

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS GUIDE

**Basic  
Instrument  
Information**

Brooklyn  
Conservatory  
of Music

A positive and successful experience depends on having a good quality & well-sized instrument.

**DO NOT OBTAIN AN INSTRUMENT FOR YOUR CHILD  
BEFORE YOUR TEACHER APPROVES THE SIZE.**

The Brooklyn Conservatory **does not sell or provide instruments.**

**READ BELOW FOR RECOMMENDATIONS  
AND INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO YOUR INSTRUMENT.**

## **VIOLINS/CELLOS/3/4 SIZE BASSES**

We recommend renting from **Johnson Strings: (800) 359-9351**

We have an arrangement with Johnson Strings which allows you to pick up/drop off at Brooklyn Conservatory, which will save you money on shipping. They will make a delivery prior to the first day of the semester. Rentals usually include insurance against damage. Building up credit towards a future purchase is usually possible with rental. Please make sure the company allows you to trade a size easily.

## **BASS**

The Suzuki Parent should order a  $\frac{3}{4}$  size bass with GERMAN bow from Johnson Strings to be delivered by the first day of the semester, for 6 months. **DO NOT** order an instrument for your child. Your teacher will size your child before the children start their lessons in November.

For small basses, contact **Johnson Strings** or **Gene Rebeck: erebeck@comcast.net (517) 896-2788.**

Bass Rental Rates – including insurance (as of Jan 2019): 6 Months = \$474 for Adult  $\frac{3}{4}$  size; Beginner (ex.  $\frac{1}{10}$  size) 12 months = \$474 from Johnson Strings.

## **CELLO**

The Suzuki Parent should rent a FULL SIZE cello from Johnson Strings to be delivered by the first day of the semester, for 6 months. **DO NOT order an instrument for your child. Your teacher will size your child before the children start their lessons in November.** Also order a Xeros Anchor for Cello – otherwise known as an Endpin Rest – which holds the endpin in place on the floor. Cello students are required to bring their own stools to classes. This ensures that students have the correct height stool at home to practice as well as during classes. Families will receive infosheet from dept head for stool options in September.

Standard Cello Rental Rates – including insurance (as of Jan 2019):  
**6 month = \$276; 12 month = \$450**

## **GUITAR**

The Suzuki Parent should purchase a guitar for him/herself to be delivered by first day of the semester. **DO NOT order an instrument for your child.**

We recommend **Rubin Flores: rubenflores@verizon.net**. All guitars must be a nylon string CLASSICAL guitar, with a \*solid\* cedar or spruce soundboard. If you have small hands, order a 63.6cm guitar; if you have large hands, order a full size. Small size guitars will be obtained through Brent Weaver. For more information, email Michele Horner. Resale of guitars is facilitated by Guitar Department, so that changing sizes is easy and affordable. \$465. See attached page for more info. Email Michele Horner with questions: Michele.Horner@bkcm.org.

**Guitar students are required to bring their own stools to classes.** This ensures that students have the correct height stool at home to practice as well as during classes. See separate info sheet for stool options.

## VIOLIN

The Suzuki Parent should order a FULL SIZE (4/4) violin for 6 months from Johnson Strings to be delivered by the first day of the semester, as well as a full size (4/4) firm contour sponge. DO NOT order an instrument for your child. Your teacher will size your child before the children start their lessons in November.

Standard Violin Rental Rates (as of Jan 2019):

**6 month = \$168.00; 12 month = \$270.00**

## FLUTE

The Suzuki Parent should order a Standard Flute with a straight headjoint (closed hole, low C or B footjoint, trill keys), to arrive by the first day of the semester. (Available through Flutistry, Weisman, or NY Flute Center) DO NOT order an instrument for your child. Your teacher will advise on appropriate timing to arrange for purchase of a Suzuki Style flute with a curved headjoint. ([www.flutistry.com/collections/beginner](http://www.flutistry.com/collections/beginner)) General Flute Purchase Rates (1/2020): \$500-\$800. See also separate Flute handout for more info.

## PIANO

We require that all piano families have a real piano with strings and hammers (no digital keyboards, no exceptions) by the first day of the semester.

New pianos starting at \$5,600 (Essex, Boston & Steinway);

Previously owned starting at \$3000+

Rental from \$85 – \$120/ mo. Tuning \$150 2X per year;

Delivery cost: \$275 – \$300 upright/\$375 – grand

See also separate handout "Acquiring a Piano" for more info.

### **SUZUKI PIANO: WHY A REAL PIANO INSTEAD OF A KEYBOARD?**

At the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, the Suzuki Division requires that families obtain a real piano for their home by the first week of class.

The piano may be upright, baby grand, or grand. There are many options – to rent, to buy new, or to buy used. Information on where to obtain an instrument is available upon request.

### **TONE & TECHNIQUE**

Although an electric keyboard may have weighted keys to more closely reproduce a grand piano touch response, your purchase or rental of an acoustic piano will provide your child with the experience of playing on an instrument built to their individual touch.

An acoustic piano produces sound via a string-striking mechanism, or "action". This action conveys the subtle nuances of finger movement to the hammer, allowing not only that string to vibrate, but to share this resonance with strings not directly struck. What an experience for a student to have the entire instrument act as a resonator, enabling them to develop a rich, full, and varied tone!

The electronic keyboard will require more work from children to press weighted keys, without the benefit of tone quality.

Pianos teachers have widely observed a disruption in progress in students who start on an electric keyboard when they switch to an acoustic keyboard.

"Habits learned first are learned best" is a treasured mantra within the Suzuki community—beautiful tone, developed with physical ease, will be the foundation that serves them best throughout their musical development!

### **COST**

Music education is an investment with ongoing costs, such as tuition, instrument, piano tuning, instrument repair, sheet music & supplies, etc. BKCM is committed to helping parents with these costs to the fullest extent possible.

Please reach out to inquire about financial aid, or for support in finding an affordable piano, movers, tuners, or information about piano sizes.

### **MOTIVATION**

The experience of learning to play an acoustic piano, which is built to respond to the developing nuances of your child's touch, will be a source of ongoing inspiration and motivation. Tone and technique discovered and develop on an acoustic piano in their lesson will be more easily replicated on the home instrument!