

## String Instruments

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| String instruments make music with their strings. Musicians               | 8   |
| usually play a string instrument with a bow. A bow is a wand of           | 22  |
| wood with horsehair stretched from end to end. When a musician            | 33  |
| draws the bow on the strings, the strings vibrate and produce sound.      | 45  |
| The sound echoes inside the body, or wooden part of the instrument.       | 57  |
| There are four instruments that make up the string section of an          | 69  |
| orchestra. They are the violin, viola, cello and bass. The viola, the     | 81  |
| violin, cello, and bass all have the same basic shape. They are very      | 94  |
| different in size, though. The violin is the smallest. Its body is about  | 107 |
| 14 inches long. The bass is the largest. Its total height is about 6 feet | 122 |
| tall!   | 123 |
| In an orchestra, the violins often play the most notes of all the         | 136 |
| types of string instruments. The violin usually plays the melody of a     | 148 |
| song.   | 149 |
| The sounds produced by the viola are deeper than those of                 | 160 |
| the violin. In an orchestra, the viola usually plays the harmony.         | 171 |
| The cello is larger than the viola. A musician plays the                  | 182 |
| cello almost always while sitting on a stool or a chair.                  | 193 |
| In order to play the bass, a musician either sits on a very high          | 207 |
| stool or stands to play the instrument. Its sound is one of the lowest    | 221 |
| out of all of the instrumental voices of an orchestra.                    | 231 |