

Le Violon Dingue



Violon dingue

Here is the study guide that contains information, songs and games about the show and the history of the violin.

If you have some time to prepare the student, we suggest having them listen to the songs on page 3 and the mp3s in order to grasp the essentials.

For example: learning the chorus or the first verse and continue like this if it works fine.

For the ones who have more time, you can browse and play with the following materials.

- Association games on the different characters in the show.
- Word games
- The history of the violin
- The different parts of the violin.

Thank you and have a good show!

Violon Dingue

Rap Dingue

Get up in the morning, eat some toast and jam
Sometimes I'll have a muffin, or some eggs and ham
When I'm all done I sigh contentedly
While I play vibrato on a string called E.

Then I skip into the washroom dressing hurriedly
Floss my teeth and brush them vigorously
Look up at the clock, it's only seven o' three
So I pick up my instrument and I play with glee.

(chorus)

**It's a way of life, It's a way, It's a way
It's a way of life, It's a way, It's a way of life**

Now I have to go to work so I take the bus
Strut on like a peacock with my Stradivarius
Then the people step back when strings are freed
To make the bus echo like a symphony.

(chorus)

With boundless energy and virtuosity
Want to play this fiddle 'till eternity
When by ol' Paganini I feel antagonized
Like that cat Grappelli I improvise.

(chorus)

When I get home and am feeling tired
I take a hot bath so I can get unwired
I climb into my bed and yawn sleepily
Bowing in legato in this melody.

(chorus)

Now I dream of a violin concerto
composed by this guy called Tchaikovsky
Oh, made a mistake, must be concerti
So I'll be able to finish with Tchaikovsky.

Stuff Smith's blues

My name is Stuff Smith
And I play the blues all day long.
My name is Stuff Smith
And I play the blues all day long.

When I was just a baby
My Granpa said
Keep playing those blues without shame boy.

So I just kept on playing
Playing those blues
Paying my dues.

When I started to grow
I'd play in them shows
On the boats of the Mississippi
And the Ohio.

Joy to me it did bring
And made me rich a-a-a-a-as a king
Sure did right doing what my Granpa said!

Oh yeah!

Travailler c'est trop dur

Travailler c'est trop dur et voler c'est pas beau,
D'mander la charité, c'est quelque chose
ch'peux pas faire
Chaque jour que moi je vis, on m'demande de
quoi je vis,
J'dis que j'vis sur l'amour et j'espère des vivre
vieux.

Honest work is too hard and stealing is wrong,
charity I can't take, cause I'm just not that bold.
Every day that I'm alive, they ask me how I stay
alive.

Well just live on love and hope to live old.

GAMES

Use the pictures on page 4 to help you find the answers. Write the corresponding letter in the correct space.

Find the musicians originating from these parts of the world.

- Autstria []
- China []
- Louisiana []
- Turkey []
- Italy []
- India []
- Russia []
- Quebec []
- Scotland []
- Dominican Republic []

Find these musicians

- Mustapha Rachid []
- Anatol and Onézime []
- Gino Mandozimo []
- Ravi shimkar []
- Ling Luen Zim []
- Zachary's band []
- Alexei Halfadeck []
- Amadeus Zimart []
- Gaël "brave" Mczim []
- Tito Puentimo []

Find the musicians who play the following types of music.

- Scottish []
- Carabbean []
- Chinese []
- Cajun []
- Folklore québécois []
- Gypsy []
- Classical []
- turkish []
- Indian []
- Italian []

The names of all these people have been changed to protect their privacy.





