

Instrument Information

When obtaining an instrument, there are a variety of options. The information below will help you sort through the most common choices. This document aims to help you decide what works best for you and your family.

Renting

Pro:

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

Con:

- Likely to be a more expensive option if you plan on playing your instrument more than two to three years.
- Will need to rent (or renew) your instrument and instrument contract each fall.

Buying

Pro:

- Some students/families prefer owning their own instrument.
- Less expensive than renting an instrument over 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 repair or maintenance bills.
- Less flexibility on changing instruments later.
- Inexpensive instruments tend to be of low quality and are more prone to breakage (and, as a result, some shops refuse to work on off-brands).

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.

School-owned Instruments

- NEST+m does own a small number of instruments for need-based students. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch are eligible for a school instrument at no cost. In addition, families with extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis. Consult your music teacher if either situation applies to you.

See next page for more information.

Recommended businesses for buying and renting:

Online retailers

Music and Arts (www.musicarts.com) They both rent and sell instruments. Instruments can be delivered to school or home, and a school pick-up can be scheduled at the end of the year. NEST+m students have had good experiences with this company, and they rent quality instruments. Cost-wise, they are on the higher end, but they have a solid reputation and very good customer service.

Woodwind and Brasswind (wwbw.com) This is one of the largest online retailers for instruments. Great deals can be found regularly through their site. They sell both used and new instruments. They are also a great resource for additional music items (i.e. cases, reeds, swabs, mouthpieces, etc).

Brick and Mortar Retailers

Sam Ash Music (333 West 34th Street, New York, NY (212) 719-2299, samashmusic.com) Many NEST+m students shop for instruments here, and a smaller number have rented (they have a limited rental stock). This is a big company with a wide variety of brands and prices. There is also a Queens location.

For more brick and mortar options, please consult the course syllabus.

Tips on purchasing an instrument:

1. We do not recommend buying instruments that can be ordered in non-standard colors, such as blue or red. Too often, the quality of these instruments is questionable. Buying an instrument of lesser quality can result in more needed repairs. Often, music repair shops will not stock parts for these instruments. **We strongly encourage the use of recommended brand instruments whenever possible. See below for our recommendations.**
2. Buying a used instrument of higher quality is preferable to buying a new instrument of lesser quality. (Fun fact: Pieter never owned a new instrument until he was in his late twenties; all of early his instruments were used and he still performs on some of them).
3. **We do not recommend 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.**
4. We have had many students find success with quality used instruments on Ebay. Your music teacher is more than happy to review an instrument auction you are considering. Please contact your teacher if you need advice or guidance.

If you have further questions about instruments or the NEST+m music program, contact your teacher.
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Some recommended brands:

Flute: Yamaha, Selmer, Gemeinhardt, 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) Yamaha, Blessing, Getzen, Jupiter

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