

Know Your Bow

Bows for stringed instruments can contain wood, bone, shell, and leather that becomes controlled under protected species rules. Musicians are taking action to learn more about the wood most commonly used in bows for stringed instruments. Pernambuco wood is used to make most advanced student and professional bows for stringed instruments. The Pernambuco tree (*Paubrasilia echinata*, also known as Brazil wood) grows only in Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest and its populations are threatened. While finished Pernambuco bows outside of Brazil can be traded and transported across the globe without special permits, bow makers and owners can **take the following actions to be informed and support the conservation effort:**

- Be informed about the species of wood and other material used in bows
- Document the basic facts about the Pernambuco wood used in your bows as explained in the *Know Your Bow guide*
- Support organizations that are working to conserve and regrow Pernambuco:
 - + International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species
 - + International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative

Know Your Bow Guide for Owners



<https://bit.ly/KYB-Owners>

Know Your Bow is a collaboration of: American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, Association of British Orchestras, American Federation of Violin and Bow Makers, The Independent Society of Musicians (ISM), International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species, International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative (IPCI France-Europe, IPCI-Germany, IPCI-USA), International Society of Violin and Bow Makers, International Federation of Musicians (FIM), La Chambre Syndicale de la Facture Instrumentale, League of American Orchestras, Musicians' Union (MU), National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM), Pearle* Live Performance Europe.

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Know Your Bow Guide for Makers



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