

The violin, also known as a fiddle, is a string instrument, usually with four strings tuned in perfect fifths. It is the smallest, highest pitched member of the violon family of string instruments, which also includes the viola, cello and doublebass. Someone who plays the violin is called a violonist or a fiddler. The violonist produces sound by drawing a bow across one or more strings (which may be stopped by the fingers of the other hand to produce a full range of pitches), by plucking the strings (with either hand), or by a variety of other techniques. The violin is played by musicians in a wide variety of musical genres, including Baroque music, classical, jazz, folk music, rock and roll, and soft rock. The violin has come to be played in many non-Western music cultures all over the world. The word violin comes from the Medieval Latin word *vitula*, meaning stringed instrument; this word is also believed to be the source of the Germanic fiddle.