

Looking after your cello bow



- ALWAYS get your bow out of the case before your cello, and put it in a safe place.
- REMEMBER, the tip of the bow is quite sharp, so you must never point it at anyone, as you could injure them.
- The tip is also very fragile. Do not deliberately tap or bang your bow on anything. It could break very easily.
- Tighten the bow hair by turning the screw at the end clockwise, until it is about the width of an index finger away from the stick (wood of the bow).
Be careful not to over-tighten the hair, or the hairs may break, or worse still, the stick may break.
- Once tightened, the bow stick should still have a downwards curve to it.
IT SHOULD NOT BE STRAIGHT!
- Apply ROSIN to your bow at the beginning of each lesson. (Do not use anything other than rosin!) Try not to touch the horse hair on your bow, as the natural oils from your skin can build up and make the hair go black. Once this has happened, that bit of the bow will no longer take on rosin and it will need re-hairing, which is expensive.
- When you pack your instrument away, you must loosen the hair of the bow, by turning the screw on the end of the bow anti-clockwise.
The hair should be just loose enough so that it doesn't get damaged or stretched, but not too loose, otherwise it will catch on the bow pocket when you put it back into your case.
Also, if you loosen it far too much, the frog of the bow will become detached, the hair will get tangled, and the bow will be ruined, so take care!

To help you to remember which way to turn the screw of your bow to tighten or loosen the hair, remember 'Righty tighty, lefty loosey!'