Fig. 1

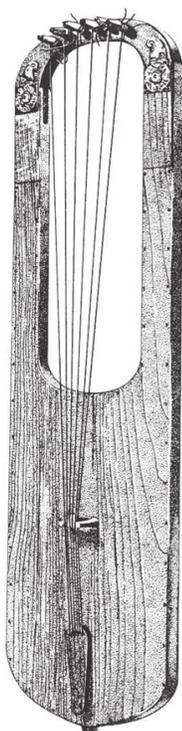


Fig. 2

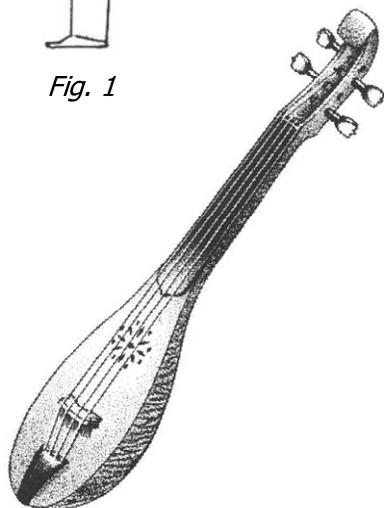


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Violin history

The violin first emerged in northern **Italy** in the early 16th century. While no instruments from the first decades of the century survive, there are several representations in paintings; some of the early instruments have only three strings. Most likely the first makers of violins borrowed from three different types of current instruments: the rebec, in use since the 10th century (itself derived from the **zither** fig: 1), the Renaissance fiddle, and the **lira** da braccio. The earliest explicit description of the instrument, including its tuning, was in the *Epitome musical* by Jambe de Fer, published in Lyons in 1556. By this time the violin had already begun to spread throughout Europe.

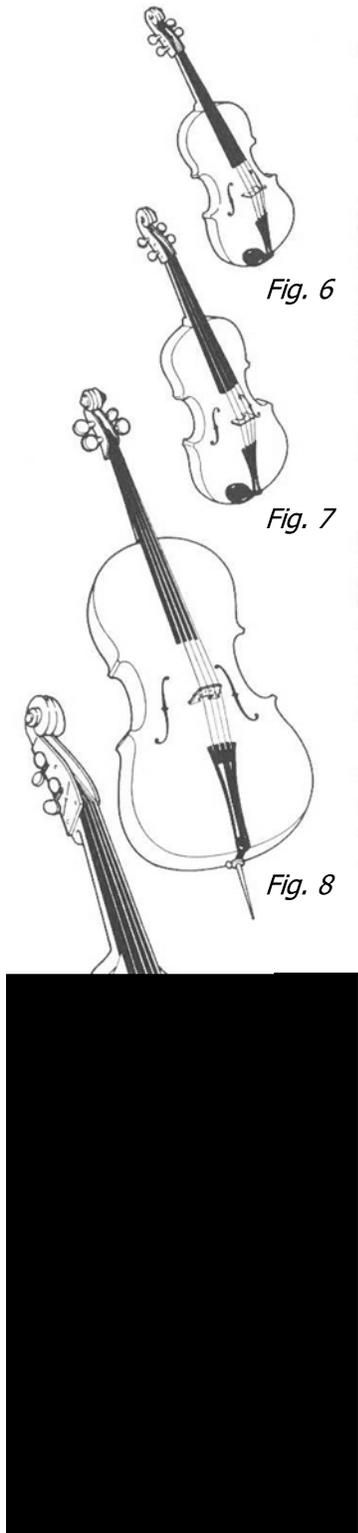
Here are what is considered to be the violin ancestors.

- **zither** (fig: 1)
- **Rotta** (fig 2)
- **Rebec** (fig 3)
- **Lira** (fig 4)
- **Viola** (fig 5)

The oldest surviving violin, dated inside, is the "Charles IX" by Andrea Amati, made in Cremona in 1564.

The most famous violin makers, called luthiers, in Cremona between the late 16th century and the 18th century included:

The Amati family, the Guarneri family and the Stradivari family, all of Italian violin makers.



TECHNIQUE

The bowed instruments **made by luthiers** , that are in used today in occidental classical music are :

- THE VIOLIN (*fig. 6*),
- THE VIOLA (*fig. 7*),
- THE CELLO (*fig. 8*),
- THE DOUBLE BASS (*fig. 9*).

