With proper care you can have many years of trouble free enjoyment from your instrument. You should perform maintenance on your instrument on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis. Some maintenance can be done by you and some left only to trained professionals. If you have any questions not covered here please ask your teacher. We hope the following tips will help you keep your instrument in top condition.

Daily Care
1. Always keep your instrument in its case or bag when not in use.

2. It is always best to set your cello or bass on its side when you are not playing. If your instrument falls over it may break the bridge or the neck. Be Careful!

3. Avoid rapid temperature changes. If you bring your cello or bass from a cold area into a warm area leave it in its case, to change temperature slowly, because cracking of the finish or wood can occur. A good rule-of-thumb is not to leave your instrument any place that you would not like to be. So don't leave it in extreme hot or cold environments.

4. After you are finished playing remove any rosin and hand oils from the instrument with a soft cloth. Don't let rosin buildup on your instrument. Remove it after each time you play. It is very difficult to remove if left on your instrument for any length of time.

5. Keep an eye on the bridge. As you tune the instrument the strings tend to pull the top of the bridge toward the fingerboard. If the bridge tips too much it may fall over. This can break the bridge or even crack the top. If the bridge falls the soundpost inside the instrument may also fall over. The back side of the bridge (side toward the tailpiece) should be at a right angle to the top and the feet of the bridge should touch the top uniformly. If your bridge tilts take your cello or bass to a shop and have them straighten it. Unless it is done correctly you could break the bridge.

6. Be sure that your pegs turn freely with minimum pressure toward the peg box. Over time the pegs will go out of round and start to slip. If this happens they will need to be refitted for proper operation. During dry conditions they may shrink, causing slipping. In humid conditions
they may swell causing them to stick. Never force a peg into the peg box if it slips and if it is stuck don’t force it either. You could break the peg or the peg box under these conditions. Take your instrument to a repair shop and have them correct the problem. Basses and some cellos have mechanical tuners and a drop of light machine oil should be applied to all bearing surfaces about every 6 months.

**Bow Care**
- Be careful not to bang the head or drop the bow as this can break the head.
- Keep the bow away from extreme heat. This can warp the bow.
- Always loosen the hair when you are not using the bow. Over time this can warp the bow and stretch the hair.
- Keep the bow stick clean by wiping off excess rosin and any perspiration after each use.

*If you are unsure about anything, ask your teacher.*