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The Haunting Of The Violin

By Rudolph Jones

The sad and haunting melodies of a violinist are never forgotten. They remain with you always

coming back again and again. The true charm of music lies in how it can affect you and your emotions. I believe that violin has the power of captivation. It is not only sad but uplifting also. The true instrument of love and emotion, the violin truly is a wonder among all the musical instruments.

A good violin is made up of a spruce top, maple ribs and back. Two end blocks, bridge, sound post and 4 strings are other key requirements for a violin. Various other fittings can be attached and an optional chin rest.

What distinguishes a violin body is its "hourglass" shape and the arching of its top and back. The hourglass shape comprises an upper bout, a lower bout, and two concave C-bouts at the "waist," providing clearance for the bow.

The voice of the violin is solely dependent on its wood and varnish. It is also some what controlled by the graduation and thickness that of the body. As the varnish and wood improve by age, old violins are continuously sort after in the market today.

Earlier, violin strings were made of sheep gut stretched. Today however, they are made up of solid steel or stranded steel. When and how to change strings is often advised by the teacher depending how hard you play. Violinists often carry spare supply of strings in case any one string does not play true.

Violin comes in different sizes. Smaller ones are usually preferred for children learning the instrument at the beginning.

Teachers determine what size is best. A true large size violin can be of 14 inches long.

How are they tuned? Tuning is a very important issue for many instruments. The violin can be tuned by turning the pegs or fine tuners on the tail piece. These fine tuners allow for slight adjustments to the tensions of the strings.

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So, how is it played? Tuning and everything is fine but how do you produce that melody? A violin is usually played using a bow consisting of a stick with a ribbon of horsehair strung between the tip and frog (or nut, or heel) at opposite ends. A typical violin bow may be 29 inches. Usually, the hair of a violin bow is got from the tail of a mail horse. Though some cheaper violins have this made up of plastics or synthetics. There is also a leather grip at one end with winding to protect the stick and provide thumb rest for the player. The winding can be made up of whale bone but today it is manufactured of fiber glass.

The violin is an instrument you can never forget. The tunes are replayed in your memory even after the instrument has stopped. It is as if the instrument can talk and has spoken words of wisdom. If there is any instrument that can reproduce the words of the heart, it is the violin.

Rudolph Jones is the editor of *Orchestral Supply*. A Meeting place for music enthusiasts, offering orchestral resources, supplies and a shopping guide.

<http://www.orchestralsupply.info>

Cellos And Violins: Musical Boom

By Stefan Rockhaus

Cellos and violins have always been an integral part of music. But the cello is comparatively more popular, due to its various capabilities; i.e. as a solo instrument, in chamber music and a base of today's orchestral sound. The word 'cello' has been derived from the Italian word 'Violoncello', which means 'little violone'. It is the more advanced form of violin.

The violin is one of the first stringed instruments that was invented in the fifteenth century, and started to become popular in the middle of the eighteenth century. It has its own significance in music. It has the ability to attract anyone through its magical and melodious sound. It is capable of touching the heart.

The cello has its own unique shape, which is broad at the top and middle, with narrow sides and bottom. A violin is made up using spruce wood for the top, and maple for the ribs and back. A good violin consists of a bridge, sound post, four strings and two end blocks. The body structure of a violin is in the shape of an hourglass, consisting of two C-bouts, a higher bout and lesser bout. Earlier violin strings were made up of nylon/gut or metal, but solid steel has taken the place of the nylon or gut.

A cello is adjusted by four strings, which are attached to different pitches. It is a complex instrument, which is made with the combination of different materials such as metal, rubber, steel and wood. However most of its body is made up of wood.

The sound of a violin depends on its wood and varnish. New improved violins are better than old violins. A cello creates rich alto sound that suits to special occasions.

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Both violin and cello musical instruments come in many varieties and sizes. Beginners can start with the small sized violin or cello.

To produce the melodious sound, a violin is played with a stick in which horsehair is strung between the tip and heel at opposite ends. As far as playing a cello is concerned, it is not an easy instrument to play. It requires patience and lots of daily practice to hear its boom sounds.

It can be said that violin and cello both have their own individual significance in offering melodious sound to the listeners. One can not forget these melodious sounds, which seem to touch emotions. While the violin has its long history, the cello came into existence later on, but it is also a member of the violin family. Both are capable of producing melodious and musical sound that can appeal to anyone.

Stefan Rockhaus is a contributing author for

<http://www.mega-info-spot.info>

– For more information on

these instruments visit

<http://www.cellos-guide.info>

and

<http://www.violins-guide.info>

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