

## Cello, String Instrument

The four major instruments in the **string family**, the violin, the viola, the cello and the double bass, are built the same way. The instruments are made of many pieces of wood which are glued - never nailed - together. The body of the instrument is hollow, thus becoming a resonating box for the sound. Four strings (sometimes five on the double-bass) made of animal gut, nylon, or steel are wrapped around pegs at one end of the instrument and attached to a tailpiece at the other. They are stretched tightly across a bridge to produce their assigned pitches.

The violoncello or **cello** is the tenor voice in the string family. While shaped like a violin, the cello is much larger and is held between the player's knees. Because it can produce beautiful sounds from its lowest to its highest notes, it is a popular instrument. Cello players are called **cellists**.

