

Rosa International Middle School



**Instrument Care and Maintenance
Private Teachers and Performing
Opportunities**

INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE

String instruments and bows need routine care in order to continue to sound good, play easily and keep their value.

1. Wipe off your instrument and loosen your bow every time you are done playing.
2. Clean off your strings with a very small amount of rubbing alcohol every 2-3 months.
3. Clean your instrument with instrument cleaner once or twice a year.
4. Change your strings once a year, or more if you are doing a lot of playing.
5. Have your bow rehaired once a year, or more if you are doing a lot of playing
6. Keep a dampit in your case or instrument during the winter months to keep the instrument from drying out and cracking.
7. The case, instrument and bow you use at school all need to be labeled with your name.

PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT

Purchasing an instrument can be an overwhelming task. If you are considering purchasing a new instrument, please talk to me or to your private teacher first. Never, ever purchase an instrument without having a teacher look at it first!

SOURCES FOR INSTRUMENTS AND REPAIRS

If you are in need of an instrument or bow or a repair of either, these are good, reputable and local sources:

Dane Anderson (Swarthmore, PA-only 30 minute drive!)- 610-328-6448

David Michie (Phila.) – 215-545-5006

Frank J. Saam Violins (Magnolia) - 566-0654

franksaam@comcast.net

Robert Riccardi (Winslow; specializes in basses)-374-2077

repairs@riccardisviolinshop.com

Phil Travaline (Barnsboro) - 464-8742

If you are in need specifically of a bow, bow repair or bow rehair, this is an excellent source:

Elizabeth Shaak (Phila.) – 215-438-9031

SOURCES FOR STRINGS AND OTHER ACCESSORIES

If you are in need of a case, strings, rosin, shoulder rest, metronome, tuner or other items, these are quick, reliable sources that charge about half of what you'd pay at a local music store. Just remember to allow for shipping costs and time. These are also great for parents who have difficulty getting to the music store.

Discount String Center (catalog) – 1-800-348-5003

19880 State Line Rd., South Bend, IN 46637

www.discountstrings.com

Shar Products Company (catalog) – 1-800-248-7427

P.O.Box 1411 2465 S. Industrial Hwy.,

Ann Arbor, MI 48106 www.sharmusic.com

Southwest Strings (catalog) – 1-800-528-3430

1050 S. Park Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719

www.swstrings.com

STRING RECOMMENDATIONS

If your string breaks during a rehearsal, Mrs. Mark has a limited amount of replacement strings. She will be happy to provide you with one. However, you will be responsible for replacing the string or paying the cost to replace it. If you purchase your own strings, Mrs. Mark will put them on for you.

Owning your own set of strings is important. Here are some recommendations:

Violin: The cost for a set of violin strings ranges from \$25 (decent sound and quality) to \$75 (excellent sound and quality) from a catalogue, or twice as much from a local store. Here are some mid-range, good quality brands (feel free to comparison shop!):

Infeld Red –for a warmer sound

Infeld Blue –for a more brilliant sound

Vision - for a more focused sound

Tonica – versatile

Dominant – versatile

Helicore –good

Viola: The cost for a set of viola strings ranges from \$35 (decent sound and quality) to \$90 (excellent sound and quality) from a catalogue, or twice as much from a local music store. Here are some mid-range, good quality brands:

Evah Pirazzi –wonderful for viola

Obligato – for a strong yet clear tone

Dominant – versatile

Helicore – good

Cello: The cost for a set of cello strings ranges from \$60 (decent sound and quality) to \$165 (excellent sound and quality) from a catalogue, or twice as much from a local music store. Here are some mid-range, good quality brand:

Helicore –good

Jargar A and D; Prim G and C

Piranito –good

Bass: The cost for a set of bass strings ranges from \$100 (decent sound and quality) to \$185 (excellent sound and quality). Here are some mid-range, good quality brands:

Superflexible

Helicore

ROSIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Using good rosin is really, really important for string players. Good rosin helps the bow stick to the strings better and makes it possible to pull a good tone out of the instrument with a lot less effort. Most good rosins can only be purchase through a catalogue. Here are some recommendations:

Violin, Viola and Cello:

Pirastro

Hill

Hidersine

Bass:

Pirastro

Pops'

OTHER HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

In addition to the extra strings, rosin, cleaning cloth and music stand for all Orchestra students, here are other items which will help students to progress much further and faster:

1. Shoulder rest – for violin and viola players. This is a requirement. It is not only for comfort. The shoulder rest allows you to move along the fingerboard more easily without fear of dropping your instrument. When you begin to shift, it is imperative that you have a shoulder rest so shifting can be achieved. Recommended brands: *KUHN, Viva*

2. metronome –helps students to understand rhythms better and to play with a steady beat

2. tuner –helps students develop a better ear and to play better in tune

If you have a smartphone or ipod, you can download a metronome and a tuning app free!

