your case with your name so it's identifiable.
- Never lay the instrument on its top, this could break the bridge. The bridge is not glued in place, so if it falls down, let a professional set it back up, don't glue it!
- Keep the instrument in a controlled environment. Excess heat, humidity or dryness can cause damage.
- Do not touch the bow hair with your hands; this causes spots that don't play well. (Apply rosin to fix it.)
- Wipe excess rosin off of strings and instrument with a soft cloth. Wipe the bow stick, but not the hair.
- Tighten the bow to play, loosen to put away. (Leaving it tight may cause damage.)
- Only students and teachers should handle instruments. Friends, siblings and parents may accidentally cause damage.
- Do not attempt to tune or repair instruments or bows. Leave this to the professionals!