



# HELLO CELLO

## WHAT'S THAT, LASSIE? TIMMY'S CELLO IS TOO DRY?!

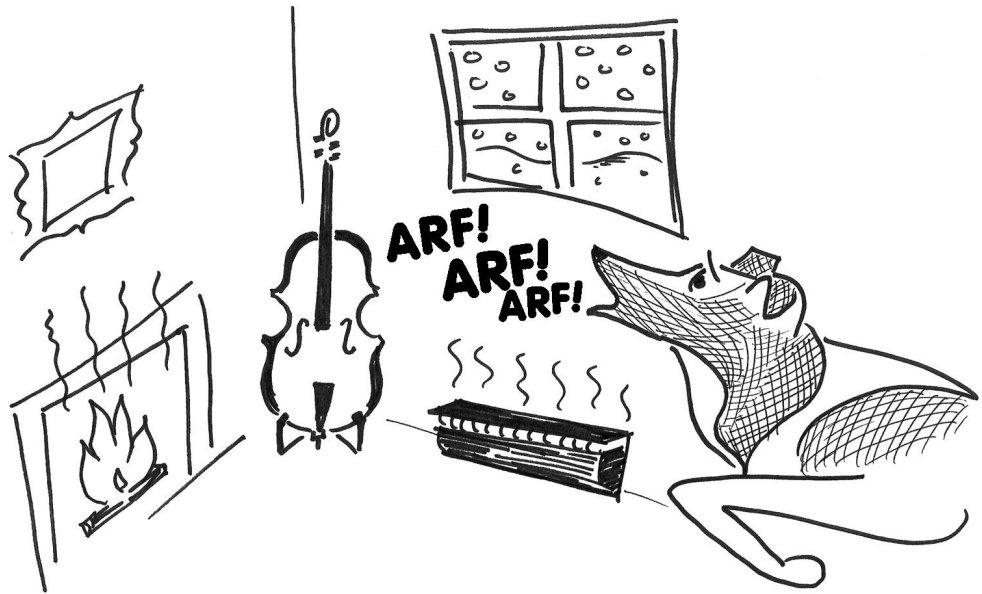
Brrr! November in Northern Ontario is sure to bring the chill of winter, and I'm sure we're all starting to turn up the heat! Now is the time to start being extra careful with your instruments.

In the harsh Canadian winter, not only do our instruments have to deal with drier environments, they also have to deal with the change of temperature every time we take our instrument out of the home.

Wood absorbs moisture and loses moisture, just like our own skin! Many things can happen to a dry cello; the glue can dry out and open a seam, or worse, the wood itself can crack. Even if no visible damage, like open seams or cracks, have developed, the instrument can still be suffering. Dried out wood loses its elasticity and does not vibrate in the same way. Wood can warp and deform as well.

Here are a few tips to keep your instrument safe this winter:

- Humidify your home.  
and/or
- Use a "Damp-it", or other humidifying device.
- Check the humidity often. Ideal humidity is between 40-60%.
- Do not leave your instrument close to heat sources or cold drafts.
- If possible, avoid having your cello in the cold for any extended period.
- Do not leave your cello outside in the car. Bring it in with you! (I always bring my cello into restaurants, stores, etc!)



To learn more about humidity and how it can affect musical instruments, check out:

<http://www.angelfire.com/pa2/STONEMANGUITARS/humidity.html>

The website discusses guitars, but the same principles apply to all string instruments.

Or info on instrument care: <http://www.lutherie.net/care.html>

## NOVEMBER PRACTICE TIPS

**Be consistent** – Practicing every day is infinitely better than trying to cram a week's worth of practice into one day! Make your practice time part of your daily routine.

**Take your time** – Play as slowly as you need to in order to play accurately and in a relaxed manner. When you rush, your body (and brain!) become tense. Tension is every musician's enemy; do your best to form good habits.

**Practice makes permanent** – The old adage that "practice makes perfect" is only half true. If you play it perfectly

over and over, then perfection will be permanent. If you practice the same mistakes over and over, then the mistakes will become permanent! Be smart about your practicing. Do not "play it until you get it right", instead, "play it until you cannot possibly get it wrong".

**Make MUSIC** – Music is not just about the notes; it is about communicating something beyond the notes. Make sure your practicing includes all the nuances, dynamics, and inspiration that brings your music to life!

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### LAUNCHING NEW WEBSITE!

[www.alexandraleec.ca](http://www.alexandraleec.ca)

Includes photos and blog!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Nov 12—5-Penny New Music 8pm, St. Peter’s United Church**  
www.5pennynewmusic.com
- **Nov 18—SBSQ plays Soup’s On 12pm, Church of the Epiphany**  
FREE with Soup’s On ticket. \$20—includes one-of-a-kind pottery bowl, and unlimited soup lunch!
- **Nov 20—12pm—Cello Café**  
Location: Fromagerie Elgin!
- **Nov 26— Silver Birch Concerts! 8pm, St. Peter’s United Church**  
SBSQ welcomes accordion virtuoso Joseph Petric! Check it out:  
[www.silverbirchconcerts.com](http://www.silverbirchconcerts.com)

Mark Your Calendars:

Kiwanis (March 23—April 4, 2012)  
-Registration deadline: **Dec 15, 2011**

December Cello Café:  
Sun Dec 4, 12pm - Location: Fromagerie

December Cello Recital:  
Friday December 16—details TBA

RCM Exams:

Registration deadline: March 6, 2012,  
Theory Exams: May 11-12,  
Practical Exams June 11-30

NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 5-Penny New Music Concert
13	14	15	16	17	18 Soup’s On	19
20 Cello Café at Fromagerie	21	22	23	24	25	26 Silver Birch Concert!
27	28	29	30			

“WITHOUT MUSIC, LIFE WOULD BE A MISTAKE.”

- Friedrich Nietzsche



OCTOBER CELLO CAFÉ

The October Cello Café was great fun. The playing started out with Rebecca Salazar, playing the famous “Minuet” by Boccherini. Next Diane Labelle joined me in a lovely duet by Dotzauer. Then David DeLong joined us for a bit of jamming’ - sight-reading cello quartets. Jack Derrenbacker arrived and played “Bagpipe Song” - imitating the sound of the bagpipes by playing an entire piece of double-stops! As usual, there was chatting and munching on goodies. Big thanks to Bob for taking this great picture!

A. Lee HELLO CELLO!

