# Taking Care of Your Stringed Instrument

**Avoid Extreme Temperatures**
Do not store your instrument in or near areas that have extreme changes in temperature, such as in the basement or attic. These instruments are very fragile, when they are continuously exposed to temperature changes and humidity, it will eventually break and fall apart. Do NOT leave your instrument in the car on a hot or freezing day!

**Good Storage**
When you're not using your instrument, put it inside a good quality case to ensure protection. Place it in areas where it will not be exposed to possibilities of damage (i.e. near the sink or behind a bedroom door), and make sure the latches are closed before grabbing the case.

**Too Much Rosin**
Rosin is applied to the bow hair causing it to grip the violin strings when playing. Without it, the bow hair will slide across the string without producing any sound. There are two types of rosin: **light rosin,** which is best suited for violin and viola, and **dark rosin**, which is most suited for cello. Dark rosin is softer than the light rosin, and should only be applied half as much as light rosin. You will know if you have too much rosin if you run your thumb across the horsehair and a plume of white smoke rises ☺ Also, you will see a lot of rosin trickling down onto the instrument, and/or your sound will be scratchy.

Note: use a soft cloth over your thumb, because touching the horsehair with your fingertips will get dirt and oil on the horsehair.

**Do Not Ignore Minor Problems**
If you notice a slight damage on your instrument, don't wait. Go to an experienced luthier immediately. Most damages that start out little become huge, not only to the instrument, but also to your wallet.

**Go to a Luthier**
If you need repairs for your stringed instrument, go to an experienced luthier. These people have been trained and are experts in repairing stringed instruments that are either bowed or plucked. Of course, you must do your research first before going to one. Ask for recommendations from trusted family, friends and music teachers.