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[Interview with Silvian Iticovici, SLSO Violinist](#) [Violin Demonstration](#)

The violin is a string instrument that produces sound when its strings vibrate. String instruments are made of wood, and the strings can be made from many kinds of materials, like metal or nylon.

You can make the string vibrate either by plucking it with your finger, or by pulling a bow, made of wood and hair from a horse's tail, across the string. When the string vibrates, the body of the violin amplifies (makes it louder) and projects (sends it out through the air) the sound you hear. When a musician places their finger down on a string, it shortens the length of the string that can vibrate, making a higher sound. Other string instruments are the viola, cello, and double bass.

Rubber Band Violin

Try this:

- Wrap a rubber band around a container with a flat side (like a cereal box or a shoe box). The rubber band should be tight around the box, with just a little bit of slack.
- Place a pencil under the rubber band at one end of the box. Pluck the “string” to hear how it sounds.
- Pick a point on the string and press your finger down on it. With your other hand, pluck the part of the string between the marker and your finger. Does it sound different?

Experiment with pressing your finger down in different places. How does the sound change? Can you add another rubber band and play more than one note at once?

Listen to Your Body

Silvian shows us how to hold the violin and bow. Do you think it looks comfortable or uncomfortable? Silvian says that if he doesn't “do things right” or does them for “too long,” he can get uncomfortable. Have you ever gotten uncomfortable doing something for too long? What do you notice when your body feels uncomfortable? What is your body telling you? Do you listen to it?

Finding Inspiration

There are many people who inspire Silvian in his musical pursuits. They include the conductors he plays with, other violinists, and his former teachers. Who inspires you? Why do you find them inspirational? Could you inspire someone someday?

