

## Instrument Recommendations

We want to help make your time at 92NY School of Music a success, and choosing the right instrument for you is an important first step. This Instrument Recommendation document contains information that will help guide you toward making the right purchase or rental choice for your classes and lessons at **92NY School of Music!** This will help you pick the instrument that is best for your beginner class or lesson particularly if you are picking up an instrument for the first time. There are also links provided on each page that will help guide you to the next steps in choosing your instrument.

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [Music@92NY.org](mailto:Music@92NY.org).

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# Guitar

## Related Classes

Adult Guitar (Beginner, Intermediate),  
Children's Guitar

## Required Materials

Guitar, Guitar Case (or gig bag), Tuner,  
Guitar Strap

## About Purchasing a Guitar

When purchasing a guitar for the first time, it's important that you have an instrument that is easy to physically play. For beginners, this means the strings are easy to press and the neck of the instrument is the right size for your hands. Different guitar brands and models can vary slightly in size, so you may find a larger or smaller guitar size to be more comfortable for you. **Students under seven years old should purchase a ½ size or junior model, nylon string acoustic guitar for a more comfortable fit.** We strongly recommend going to a music store in person to have a guitar expert fit your child for the right size guitar. Children and Adults alike should also ask about a case that will safely fit the instrument. Students enrolling in the guitar class may consider a guitar from one of the recommended brands and places below or consult a guitar professional at a music store. Many brands also have a "starter" or "value pack" that includes a guitar, case, strap, and tuner.

## Guitar Brands and Models to Consider

When you are purchasing a guitar for the first time, there will be a lot of options. For beginners taking our group classes, we recommend purchasing an acoustic guitar. Here are some recommended brands:

### Adult Guitar Models

Yamaha FGS00  
Epiphone DR-100  
Alvarez AD-30

### Adult Guitar Cases

Fender FA610 Dreadnought Gig Bag  
Epiphone AJ/Dreadnought Gig Bag

### Children's Guitar Models

Gretsch G9500  
Cordoba Protege Ci ¼ Size Classical Guitar  
Yamaha CGS102A ½ Size Classical Guitar  
Yamaha CGS103A ¾ Size Classical Guitar

### Children's Guitar Cases:

Gator GBE-Mini-Acoustic Gig Bag  
Epiphone Classical 3/4-Size Gigbag

## Places to Purchase

Online - [Musician's Friend](#), [Amazon](#), [Guitar Center](#), [Sweetwater](#)

In Person - Guitar Center, or another local guitar store like Brother's Guitar Shop

## Tuner Brands to Consider

*Please Note: All are digital tuners that require batteries.*

D'Addario Ns Micro-Universal

Snark ST-2 Super Tight Guitar Tuner

Fender FT-1 Pro Chromatic Clip-on

Headstock Tuner

# Piano

## Related Classes

Jazz Keyboard (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced), Adult Piano (Beginner, Intermediate), Children's Partner Piano, Children's Piano

## Group Classes - Required Materials

CHILDREN'S PIANO CLASSES*:	ADULT PIANO CLASSES**:	JAZZ KEYBOARD
<a href="#">Piano Adventures Lesson Book, Primer Level</a> AND <a href="#">Primer Level - Theory Book: Piano Adventures</a> <b><i>*Some classes may also require</i></b> <a href="#">Very First Piano Book: The Story of Tony,</a> <a href="#">by E. Quaille</a>	<b><u>Beginner Piano</u></b> <a href="#">Adult Piano Adventures All-in-One Piano Course Book 1</a>  <b><u>Intermediate Piano</u></b> <a href="#">Adult Piano Adventures All-in-One Piano Course Book 2</a>	Materials to be discussed at first class meeting
	**Any additional materials to be provided or discussed at first class meeting	

## About Purchasing a Digital Keyboard for Home Practice

It's recommended that when you purchase a digital keyboard for home practice, you get a keyboard that can create a realistic piano-playing experience. This means you will want to purchase a **digital keyboard with 88 weighted keys**. Keep in mind, the higher end keyboards will have a more realistic feel across the range of the keyboard by subtly adjusting the weight of each key, while less expensive keyboards will weigh keys in larger groups and deliver a less realistic experience, but either are suitable as a home practice instrument. An unweighted keyboard will feel nothing like a real piano and should be avoided as regular practice instruments when possible.

