



## **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 a number of 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 instrument first to see how it feels and sounds. Please be sure to use your own mouthpiece and reed and insist the instrument has been thoroughly cleaned and wiped down prior to handling.
- 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.

*Purchasing a musical instrument*

*A guide for first time buyers*

**CLARINET**

### **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 instruments/mouthpieces/reeds 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 clarinet**

- Always specify a Bb clarinet.
- A good quality plastic clarinet is perfectly adequate for students who are just starting out.
- Purchasing a brand-new clarinet has the advantage of warranty and follow-up servicing.
- When purchasing a second-hand clarinet, check the mouthpiece as this may need replacing. Always check there are no chips, splits, or teeth indentations in the mouthpiece.
- When purchasing a second-hand instrument, check for bent keywork and worn pads and corks.
- Most second-hand instruments will need to be serviced prior to use, so include this when negotiating a price.

There is a wide range of brands and models available, and prices vary. Always wait until you can consult with your child's 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.

Instrumental Music School Services  
150 Guildford Road  
Maylands WA 6051  
T: (08) 9338 9500  
W: <http://det.wa.edu.au/imss>.