

String Instruments

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