



Watch the following videos:

[Interview with David Kim, SLSO Cellist](#) [Cello Demonstration](#)

The cello 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.

The musician makes the string vibrate either by plucking it with their 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 cello 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 violin, viola, and double bass.

Vibrating the Air

David says that music comes from vibrations in the air. Sometimes you can see these vibrations in motion. Try this:

- Stretch a rubber band across the open top of an empty container, like a plastic food container or plastic bowl.
- Pluck the rubber band with your finger. Do you hear a note? Can you feel and see the vibration?
- Now try different rubber bands. Does it make a difference if the rubber band is thick or thin? Long or short? Try using the same rubber band on a smaller or bigger container. Does that make a different sound?

Always Try

David says that it's good to "always try to improve yourself as a person, because if you can do that your music will improve as well." What does he mean when he says, "improve as a person?" How can you improve yourself as a person? Maybe you can improve yourself as a person by saying thank you, listening closely to others, or spending time helping those in need. How does becoming a better person make you a better musician?

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

Music can be played just about anywhere. David would love to perform at Busch Stadium. Where would you like to perform? Why? Draw a picture of yourself performing there or write a short story about what it would be like.

