

Elementary Strings

Instrument Tuning Guidelines and Resources

In order to maximize online class time, it is necessary for the parent/guardian to tune the student's instrument before each class/lesson begins. *Tuning a violin, viola, or cello is easy to do with the help of a chromatic tuner, but it is important to follow guidelines in order to not break strings or damage the instrument.*

- Violins, Violas, and Cellos have Tuning Pegs and Fine Tuners. The Tuning Pegs are the black pegs at the top of instrument and the Fine Tuners are small “screws” at the bottom of the strings on the tailpiece. Tuning Pegs are used to make big adjustments to the pitch/tension of the string. Fine Tuners can make small adjustments to the pitch of the string and are easier to use. ***If possible, only use the Fine Tuners to tune the instrument!***
- When using the **Fine Tuners** to adjust the pitch of the string, use “righty-tighty” (clockwise) to make the string higher in pitch and “lefty-loosey” (counter-clockwise) to make the string lower in pitch.
- **Although the Pegs may look similar to guitar tuners, they do not work the same way. Pegs only require a tiny adjustment to change the pitch of the string.**
- If you have to use the Pegs to tune, hold the peg firmly and apply strong steady pressure towards the pegbox. Then, make the *tiniest* turn up (to go higher) or down (to go lower).
 - *If you do not apply steady, strong pressure into the pegbox, the peg will “pop” out and the string will fully unwind.*
 - *If you turn the peg too much, the string may break. Windsmith Music replaces strings for free (included in the rental cost), but if you are repeatedly breaking strings they may start charging! 😊*

Using a Chromatic Tuner

Violin strings, from lowest to highest, are **G D A E**.

Viola and cello strings, from lowest to highest, are **C G D A**.

Turn on your chromatic tuner. Pluck or bow one string, with instrument close to the tuner's microphone. Adjust the fine tuner (or peg, if necessary) until the tuner shows Green for that string/pitch.

Chromatic Tuner options:

- **Website:** <https://tuner.ninja/> (free and easy chromatic tuner online)
- **iOS Apps:**
 - [insTuner](#) (free – great for anyone with experience tuning an instrument)
 - [Violin Multi-Tuner](#) (\$1.99 – if you haven't tuned a guitar or string instrument before, this shows the violin, viola, or cello strings so you use the visual/audio to help tune the strings)
- **Android Apps:**
 - [Tuner – gStrings](#) (free — allows you to select an instrument, works great!)
 - [ClearTune](#) (\$3.99 – highly reviewed as one of the best tuning apps)

Contact [Nancy Rohn Violin Shop](#) or [Windsmith Music](#) for tuning, string repair, and finger tape needs otherwise.