

Cello

The Basics

- Strings: (high) A, D, G, C (low)
- Main accessory: Rock stop (strap recommended)
- Bow: Shorter and thicker than violin or viola with curved corner on the frog

Posture & Positioning Checkpoints

- Seated in a balanced posture
- Shoulders down, arms held out from body ("like low-key airing out your armpits")
- Neck on left side of head
- C-peg near left ear, space for thumb between instrument neck & musician's shoulder
- Lower left back corner of C-bout into side of left knee, right knee free if desired
- Arms should be able to easily hug cello & hands reach bridge

Left Hand Checkpoints

- Fingers curved to play on finger tips -- nails must be kept short enough to properly play on tips of fingers
- Hand shaped like a "C" -- like holding a soda can
- Thumb aligned between 1st and 2nd finger... travels with 2nd finger on extensions

Right Hand Checkpoints

Pizzicato

- Thumb on side of fingerboard (not under), halfway between shouder & end of fingerboard
- Fingers curled in
- Pluck with tip of index finger (not nail) -- pluck away from where the bow will be... about 4 inches from the end of the fingerboard is good.
- Tilt top of hand slightly back to face ceiling, fingers pointed toward end of fingerboard

Bow

- Curved thumb, inside corner of thumbnail touches inside corner of the bow where frog meets stick.
- Fingers draped comfortably over stick, stick touches at "knocking knuckles" on first 3 fingers
- Pinky also draped over stick

