

## IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

# *Care of Violins/Violas*

### **THE BOW**

Apply rosin to the hair by drawing the bow over the cake of rosin. Experience will tell you the amount of rosin required. Too much rosin will not harm the hair, but it will waste rosin. **REMEMBER TO LOOSEN THE BOW** when you have finished playing, failure to do this may cause the hair to pull out or stretch.

### **THE BODY**

The body of your violin should be wiped with a clean polishing cloth (such as a clean cotton rag or commercial cloth from your music store) after each playing. Care should be taken to remove excess rosin from under the strings. If the rosin is allowed to settle and build up, it could end up harming the varnish (protective coating) on the violin when removed later.

### **CRACKS IN THE VIOLIN/VIOLA**

Cracks are common to all wood instruments. Wood is a product of nature. Any piece of wood may crack or split under certain conditions. The actual cause of cracking generally is an uneven expansion of the wood, also other "unknown factors" which might cause cracking of the wood. As all of the sections are glued together, the glue may "dry out" causing either the top or bottom to separate from the body.

Just how much affect does cracking have upon the violin/viola? Too much emphasis has been placed upon the effects of cracking. Actually, after proper repairs by a skilled violin repairman, the instrument will be as good as new. Can you imagine one replacing the top or bottom section of a Stradivarius if it cracked? You can be sure the violinist in any symphony orchestra, owning older violins, have had them repaired many times.

### **PREVENTING TROUBLE**

**REMEMBER:** Always keep the violin or viola in the case when not in use. This protects the instrument from dust and damage from being accidently dropped. **NEVER** leave your violin or liola near a radiator, oven, or other heat conductor, or store it in a damp place.

If you have any problems concerning your instrument, see your music teacher, the music store representative, or have your parents contact the music store.