The viola is in the **string** family, meaning it produces sound by plucking, strumming, or bowing the strings! For the viola, players will most commonly pluck or bow. The plucking of strings is called **pizzicato**.

The viola is considered an **alto** instrument, which means its sound is slightly lower than its soprano cousin, the **violin**. The **pitch** of the viola is lower than the violin because the viola is larger. The viola’s strings from low to high are C G D A and cover a four octave range!

**SEE** our CSO Viola Section

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**Popular Players through history:**

- W. A. Mozart
- J. S. Bach
- Leroy Jenkins
- Tabea Zimmerman
- Niccolò Paganini