



Purchasing a musical instrument

A guide for first time buyers

FLUTE



Congratulations on your child's interest in learning to play a musical instrument!

This information has been developed to assist you make the right decisions when purchasing a quality instrument.

When looking to purchase an instrument for your child, there are several options to consider.

You can:

- purchase a new instrument outright.
- purchase a second-hand instrument; or
- investigate purchase plans or rental programs.

Always consult the instrumental music teacher before making a decision.

Purchasing a new instrument

- There is a range of brands available on the market, with some retailers acting as agents for specific brands. Keep in mind that you can always upgrade instruments when your child is more advanced and that a student model is ideal for starting out.
- It is important to shop around and compare brands, models, and prices. Once you have found a suitable instrument, compare prices on that brand and model to make sure you have the most competitive price and/or ask for the student price.
- Enquire about the warranty and clarify if service arrangements can be made for the maintenance and repair of your new instrument.
- Instruments hold value well if they have been carefully looked after and serviced when necessary.

Purchasing a second-hand instrument

- Check that the instrument has been serviced regularly before you purchase it and whether it is under warranty. This will save you from constant repairs and adjustments.
- Play the instruments first to see how it feels and sounds. Please be sure to insist the instrument has been thoroughly cleaned and wiped down prior to handling and/or take your own sterile wipes and do it yourself.
- Stick to a well-known brand when buying a second-hand instrument.
- Make sure you have access to a reputable and reliable repair service for your instrument.

Purchase plans or rental programs

- Some music retailers will provide you with a purchase plan to allow you to pay for an instrument over a period of time.
- It is possible to rent an instrument, particularly if it is only required over an interim period.
- Make a few telephone calls to get the best comparison of conditions and costs of either purchase plans or rental programs.

Once you have your instrument

Once you have a musical instrument for your child it is recommended you organise instrument insurance and make sure your child knows how to care for their instrument. It is also essential you record the instrument's serial number.

During music class, the teacher will advise students what they need to do to keep their instrument in top condition and will let parents know if servicing or maintenance is required. If you have any queries, please contact your child's teacher.

Some important reminders

Students should ONLY play their own instrument.

No sharing of instrument, even by family members.

Students only use their own accessories and cleaners and clean their instruments after each use.

What to look for in a quality student flute

- Student model closed key system flutes are recommended.
- Silver plated flutes are suitable for this stage of learning.
- Purchasing a brand-new flute has the advantage of warranty and follow-up servicing.
- If purchasing a second-hand instrument, take care to check that:
 - It has a cleaning rod;
 - the key-work is not bent or damaged;
 - the pads under the keys are not showing signs of wear;
 - corks are not missing; and
 - the silver plating is not 'bubbling' or corroded in any way.
- Please check the condition of the case, in particular the closing mechanisms. Cases should have latches.

There is a wide range of brands and models available, and prices vary. Always wait until you can consult with your child's instrumental music teacher before you make any purchase.



The information in this guide has been prepared by Instrumental Music School Services to assist in purchasing a musical instrument for your child. No recommendations are made for a particular supplier or brand of instrument.

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