HELP – SOMETHING BROKE!!

## BRIDGE

The bridge is not glued down. This is to allow it to vibrate freely! If the bridge has slipped out, it can be put back in place by your music teacher with no repair cost. This happens if the strings are loosened enough to remove the tension onto the bridge, or if an arm or elbow presses onto it too much. If the bridge broke in half, it often can be glued. KEEP BOTH PIECES, because it is much easier to repair – even if the bridge has to be replaced, the old bridge can be used to carve the correct shape for the new one. Cello and bass players should especially watch out for how the bridge is exposed and susceptible to getting side-swiped.

## STRING

A string breaks when (a) the tuning pegs were turned too tightly, (b) something fell on the strings, or most commonly, (c) over time with regular wear and tear (not more than once a year, typically). Go to your local music store and ask for the specific string that you need, and bring it in to your music teacher. It will save you time and money over leaving it at the shop. Replacement cost depends on the string – the thicker/lower the string, the more it costs – and the quality or brand that you choose. A good brand of string for students is D’Addario “Prelude”, and “Dominant” or “Helicore” for advanced players.

## BOW

Keeping the horsehair of the bow relaxed when it’s in the case is the best way to prevent damage to the frog or stick. If the end screw comes out, the frog and hair will come loose from the stick. Make sure that the frog is placed in the track with the horsehair flat and straight. Then, push and turn clockwise until the hair starts pulling back away from the stick. Stop tightening when the hair is approximately a finger’s width from the *middle* of the stick.

## FINGERBOARD

Sometimes the fingerboard comes unglued, and it is an easy fix. However, let the shop take care of it, because they have the right technique and tools.

## TAILPIECE

If the strings come loose or are taken off, the tailpiece will also come off. Like the bridge, it is held in by tension. It can be fixed by your music teacher. However, if you notice that the cord that connects the tailpiece to the end button/endpin has snapped, you should take it to the shop so that part can be ordered and replaced. It still is not a very costly repair.

## NECK, BACK, or BODY

Sorry – time to go to the music store or your local luthier (string instrument maker). Don’t let the small stuff wait, because it will get bigger and more difficult (expensive) to repair.

Cello and bass players can prevent damage due to instrument falls by always letting the instrument rest on its SIDE when not in use (unless in its case). Violin and viola players will feel more confident in keeping the instrument secure by using a shoulder rest.