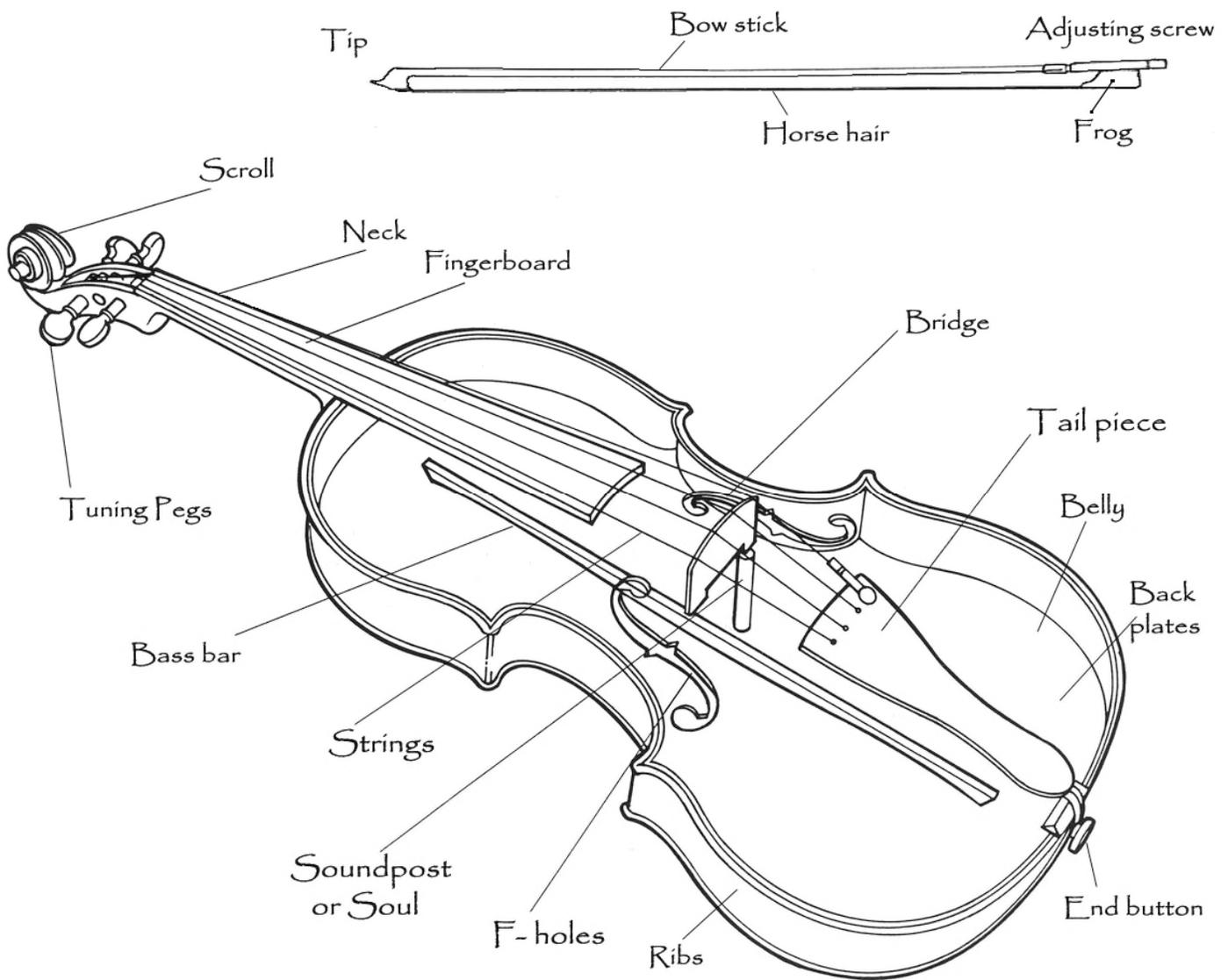
The tuning G-D-A-E is used for the great majority of all violin music. However, other tunings are occasionally employed (for example, tuning the G string up to A), both in classical music (where the technique is known as *scordatura*) and in some folk styles.

Playing the violin

The violin is played by using the right hand to draw the bow at right angles across one of the strings, near the bridge, causing the string to vibrate. Pitch is controlled by selecting the string that the bow contacts (by altering the vertical angle of the bow), and by regulating the sounding length of that string by pressing it down onto the fingerboard with one of the fingers of the left



Fig. 10



hand. (fig: 10)

The **violin** is a carefully made hollow **wooden box**, with a **neck** protruding from the top, and an internal **sound post** connecting the front (belly) and the back. The sides of the violin, curiously, are called **ribs**. The **belly** is reinforced by an internal **bass bar**, which runs vertically through the instrument underneath the lowest string. The inlaid outline of dark wood which follows the outer edge of the surface of the belly and back of the violin is called the purfling. The purfling keeps the wood from splitting along the edges.

The **four strings** run from a **tailpiece** attached to the base of the violin, across an intricately carved **wooden bridge**, then upward just above the **fingerboard**. At the top end of the fingerboard, the strings cross the nut, a very small second bridge, mounted just slightly above the fingerboard.

They then enter the **pegbox**, where they are wound around their **tuning pegs**, which are mounted sideways through tightly fitting holes in the pegbox. The tip of the pegbox is ornamented with a carved wooden **scroll**.

