



VIOLA BEGINNINGS CLASSES AT MASON COMMUNITY ARTS ACADEMY!

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



Viola come in all different sizes. Having the right size viola is crucial for the development of viola technique. It's important to ***take your child to the viola shop with you*** so that they can measure your child and ensure the right size. Do not rent or purchase a viola without having it sized to your child!

We understand that families are looking for an affordable way for their child to explore viola, 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 viola or toward the purchase of an instrument down the road. You should expect to pay \$15 - \$40 a month for a good rental viola.

DO NOT PURCHASE A VIOLA FROM THE INTERNET!! It can be tempting to purchase an inexpensive viola from the internet, but these violas are not good quality instruments and will end up costing you much more money in repairs to get them playable. A well-made viola in good repair will help your child create a beautiful sound and will be a wonderful companion on their musical journey. A badly made viola 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 viola from our trusted vendors.

RECOMMENDED VENDORS: The following are instrument shops located near Mason Community Arts Academy.

Fairfax Fine Violins

10782 – B Fairfax Blvd.

Fairfax, VA 22030

(703) 256-0566

www.ffviolins.com

Brobst Violin Shop

5584 General Washington Drive

Alexandria, VA 22312

(703) 457 - 1101

www.brobstviolins.com

Foxes Music Company

416 South Washington Street

Falls Church, VA 22046

(703) 533-7393

www.foxesmusic.com

Potter's Violin Company

4706 Highland Ave

Bethesda, MD 20814

(800) 317-9452

pottersviolins.com

Day Violins

14221A Willard Rd #500,

Chantilly, VA 20151

703-391-9444

dayviolins.com

Gary Frisch Violins

3008 Westcott Street

Falls Church, VA 22042

(703) 533-5883

www.garyfrischviolins.com

A word of warning: It can be very tempting for parents and children to open the viola case at home and try to play from the first day they get it. To ensure the development of excellent viola 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 can actually be detrimental to the learning process.

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