

A MUSIC LESSON FOR FOURTH GRADERS

HAVE you ever seen anyone play a violin? What did the player have in his right hand when he played? He had a bow. He held the violin up to his chin and drew the bow across the four strings.

There is another instrument which looks like a violin. It is called a viola.* It is a little larger than a violin. The player holds the viola up to his chin and draws the bow across the four strings just as the violin player does.

Another instrument with four strings is the 'cello.* It is much larger than a violin. The player sits on a chair and places the 'cello on the floor between his knees. Then he draws the bow across the four strings.

The largest instrument of this family is double-bass. It is taller than a man. The player stands up beside the doublebass, and draws the bow across the four strings.

In the picture on this page you can see which is the smallest and which is the largest of these instruments.

* Viola is pronounced vee-o-la and 'cello is pronounced chel-o.

These instruments are called string instruments, because all of them have strings on them. They are very important instruments, especially when they are used in the orchestra.

The most important one is the violin. It can play very beautiful music.

The 'cello is also a very good instrument. Sometimes it has a deep bass voice. It can play very beautiful music also.

The double-bass is the grandfather of them all. It cannot play a tune as easily as the violin, because it is so big and clumsy. It has a very deep bass voice.

Sometimes four musicians play at the same time on four string instruments. That is called a string quartet. In a string quartet there

are two violins, a viola, and a 'cello.

You will be interested in a few facts about these instruments. The older they are, the better tone they produce. They are among the most costly instruments in the world. For instance, the violin that Ernesto Vallejo, the foremost Filipino violinist, uses in concerts cost ₱20,000.

Violin Viola 'Cello Double-bass



Which is the smallest and which is the largest?