3. sheet music to play ‘for fun’ - there are books of solos available for every instrument and every possible style of music: Classical, Disney, Christmas, popular, fiddling, dance, etc. Shar Music is an excellent source for string music.

There are lots of sources for free sheet music online! The best website is <http://imslp.org/wiki/> but there are many others too.

4. CDs or itunes of music featuring string players. Here is a ‘short list’ of some wonderful string musicians whose playing is guaranteed to inspire and amaze:

Violin and Viola

classical: Joshua Bell, Sarah Chang, Hilary Hahn, Kim Kashkashian (viola)

fiddle/crossover: Mark O'Connor

jazz: Regina Carter, John Blake

rock and roll: Mark Wood

Cello

Classical, world music -Yoyo Ma

Bass

Classical, world music - Edgar Meyer

Classical/jazz/bluegrass-Ranaan Meyer

Piano

Classical - Lang Lang

5. Subscription to Teen Strings, an interesting, informative, teen-friendly magazine

www.teenstrings.com

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students who are interested in progressing further and faster on their instruments may want to consider taking private lessons outside of school. Private lessons are highly recommended for students who would like to audition for All South Jersey Orchestra or other competitive music groups.

Here are some local music schools that have excellent teachers on their staff:

Conservatory of Musical Arts (Audubon)

www.musicalconservatory.com

Rowan Prep (Glassboro)

College of Performing Arts, Rowan University rowanprep@rowan.edu

Settlement Music School (Phila.)

www.smsmusic.org

Temple Music Prep (Phila)

Boyer College of Music, Temple University

www.temple.edu/boyer/musicprep

Here are some excellent private teachers:

Violin:

Jon Beiler (Phila. Orch. member; Haddonfield) 354-9674

David Booth (Phila. Orch. Member; West Collingswood) 858-1994

Laura Early (Cherry Hill) 609-405-2597

Walter Choi (Washington Township) 278-2537

Lenuta Ciulei (Rowan U and Rutgers professor; Mullica Hill) 267-307-9127

Martha Mott-Gale (Phila) marthamottgale@gmail.com

Amanda Hochenberger (Mullica Hill) 265-5612

Marco Lucchi (Haddonfield) 616-1477

Bridget Kasinskas (Cherry Hill) 609-870-1284

b.kasinskas@gmail.com

Gabriella Mandescu (Haddonfield) 267-918-1150

gabimandescu@yahoo.com

Pearl Nickel (Washington Township) 232-6405

Hirono Oka (Cherry Hill; Phila. Orch. Member) 482-1689;

hirono@verizon.net

Robert Vieyra (Haddonfield) 856-803-9988

Dr. Valissa Willwerth (Clarksboro) 865-885-3439 valissaw@gmail.com

Viola:

Carol Briselli (West Chester professor; Glen Mills, PA) 484-841-6445

Pamela Fay (Haddonfield) 857-9852

Gerry Rice (Haddonfield) 354-1718

Chi-Li Yen (Washington Township) 267-779-9997 chiliyen@hotmail.com

Pat Noar 856-663-5192

Cello:

George Atanasiu (Rowan U professor) 267-307-9108

atanasiu@rowan.edu

Lynne Beiler (Haddonfield) 354-9674

lbcello@aol.com

Cheryl Everill (Cherry Hill) 854-7965

Steve Goodnight (Mullica Hill) 609-805-2875

sgoodnight@bridgeton.k12.nj.us

David Szepessy (comes to your home) 610-328-5237

Bass:

Douglas Mapp (Rowan U professor) 740-9009 mapp@rowan.edu

Nancy Merriam (Haddonfield) 428-3844

nancymerriam@comcast.net

Piano:

Rigoberta SantaCruz (Washington Township) titabingbing@hotmail.com

Glenda Steffee (Washington Township) 589-9829

Alexander (Sasha) Timofeev 609-280-7677

Veda Zuponsic (Rowan U professor) 795-1830 zuponsic@rowan.edu

OTHER MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Highly motivated Orchestra students may find that they want to participate in music groups that meet outside of school, as well as in the school Orchestra program. Here are some youth orchestras that students can participate in:

Rowan Youth Orchestra (Glassboro; informal audition)

www.rowan.edu/open/ryo or contact Warren Gardner at 881-8273

Philadelphia Sinfonia (Philadelphia; competitive audition)

www.philadelphiasinfonia.com or call 215-351-0363

Philadelphia Youth Orchestra (Philadelphia; very competitive audition)

info@pyos.org or call 215-545-0502

All South Jersey Orchestra (an auditioned group)

www.sjboda.org

Thank you to Judy Barnett, Orchestra Director, Washington Township High School, for providing much of this valuable information!