## Keyboard Brands and Models to Consider at Different Price Points

\$230 - [Alesis Recital, 88 Key Digital Electric Piano](#)

\$399 - \$499 - [Casio CDP-SiiO Compact Digital Piano](#)

\$429 - \$600 - [Yamaha P45, 88-Key Weighted Action Digital Piano](#)

\$875 - [Yamaha Pi25, 88-Key Weighted Action Digital Piano](#)

\$1699 - [Yamaha P5i5B, 88-key Digital Piano](#)

## About Renting a Piano for Home Practice

There are also several stores in Manhattan that offer rental and rent-to-own upright piano options.

[Faust Harrison Pianos](#), [Beethoven Pianos](#), and [Piano Piano](#) all offer competitive selections and prices.

Reliable piano brands include but are not limited to Steinway, Yamaha, Kawai, Weber, and more.

# Ukulele

## Related Classes

Adult Ukulele (Beginner, Intermediate),  
Children's Ukulele

## Required Materials

Ukulele, hard or soft case (gig bag), clip-on tuner, ukulele strap (optional but desirable)

## About Purchasing a Ukulele

When purchasing a ukulele for the first time, it's important that you have an instrument that is easy to physically play. For beginners, this means the strings are easy to press (also called "low action"), and the tuning pegs are easy to adjust and stay in place while you play so you do not have to keep re-tuning your instrument. Different ukulele brands and models can vary slightly in size, so you may find a larger or smaller ukulele size to be more comfortable for you. When purchasing a ukulele, also ask about a case that will safely fit the instrument. Students enrolling in the ukulele class may consider a **soprano ukulele** from one of the recommended brands and places below, or consult a music professional at a music store..

## Ukulele Brands and Models to Consider

Protege - U1-M

Luna - TC MAH, slightly larger

Mitchell - MU40NT, slightly smaller neck - great for children!

Kala - choose a model in the \$60 and up range

Luna

## Places to Purchase

Online - [Musician's Friend](#), [Amazon](#), [Guitar Center](#), [Sweetwater](#)

In Person - Guitar Center, or another local guitar store like Brother's Guitar Shop

## Digital Clip-On Tuner Brands to Consider

Please Note: All are digital tuners that require batteries.

[Snark](#)

[D'Addario](#)

[Fender](#)

# Violin

## Related Classes

Violin (Beginner)

## Required Materials

Violin, bow, rosin, shoulder rest, violin case

## About Purchasing or Renting a Violin

There are many factors you can consider when getting a violin. Both the pegs and fine tuners should be stable - meaning, they don't move around while you play and make the instrument go out of tune. **You will also need to have a violin that is the right size for your body** - most adults will have a full size violin, but for smaller adults and children, a smaller size such as a  $\frac{3}{4}$  or smaller size violin is better. Avoid violins that are suspiciously cheap to purchase (under \$100), especially on line, or made of anything other than hardwood - these violins will not be at a quality that will allow you to learn and play well. Additionally, many music stores have a rental option for violins, where you pay a monthly fee and receive a quality violin that the music store can help you fit and maintain. This is a great option if you want to try violin but are not sure what kind you would like to purchase yet. When you go to purchase or rent a violin, **you will also need a bow, rosin, and a shoulder rest**. Most of the time, these items will come with the instrument, but it's important to check with the music professional at your store to make sure your violin has these items in its case.

