

ADVICE ON CARING FOR THE VIOLIN

These recommendations will preserve the violin and keep it functional.

Do not let it get overheated e.g. do not leave it in the sun or a closed car or car boot. The glue will soften and the strings will pull the neck up.

The string tension is never relaxed but the bow hair must be loosened after each playing period; and retensioned before playing next. The degree of tension should leave some curvature in the stick.

Rotating the rosin when applying it to the bow hair will prevent a groove from forming, One application of rosin will last quite a long time.

Strings with steel rope cores cannot be fine tuned using the pegs alone. They do not stretch as much as gut or nylon cored strings. The strings are tuned approximately with the pegs and then adjusters on the tailpiece used for fine tuning. Do not let the adjusters touch the top of the violin under the tailpiece as this will cause buzzing and damage the varnish.

The pegs are often numbered on the end of the shaft. In any case they are NOT interchangeable. Change one string at a time so they cannot be mixed. They are best lubricated with "Hills" peg paste. High humidity may cause them to tighten while low humidity may cause them to loosen. Simply retighten them. Never file the shafts for ANY reason - go to a recommended repairer if in trouble.

When fitting strings pass the end just through the hole in the peg shaft and turn the peg so that the string passes over the top not under the shaft i.e. clockwise on the E-string side and anti-clockwise on the G-string side when looking at the thumbpiece. The strings are usually long enough to give several turns on the peg shaft. The turns should be situated on the thumbpiece side of the hole in the shaft with the first turn possibly on the other side of the hole. Only one layer of turns should be on the shaft to avoid possible jamming and splitting the sides of the pegbox.

The bridge position is on a line between the inner notches of the ff-holes, The varnish beneath the bridge feet should NEVER be removed for any reason. It does NOT improve the sound. *What does is the perfect fit between the feet and the top.*

The string notches on the bridge and the nut should be lubricated with a soft 6B lead pencil when changing a string and should NOT be altered by filing - see your repairer.

When not being played, the violin should be placed back in the case, NOT on a chair or the floor where it may be damaged.

After each playing the rosin should be wiped off the top with a soft cloth kept in the case. The violin is often wrapped in a silk scarf etc. to protect it from damage e.g. from the bow, while in the case.

The violin should never be polished with furniture polish or revarnished, particularly if valuable, as the sound quality will be affected - see your repairer.

Always remove the <sup>the shoulder rest.</sup> mute from the bridge before putting the violin in the case.

Never put anything e.g. music, in the case with the violin as this risks damaging the instrument when the case is closed.

Let down the tension in the bowhair before putting the bow in the case.

Lubricate the thread of the adjusting screw occasionally with vaseline.