

Emergency Instrumental/Vocal Provision Guidance for Parents

Tuning a Viola

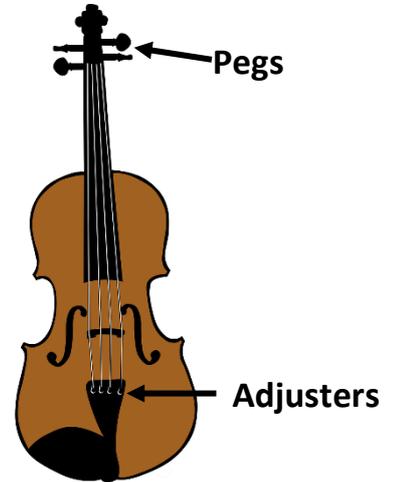
Getting Started

When playing a viola, it is important to keep the instrument in tune. Doing so, will ensure that the instrument will sound as it should, when it is being played. Whilst learning to play the viola this is regularly supported by your child's viola teacher in lessons.

To do this at home, whilst your child is receiving online lessons, using a tuner app is the easiest and most accurate way to tune your viola. There are several free apps that can be found on the internet and this guidance has used *Simply Tuner* (please see app icon below)



In the top right is a picture of a viola, showing the different parts of the instrument, which together with the following guidance on how to ensure the viola is kept in tune.



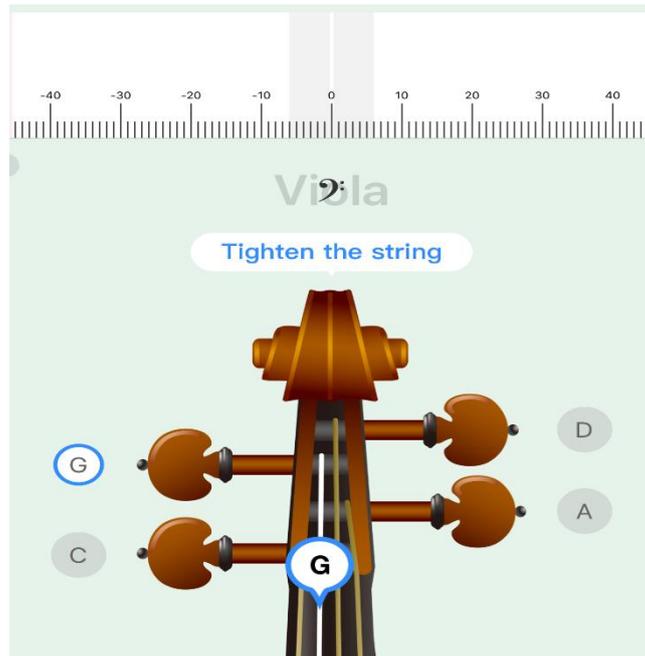
One of the main reasons violas become out of tune, is because they may have been knocked. Being careful with the viola between lessons will ensure that tuning is maintained.

How to Tune the Viola using Simply Tuner

The viola has four strings (A D G C) and you need to ensure that each one is in tune. You will need to do 1 string at a time, and it is advised that you pluck the string, instead of using the bow. When using *Simply Tuner* (see image below) you must ensure that you have selected the correct instrument, which should be found on the top left.

If *Simply Tuner* struggles to pick up the sound from the viola, then you can press the note button to the side of the pegs on the app. This then plays the note, meaning you can listen to hear whether the notes are close to being in tune.

You will notice along the top of the app that there is a measure to indicate the levels of tuning. You should be able to use the adjusters to get a string in tune, even if it is at -40 or 40.



Using the Adjusters

When you pluck one of the 4 strings *Simply Tuner* informs you whether a string is sharp or flat. It will also tell you to loosen or tighten it. You should be aiming for *Simply Tuner* to show green when the string is in tune. Please use the adjusters at the bottom of the strings to tune each string a little at a time. Ensure that you have the viola strings facing towards you. Turning the adjuster to the right will make the pitch higher (sharper), because it tightens the string. Turning the adjuster to the left will lower (flatten) the pitch because it loosens the string.

If one of the strings on the viola is a long way out of tune, you might need to adjust the pegs at the top of the viola. **This is a last resort, as the pegs are more difficult to use and can quite often be stiff to move** and you should always try and use the adjusters first. However, if the adjusters have reached the end of their adjustment, pegs may need to be used.

Using the Pegs

Please be careful when turning the pegs and follow the important 2 guidelines:

1. Push in the peg as you are turning it to avoid it slipping and completely unravelling.
2. Push and turn it very slowly and carefully, as quick sudden movements can break the string.

Again, ensure that you have the viola strings facing towards you. Turning the peg towards you will make the pitch lower (flatten), because it loosens the string. Turning the peg towards you will make the pitch higher (sharpen) because it tightens the string.

If you must move the pegs, you will then probably need to use the adjusters again, to fine tune the viola.

If you are experiencing any problems tuning the viola between lessons, please feel free to email your teacher.