

# TIPS AND TRICKS

## CARING FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT

1. **BE CAREFUL!** Your instruments can break easily, so avoid bumping your instrument.
2. **CLEAN.** After you play, wipe your strings and then your instrument with your soft cloth.
3. **STORAGE.** When you are not using your instrument, put it back in its case for safety.
4. **UNPACKING.** Take your bow out first and *then* your instrument.
5. **PACKING.** Put your instrument away first and *then* your bow.
6. **TEMPERATURE.** Don't leave your instrument in the sun or anywhere too cold. Never ever ever leave your instrument in the car. Extreme temperatures cause your instrument to crack and break.
7. **REPAIRS.** Do not attempt your own repairs. If something is wrong show it to your music teacher *after* being tuned.
8. **YOURS.** Do not let others play your instrument.

## TIPS FOR PLAYING POSITION

- **Instrument**
  - Hold your instrument with your legs
  - The top of the body of the cello should touch you mid-chest
  - The scroll should NOT be touching your shoulder
- **Left hand** should be:
  - Relaxed
  - Palm should NOT be touching the neck of the instrument
  - Wrist should be straight
  - Curved fingers
  - Check your thumb! It should be on the back of the neck
- **Bow Hand**
  - Check your thumb
  - Middle finger should be touching the silver part
  - Be relaxed. No claws!
  - Pinky is resting over the bow with the other fingers

