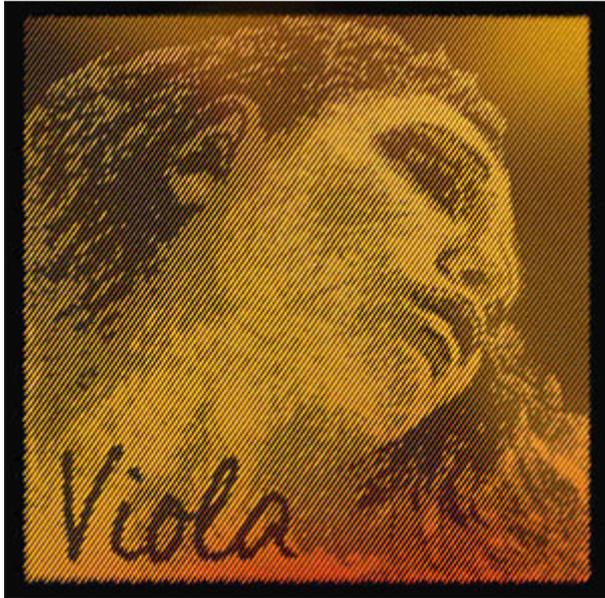


Evah Pirazzi Gold Raise the Bar for Viola Strings



Pirastro Evah Pirazzi Gold Viola Set

Reviewed by Kieran Welch – Violist.

Violinists have always been spoilt for choice when it comes to strings. Sadly, violists don't get nearly the same range. Most violists choose to play on synthetic core strings these days, as they offer a good compromise between the excellent tone of wound gut strings, and the stability and durability of steel core strings. And, when violists come to choose between high-level synthetic core strings, it generally comes down to a toss-up between Pirastro's bright, responsive Evah Pirazzi strings, or their warm Obligato strings.

So, what if you don't want to choose between warmth, or responsiveness and projection? Over the past couple of years, a number of string manufacturers have attempted to answer that question with a new generation of synthetic core strings for the violin. And now violists get a go too, as Pirastro have just released one of the most popular of these next-generation composite strings, Evah Pirazzi Gold for viola.

Since purchasing a new viola last year, I've tried most of the popular viola strings in an attempt to find the set that works best for my instrument. I loved the tone and response of the gut-core Passione strings, but found them to be too unstable tuning-wise. Obligato strings had warmth, but lacked quick response. Larsen strings had response but the slightly metallic tone did not suit my instrument at all, and normal Evah Pirazzis were too bright for my instrument. Hence I was very

excited to try out the Evah Pirazzi Gold strings when I heard they were being made for viola, as the combination of warmth, response and projection was exactly what I wanted. But do they live up to their claims?

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The first thing I noticed after putting the strings on my instrument was their power and projection—*no one will neglect to listen to a viola with these strings on.* I was also immediately impressed by the evenness across the strings. The steel ‘a’ has to be one of the nicest I’ve played, with a grand, full sound that transitions very smoothly from the ‘d’.

The strings definitely live up to Pirastro’s claims of very quick play-in time and high tuning stability. After less than two days the strings developed rock-solid tuning stability, which they still have a month down the track. Another thing that became apparent after a few days of playing in was the golden warmth of the strings, especially the ‘c’ and ‘g’. In that case, the strings definitely live up to their claim too, indeed the warmth may even be too much for some. However the strings still maintain a responsive clarity and projection that I couldn’t get from Obligato strings.

So, all in all, the Evah Pirazzi Gold strings for viola really are all they’re cracked up to be. Some may find the cost a bit steep, but in my opinion they’re more than worth it, as they give me everything I’ve been looking for in a string.