

Why proper care and Maintenance

It is important to maintain your instrument. If left alone, minor repairs can turn into major (expensive) problems. These can severely impact the resale value of your instrument. Plus, keeping your instrument in top condition will make it easier to play.

It's not Just Cosmetics

Repairs that frequently go unattended:

- Thumb grip on the bow: The grip protects the stick from wear. If left alone, the player will wear a divot in the stick from use.
- Ivory tip of the bow: The ivory tip protects the wooden head of the bow leaving this will cause the wood to wear
- Dented corners or chipped edges: corners will wear away over time further, corners and edge protect the ribs (underneath) from damage
- Worn varnish: varnish protects the wood from wear and damage left by oils and chemicals on your skin. If a concern for you, ask about putting on protective coating on your instrument

IN THE CULTURAL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH MASTER VIOLIN MAKER, PHILLIP INJEIAN, HAS ESTABLISHED A WORLD CLASS VIOLIN SHOP, OFFERING THE FINEST HANDMADE INSTRUMENTS AS WELL AS QUALITY, REPUTABLE SERVICE FOR VIOLIN REPAIRS, RESTORATIONS, AND ADJUSTMENTS.

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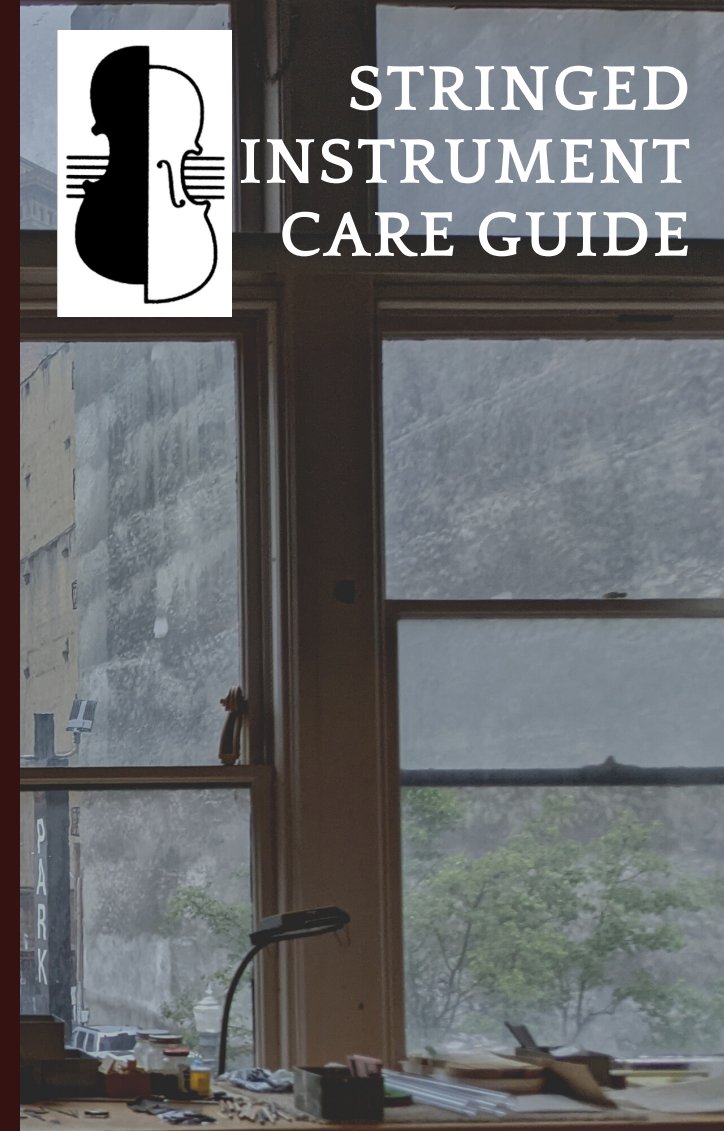
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STRINGED INSTRUMENT CARE GUIDE



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CARING FOR YOU STRINGED INSTRUMENT AND BOW

Stringed instruments are complex and fragile. They need care and maintenance to perform their best. Phillip Injeian Violin Shop is available to all levels of players. We will be happy to show you some of the adjustments needed for your instrument to play its best

We recommend inspection by a qualified luthier with expertise in restoration once a year. They should check for:

- Seams or cracks that might have opened
- Correct placement of sound post and bridge
- Fingerboard condition
- Bow condition

Maintaining your instrument will improve the sound, prolong the life, and increase the long-term value of your instrument



DAILY CARE

Gently wipe off rosin dust after each use using a soft clean cloth or handkerchief. (An old worn t-shirt makes a fine dust cloth). Don't rub. Larger rosin particles could scratch the delicate varnish. Rosin on the strings and fingerboard should also be removed. Acids from the fingers and rosin can be corrosive to strings. Also a build-up of rosin will hinder their vibration and will affect clarity, tone, and harmonics. Check your bridge regularly to make sure that the spine (the side nearest the tailpiece) is perpendicular to the top of the violin. Use only a cleaner especially designed for your stringed instrument. Our shop recommends using Psarianos Special Violin & Polish, also available here at the shop.

STRING CARE

It is recommended to replace all four strings together, even though the strings under greatest tension wear more quickly. This will give a richer harmonic tone. Always replace strings one at a time, from the outside in. This will put least pressure on the bridge. Wind strings towards the head of the peg. Always check your bridge after replacing strings to make sure it's not leaning. If constantly used, strings should last a few months to one half year. Signs that it is time to replace strings include "false" tones, difficulty tuning, and noticeable wear or unraveling of the string.

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

Wood swells and shrinks as the temperature and humidity change. In a four-season climate, with extreme temperatures and humidity changes, it is advisable to use a humidifier at home to regulate the environment in which you store your instrument. A small removable humidifier can be purchased from a reputable violin shop for use in winters to help prevent cracks and open seams from developing.

BOW CARE

Always loosen the tension on your bow after use. This will prolong the life of the hair and the stick. Leaving tension on the bow will cause the stick to wrap and lose camber. Use a clean cloth to wipe excess rosin from the stick. Try to avoid touching the hair on the bow. DO NOT use violin cleaner on your stick, as you could accidentally get cleaner on the hair and ruin the hair. Periodically check the tip for cracks and check to be sure the frog is well-fitted against the stick. The screw should turn smoothly and easily. Never force it to turn, as you could crack the stick. If you notice any problems, contact your bow specialist as soon as possible.

WHEN TO REHAIR

Over time, bow hair stretches out and loses its elasticity. Signs that you need a rehair include excessive bow slippage when playing, inability to tighten hair as much as you would like, lack of responsiveness when playing (especially on spiccato notes), excessive hair breakage when playing, and excessive dirt accumulation on the hair near the frog.

STORAGE

Store your bow and instrument in a good quality suspension case, which will elevate the instrument away from the shell, and cushion it from shock. Other features to consider when purchasing a case are a blanket, rain cover, optional music pocket, and compartments big enough to carry a shoulder rest and music.