

Instrument Information

When obtaining an instrument, there are a variety of options. This information will help you wade through most of them and decide what works best for you and your family.

Renting

Pro:

- Gives flexibility to change instruments the following year
- Allows the student to play on a high quality instrument
- Rental companies will sometimes repair their own instruments for free

Con:

- Likely to be more expensive if you plan on playing your instrument more than two or three years;
- Will need to rent a new one every fall, or at least, renew a rental agreement.

Buying

Pro:

- Some students/families prefer owning their own instrument;
- Can be cheaper than renting an instrument in the long term (i.e., if you play your instrument for more than two or three years, you can buy a used instrument for less)

Con:

- You must cover the cost of any repairs bill;
- Less flexibility on changing instruments later;
- Many low quality, inexpensive instruments are prone to break easily and can be difficult to repair (some shops will refuse to work on them).

Re-using

Pro & Con: Families will sometimes have an instrument available from an older sibling, or close relative, that has not been in use for some time. In rare cases, it is the same instrument that Mom or Dad played twenty years ago. These instruments can be a wonderful resource with a little care and maintenance. Don't overlook this option if it is available.

Tips on Buying:

1. We do not recommend buying instruments that can be ordered in non-standard colors, such as blue or red. Generally, these instruments are not considered to be high quality. Buying an instrument of lesser quality will result in more needed repairs. Often, music repair shops will not stock parts for these instruments. **We cannot emphasize enough the importance of playing on a recommended brand instrument.** Please see below for these recommendations.
2. Buying a used instrument of higher quality is preferable to buying a new instrument of lesser quality.
3. **We do not recommend ever buying an instrument at a "big box" store. We encourage all of our students and their families to secure an instrument with a retailer that works exclusively in instruments.** As we tell students, if the store also sells peanut butter, you should not buy an instrument there.
4. We have had many students that successfully found high-quality used instruments on Ebay. Your music teacher is more than happy to review an instrument you are considering. Please send him or her a link by email.

Some recommended brands:

Flute: Gemeinhardt, Armstrong, Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter

Bb Clarinet or Bass Clarinet: Buffet, LeBlanc, Yamaha, Jupiter

Saxophone: (alto or tenor) Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter, Yanagisawa

Bb Trumpet: Bach, Yamaha, Getzen, Blessing, Jupiter

Trombone: (tenor) Bach, Yamaha, Blessing, Getzen, Jupiter

Baritone (euphonium) or tuba: Jupiter, Yamaha, Amati

If you are unsure about which instrument to buy please contact your child's music teacher.

Pieter Voorhees: pvoorhees@schools.nyc.gov

James Trybendis: jtrybendis@schools.nyc.gov

Businesses to buy and rent instruments:

The following information is provided for your convenience. There is no obligation to use any of these companies.

Music and Arts (www.musicarts.com) They rent or sell instruments. They deliver instruments to school or your home, and will pick them up from school at the end of the year. NEST+m students have had good experiences with them, and they rent quality instruments. They are not the most inexpensive company, but they do good work.

Sam Ash Music (155 W. 48th Street, New York, NY (212) 398-6052 www.samashmusic.com) Many students buy instruments here, and a few have rented. This is a big company with a wide variety of brands and prices. There is also a Queens location.

Rayburn Music (44 W. 62nd Street, New York, NY (212)541-6236 www.rayburnmusic.com) This is another larger company in Manhattan who have sold and rented instruments to NEST+m students in the past. They are not the least expensive, but they have a solid reputation and long tradition.

Brooklyn Woodwind and Brass (6 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn NY (718) 874-3434) This store recently came on our radar, as a few students have gone here. They have had positive experiences. We cannot comment on prices because we have not worked directly with them yet.

Woodwind and Brasswind (www.wbw.com) This is one of the largest online instrument retailers for purchasing an instrument. There are often great deals available through their site. They sell both used and new instruments. They are also a great site to buy cases, reeds, and other instrument paraphernalia.

Universal Musical Instrument Company
732 Broadway, 2nd floor (near East 8th street)
New York, NY 10003
212-254-6917
No website

Music Delight
216 Foster Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11230
718- 972-8171
www.musicdelight.info

Catalano Music
1007 Jericho Tpke.
New Hyde Park, NY 11040
516-488-2522
www.catamusic.com

Ardsley Music
219 Sprain Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583
914-693-6639
www.ardsleymusic.com

Roberto's Winds
149 W. 46th Street
New York, NY 10036
212-391-1315
www.robertoswinds.com