



Stringers

EDINBURGH & LONDON



SUPPLIERS OF STRINGED INSTRUMENTS

Specialising in Instruments for
Children and Students

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT

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Hours of business 9.30am-5.30pm

Monday to Saturday

Instruments

Instruments should be dusted down after use using a cotton cloth or duster. Particular attention should be paid to removing excess rosin and perspiration from the strings, and rosin dust from under the bridge.

When changing strings, do so one at a time. If you take all the strings off at once the bridge will fall down and possibly the soundpost as well. We are always happy to put new strings on here if needed or you can ask for help from your teacher.

Ensure that adjusters are not screwed fully down, as this risks them coming into contact with the front of the instrument and causing damage. If the adjusters are becoming low, unwind them all and re-tune using the pegs. Your teacher can help with this if needed or you can bring it into the shop and we will do it for you.

Never allow over-enthusiastic D.I.Y. parents to repair an instrument or bow! Special glues and varnishes are required, and super glue can be disastrous.

Instrument cases should be secure and in good condition. Bow clips should retain the bow(s) clear of the instrument. Ensure that the instrument fits properly into the case.

Loose objects in the case should be kept to a minimum. Shoulder rests should not be kept in violin cases unless there is space for them. Never store the shoulder rest under the neck of the violin as this will raise the whole instrument causing the bow to mark, or even crack, the front. Always remember to remove your shoulder rest or pad before putting your instrument away.

Music books and folders should be stored in a specific compartment in the case or separate music bag.

Do not leave your instrument near fires, radiators direct sunlight or anywhere very cold. Extremes of temperatures and lack of, or excessive, humidity can cause damage (such as glue drying out or wood cracking). Always keep your instrument in its case or on a special stand when not in use. Never stand a 'cello upright in a hard case. Always ensure that shoulder straps are secure.

Bows

It should only be necessary to apply rosin once or twice a week, if the bow is in use every day. Rosin that has cracked should be replaced as it could damage the bow hair on application. A bow which is in constant need of rosin is probably in need of a rehair. Do not attempt to clean the hair with any form of liquid as this will probably result in the hair stretching, thus requiring shortening or possibly a rehair. Take care not to overtighten the hair – a good guide is that a pencil should just pass between the stick and the hair.

Always loosen the bow after playing – allow the hair to touch the stick but still remain a flat ribbon.

Finally, even the most well cared for instruments can be accidentally broken, lost or stolen. We can arrange instant cover for you with Allianz Musical Insurance, which offers excellent rates and comprehensive cover.

If you have any queries or problems which are not covered by this leaflet, please telephone us and we will be happy to help.