Strings were originally made of **gut**. Such strings are still often used in historically accurate performances of music from the 18th century and earlier. However, they have a tendency to go out of tune and snap more easily than modern strings, which are made from metal.

Modern **bows**, are usually made of **Pernambuco wood** from Brazil and are strung with **horse-hair**. Rosin, which is sticky and made from tree sap, is regularly applied to the bow hair so that the bow moving across the instrument's strings will cause the string to vibrate and produce a tone.

GAMES

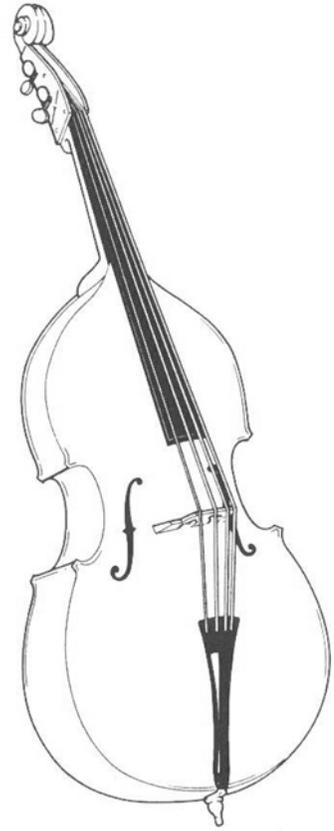
1. Match the word the correct image

VIOLA

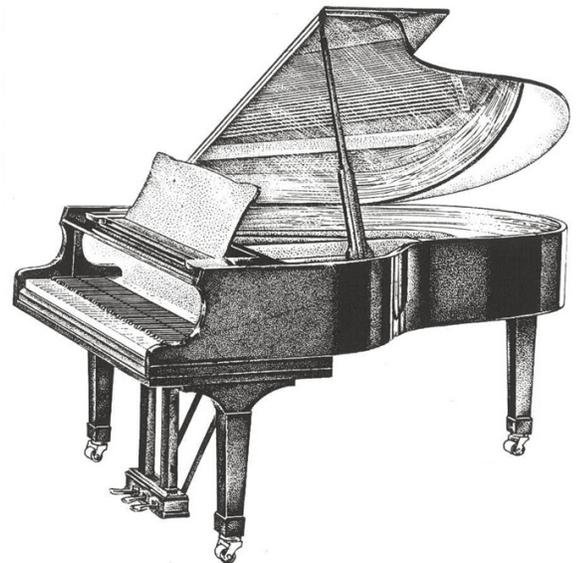
DOUBLEBASS

VIOLIN

CELLO



2. Color only the bowed instrument.



MORE GAMES + ANSWERS

1-Create an original text using the following words:

Shoulder, violin, strings,violin maker, concert, Italy.

2-Using a dictionary, define:

Bow, Soloist, polyphonic, proliferation, facture

3-Complete these phrases :

- The violin is made of _____
- The _____ is one of the violin ancestor.
- The violin was born in _____
- The _____ always accompany the violin.
- The strings were originally made of _____

4-Fill in the blanks :

- The standard tuning sequence of a violin is _____
- Three great families of violin makers.

- Five parts of the violin that contains the letter A

5-True or false :

- The violin is unbreakable. _____
- Stradivarius was the name of a roman emperor _____
- Luthiers make cellos. _____
- The bow is made of wood and horsehair. _____
- The violin has $2 \times 16 - 2 \div 10 + 1$ strings. _____
- The violin is a plucked string instrument _____
- The strings names on the violin are : Edward, Anna Debby, Gillys. _____

ANSWERS FOR PAGE 4

[F] Tito Puentimo
[E] Gaël "brave" Mczim
[J] Amadeus Zimart
[C] Alexei Halfadeck
[I] Zachary's band
[G] Ling Luen Zim
[H] Ravi shimkar
[B] Gino Mandozimo
[A] Anatol and Onézime
[D] Mustapha Rachid
Find these musicians.

[B] Italian
[H] Classical Indian
[D] Turkish
[J] Classical
[C] Gipsy
[A] Québécois folk
Traditional
Cajun,
[I] Chinese
[G] Afro-cuban
[F] Scottish
[E]

Find the musicians who play the following types of music.

[F] Cuba
[E] Scotland
[A] Quebec
[C] Russia Gypsy
[H] India
[B] Italy
[D] Turkey
[I] Louisiana
[G] China
[J] Austria

Find the musicians originating from these parts of the world.