

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://musicroom.com).

## UKULELE

**Instrument** Soprano Ukulele, approximately £20 from most music shops or [musicroom.com](http://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](http://musicroom.com).

## MUSICAL OUTLETS

### MUSIC SHOPS (also rental of instruments)

Mantilla Music  
204 Chingford Mount Road  
Chingford  
London E4 8JR  
[www.mantillamusic.co.uk](http://www.mantillamusic.co.uk)  
Tel 020 8523 8050

North London Music Centre  
226-228 Baker St  
Enfield  
EN1 3JY  
[www.northlondonmusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.northlondonmusiccentre.co.uk)  
020 8342 0807

### INTERNET SITES

Musicroom.com  
[www.musicroom.com](http://www.musicroom.com)  
Tel 01284 725 725

### HIRE TO BUY SCHEMES

Dawsons  
[www.dawsons.co.uk](http://www.dawsons.co.uk)  
Tel 0118 958 1320

Just Flutes  
[www.justflutes.com](http://www.justflutes.com)  
Tel 020 8662 8400



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