

Oaklands School



Musical Instruments Information and Advice

September 2020

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Information Booklet

Pupils will need to be properly equipped with an instrument at the commencement of lessons. These may be hired or purchased. Some music shops operate a 'Hire to Buy' scheme. Pupils will also need to purchase tuition books.

Please find below, information and advice for each instrument.

BASS GUITAR Pupils need to be tall enough

Instrument Brands: Ashton Joeybass, Flea Bass, Squier Bronco Bass, Stagg Bass. Approximate price for a quality beginner guitar pack (includes guitar, small practice amp, lead, case) - £225.

Size A 30" scale is the best option for the younger pupil. There are very few really short scale basses, and they can be very expensive.

Book 'Bass 1 (Fast track music instruction)' by Blake Neely and Jeff Schroedl – book edition with CD (NOT DVD) or Songbook available from musicroom.com.

CLARINET Pupils must have front teeth

Instrument Bb clarinet should be purchased (not Ab) Approximate starting price £120.

Book 'Abracadabra for Clarinet' by Jonathan Rutland available from most music shops, or musicroom.com.

DOUBLE BASS Pupils need to be tall enough

Instrument It is recommended that this instrument be initially hired. Alternatively, pupils are permitted to practise on the school instrument.

Book 'Abracadabra for Double Bass' available from musicroom.com.

DRUM KIT

Instrument Initially, all that is required is a practice pad and drumsticks (preferably Vic Firth 5a nylon tip). The approximate cost of a pad with stand is £30 (less without a stand) and drumsticks are around £9.00.

When a drum kit is being considered, an acoustic drum kit is preferable. Prices start from around £250; a beginner kit (referred to as a 5 Piece Kit) that includes: Hi Hat; Snare Drum; Bass (kick) Drum; Hi and Low Tom; Crash and Ride Cymbals (or one crash/ride).

If noise is an issue there are two solutions:

Obtain a set of silencing pads which are rubber pads that dampen the sound, or

Consider an electronic kit which can be played with headphones. The Alesis Kit is aimed at the educational/beginner market (look out for a large snare drum with '2 zones' – this will become apparent when looking at these digital kits).

Book Your teacher will advise you which book to buy following the first lesson.

FLUTE **Pupils must have front teeth.**

Instrument Preferably made by JustFlutes, Trevor James or Yamaha. Please avoid buying an instrument that costs less than £120.00 as these tend to be poorly produced and frequently do not work well. (ie keys sticking, breaking etc)

Book 'Abracadabra for Flute' by Malcolm Pollock available from most music shops or musicroom.com

GUITAR

Instrument Nylon strung classical guitar (preferable make – Jose Ferrer or Valencia). Price approximately £70.00

Size If your child's height is less than 135cm, choose a $\frac{3}{4}$ size guitar; if your child is taller than 135cm, choose a full size guitar (4/4). (NB Avoid the guitar called 'Jumbo' as this, although a full size

instrument, has a larger body which will be too big.)

Equipment

Foot stool (this is not an expensive item, around £7, but is necessary for correct support).

Book

Your teacher will advise you which book to buy following the first lesson.

PIANO

Instrument

It is imperative that your child has an instrument to practise on at home. Either an acoustic piano or a digital piano is preferable. A digital piano generally starts around £300 - £400. These are smaller and lighter than acoustic pianos and have the added bonus of a headphones socket! The instrument should have at least 60 keys, be touch sensitive and be mounted on a proper stand and have a stool. This ensures that the pupil sits at the right height. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask Mrs Rathbone.

Books

Your teacher will advise which of the following books to buy after the first lessons:

‘Piano Time’ Book 1 by Pauline Hall and ‘Music Lessons Have Begun’ by Leila Fletcher, or ‘Play Piano’ Book 1 and ‘Play Piano Repertoire’ Book 1 by Alan Haughton and Chris Tambling available from most music shops or musicroom.com.

RECORDER

Instrument

Descant Recorders can be bought from many toy shops, but these are difficult to play to any level of proficiency, so we would suggest you buy an Aulos Descant Recorder. This is available from most music shops or internet site ‘musicroom.com’ - approximately £10.

Book

‘Recorder from the Beginning’ Book 1 Coloured Edition by John Pitts available from most music shops or musicroom.com.

UKULELE

Instrument Soprano Ukulele, approximately £20 from most music shops or musicroom.com

Book Your teacher will advise you which book to buy following the first lesson.”

VIOLIN

Instrument The Stentor Student 1 violin is an excellent starting instrument. The cost of hiring an instrument is approximately £16 per month, while the cost of buying one is around £90. This includes the case, bow **and** shoulder rest.

NB – the shoulder rest is **vital**, so please make sure you get one. Some shops will not include it with instrument. On their own, they cost around £20 – the best make is **Wolf and Kun**. A less expensive option would be a sponge shoulder rest.

Size You will need to take your child to the shop to be measured, so you get the right size instrument.

Book ‘Stepping Stones’ (Violin Part) Book 1 and CD from most music shops or musicroom.com.

MUSICAL OUTLETS

MUSIC SHOPS (also rental of instruments)

Mantilla Music
204 Chingford Mount Road
Chingford
London E4 8JR
www.mantillamusic.co.uk
Tel 020 8523 8050

North London Music Centre
226-228 Baker St
Enfield
EN1 3JY
www.northlondonmusiccentre.co.uk
020 8342 0807

INTERNET SITES

Musicroom.com
www.musicroom.com
Tel 01284 725 725

HIRE TO BUY SCHEMES

Dawsons
www.dawsons.co.uk
Tel 0118 958 1320

Just Flutes
www.justflutes.com
Tel 020 8662 8400



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