

THE ORCHESTRA

STUDENT INSTRUMENT CARE CHECKLIST



1. Regular Cleaning

- **Daily Wipe-Down:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth to wipe down the instrument after each practice session. This removes rosin dust and oils from your hands, which can accumulate on the strings, fingerboard and body of the instrument.

2. Proper Storage

- **Controlled Environment:** Store the instrument in a case when not in use to protect it from dust, temperature fluctuations and humidity. The ideal environment is a room with stable humidity, around 40-60%, and temperature at 60-75°F (15-24°C).
- **Maintain Proper Moisture Levels:** In particularly dry or humid climates, use instrument humidifiers or dehumidifiers to maintain proper moisture levels inside the case.

3. String and Bow Maintenance

- **Replace Strings Regularly:** Change strings every 6-12 months or sooner if you notice fraying or a drop in sound quality. Regularly check for uneven winding or damage.
- **Bow Care:** Always loosen the bow hair when not in use to prevent over-stretching and warping. Check the bow hair for fraying and ensure the bow stick has a slight curve towards the hair when tightened.

4. Professional Check-Ups

- **Biannual Evaluations:** Have the instrument professionally inspected and serviced by a luthier twice a year, ideally in January and June. This helps address any issues caused by seasonal changes and ensures optimal performance.
- **Immediate Repairs:** If you notice any damage, such as cracks, warping or changes in sound quality, take the instrument to a professional immediately to prevent further issues and maintain the instrument's integrity.