



MASON COMMUNITY ARTS ACADEMY STRING INSTRUMENT RENTAL GUIDE

We are so excited that your family has chosen to begin your musical journey with our strings department at Mason Community Arts Academy. We know it can be confusing to navigate the world of string instruments. Please read the following guide to be sure that you have an excellent instrument, for the best experience possible in your class.

String instruments come in all different sizes, from a full-size (adult size) to a 1/32 size for the tiniest beginner. Having the right size instrument is crucial for the development of violin technique. It's important to **take your child to the string shop with you** so that they can measure your child and ensure the right size. Do not rent or purchase an instrument without having it sized to your child! We also encourage families to go to a dedicated string instrument shop rather than purchasing from a generic music store.

We understand that families are looking for an affordable way for their child to pursue their musical studies, 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 instrument or toward a purchase down the road. You should expect to pay \$15 - \$60 a month for a good quality instrument. (This depends on the size and quality of the instrument)

DO NOT PURCHASE AN INSTRUMENT FROM THE INTERNET!! It can be tempting to purchase an inexpensive instrument from the internet, but these tend to be low quality instruments and will end up costing you much more money in repairs to get them playable. A well-made instrument in good condition will help your child create a beautiful sound and will be a wonderful companion on their musical journey. In order for your child to have the best experience, we ask that you rent or purchase an appropriately sized instrument from our trusted vendors.

RECOMMENDED VENDORS:

Encore Strings, Herndon VA

www.encorestrings.com

Day Violins, Chantilly VA

www.dayviolins.com

Fairfax Fine Violins, Fairfax VA

www.ffviolins.com

Foxes Music Company, Falls Church VA

www.foxesmusic.com

A word of warning: It can be very tempting for parents and children to open the case at home and try to play from the first day they get it. To ensure the development of excellent technique, we ask that you leave the case closed so that the first time they hold the instrument can be under our guidance.

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