

LARSEN STRINGS *for Cello*

Cello String Cleaning with Larsen Strings

We recommend that our cello strings are cleaned regularly to maintain the clarity of the sound. How often? Experience suggests that this should be around every couple of months but your ears will be the best guide. If your strings have started to sound tired with a loss of overtones then this is the time for a string clean refresh.

You will need some microfibre or cotton cloths and isopropyl alcohol as a cleaning agent. Isopropyl alcohol is widely available but should be used sparingly with particular attention paid to avoiding contact with the instrument's varnish.

Our Recommended Procedure

The optimum way to refresh the C, G and D strings is to remove them from the cello individually, one at a time. Because of the flexible design of the strings, when stretched at tension, the layer windings open so when being played sweat, sebum, dried skin (nice!) and rosin accumulate in these fine openings. Unmounting the C, G and D will cause this residue to be pushed out by the compression of the de-tensioned string and will prepare the string ready for a refresh.

Cello C, G and D

Loosen each of the three strings individually (not all at once!) clean as below and then bring each string back to tension before moving onto the next string.

Cello A

The A should be cleaned whilst still mounted at tension on the instrument. Hold the cello upside down and, ideally, have a buffer of an old t-shirt or towel to avoid any alcohol coming into accidental contact with the cello body.

Cleaning Process

- Remove C, G, and D one at a time.
- Add a small amount of isopropyl alcohol, no drips, to a clean microfibre cloth.
- Run along the length from peg to ball end at least three times and then finish off with a dry cloth.
- Subject to the amount of residue present you should switch to a clean area of cloth as required.
- Before remounting remember to grease the grooves of bridge and upper nut with a soft pencil.

When the process is complete, the strings will have regained much of their vibrance with significantly more overtones. A cleaner and fresher sound with the dulling tonal fatigue considerably improved.



It's all about the music