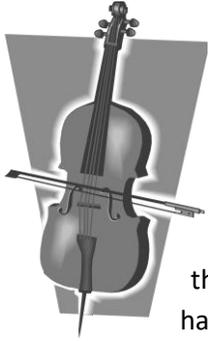




CELLO BEGINNINGS CLASSES AT MASON COMMUNITY ARTS ACADEMY!

Welcome to Cello Beginnings! We are so excited that you've chosen to begin your cello journey with us at Mason Community Arts Academy. So we can get started right away, ***please bring your child's cello with you to the first class!***



Cellos come in all different sizes, from a full-size (adult size) to a 1/10 size for the tiniest beginner. Having the right size cello is crucial for the development of cello technique. It's important to ***take your child to the cello shop with you*** so that they can measure your child and ensure the right size. Do not rent or purchase a cello without having it sized to your child!

We understand that families are looking for an affordable way for their child to explore cello, and therefore ***we recommend renting rather than purchasing an instrument***. Our recommended vendors all have affordable rental programs that will include basic maintenance of the instrument and allow you to earn rental credits to apply toward the next size of cello or toward the purchase of an instrument down the road. You should expect to pay \$20 - \$50 a month for a good rental cello.

Young cellists also need an adjustable chair or stool that will allow them to sit with their hipbone slightly higher than the knee. Ask about cello chairs for young students or adjustable drum stools when you rent your cello. *We will have extra plastic stools available for classroom use only, if needed.*

Cellists will also need a Cello Floor Endpin Stop or Rock Stop. Ask about it when you rent your cello or you can purchase it online.

DO NOT PURCHASE A CELLO FROM THE INTERNET!! It can be tempting to purchase an inexpensive cello from the internet, but these cellos are not good quality instruments and will end up costing you much more money in repairs to get them playable. A well-made cello in good repair will help your child create a beautiful sound and will be a wonderful companion on their musical journey. A badly made cello will go out of tune easily, be impossible to create a good tone on, and create a very frustrating experience for your child. In order for your child to have the best experience, we ask that you rent or purchase an appropriately sized cello from our trusted vendors.

RECOMMENDED VENDORS: The following are cello shops located in Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. area.

Fairfax Fine Violins	Day Violins	Brobst Violin Shop	Foxes Music Company	The Potter Violin Company
10782 Fairfax Blvd., Suite B Fairfax, VA 22030 703-457-1101 www.ffviolins.com	14221A Willard Rd #500 Chantilly, VA 20151 (703) 391-9444 www.dayviolins.com	5584 General Washington Dr Alexandria, VA 22312 (703) 256-0566 www.brobstviolins.com	416 South Washington Street Falls Church, VA 22046 (703) 533-7393 www.foxesmusic.com	7711 Eastern Ave Takoma Park, MD 20912 (301) 652-7070 www.pottersviolins.com

A word of warning: It can be very tempting for parents and children to open the cello case at home and try to play from the first day they get it. To ensure the development of excellent cello technique, we ask that you leave the case closed so that the first time they hold the instrument can be under professional guidance. Allowing them to play with it at home before classes begin is actually detrimental to the learning process.

If you have any questions/ concerns, please contact the Mason Community Arts Academy office at 703-993-9889.