## Violins to Consider

There are plenty of quality brands to consider at different price points when renting or purchasing a violin. Here are a few you can look out for:

Palatino, Horst-Jung, Cremona, Atelier Du Monde, Atelier Landon, Ya-Ya, Euro, Harmony, Snow, Iesta

## Places to Purchase

It's best to go to a music store that specializes in string instruments like violin to help size you for the violin that would be the best fit. There are plenty of options in New York City, like [Strings and Other Things](#), that can help you find the best violin for you!

# Cello

## Related Classes

Cello (Beginner, Cello (Continuing Beginner, Intermediate), Cello (Intermediate), Adult Cello Ensemble

## Required Materials

Cello, bow, rosin, endpin strap/stopper, cello case

## About Purchasing or Renting a Cello

There are many factors you can consider when getting a cello. Both the pegs and fine tuners should be stable - meaning, they don't move around while you play and make the instrument go out of tune.

**You will also need to have a cello that is the right size for your body** - most adults will have a full size cello, but for smaller adults and children, a smaller size cello is better. Many music stores have a rental option for cellos, where you pay a monthly fee and receive a quality cello that the music store can help you fit and maintain. This is a great option if you want to try cello but are not sure what kind you would like to purchase yet. When you go to purchase or rent a cello, **you will also need a case, bow, rosin, endpin strap or stopper**. Most of the time, these items will come with the instrument, but it's important to check with the music professional at your store to make sure your cello has these items.

## Cellos to Consider

There are plenty of quality brands to consider at different price points when renting or purchasing a cello. Here are a few you can look out for:

Hidersine, Primavera, Stentor, Westbury, Palatino, Horst-Jung, Cremona, Atelier Du Monde, Atelier Landon, Ya-Ya, Euro, Harmony, Snow, Iesta

## Places to Purchase

It's best to go to a music store that specializes in string instruments like cello to help size you for the cello that would be the best fit. There are plenty of options in New York City, like [Strings and Other Things](#), that can help you find the best cello for you!

# Brass Instruments

## Related Classes

Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Euphonium, Tuba

## Required Materials

Instrument, valve oil, slide grease, slide oil

## About Purchasing or Renting a Brass Instrument

When purchasing or renting a brass instrument, you want to make sure that the instrument is in good working condition and the store or place where you rent or buy has a repair shop ready as a resource for you. It's important that brass instruments are maintained weekly with slide grease, valve or rotor oil, and slide oil (for trombones) so the instrument can work properly. Most instruments come with this equipment in its case, but make sure you ask the brass professional at the music store or ensure that these items are also available to purchase separately. One small container of valve oil can last a brass player years when used properly and frequently to keep the instrument in good playing condition

## Places to Purchase

It's best to go to a music store that can help you pick out a quality brass instrument. There are plenty of options in New York City, like [Rental Instruments LLC](#), [J Landress Brass](#), and [Guitar Center](#) that can help you find the best instrument for you in person, or great online resources like [Music and Arts](#), and [Dillon Music](#).

# Woodwind Instruments

## Related Classes

Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, or Saxophone

## Required Materials

Instrument, cleaning swab, cork grease  
(for all except flute), reeds (specific for clarinet,  
saxophone, oboe or bassoon)

## About Purchasing or Renting a Woodwind Instrument

When purchasing or renting a woodwind instrument, you want to make sure that the instrument is in good working condition and the store or place where you rent or buy has a repair shop ready as a resource for you. It's important that woodwind instruments are maintained every time you play with a cleaning swab and (in most cases) cork grease so the instrument can work properly. Most instruments come with this equipment in its case, but make sure you ask the woodwind professional at the music store or ensure that these items are also available to purchase separately. For clarinets, saxophones, oboes and bassoons, you will also need a reed that is specific to the instrument. Consult your teacher or the music shop for their recommendations.

## Places to Purchase

It's best to go to a music store that can help you pick out a quality woodwind instrument. There are plenty of options in New York City, like [Rental Instruments LLC](#), [Roberto's Woodwinds](#), and [Guitar Center](#) that can help you find the best instrument for you in person, or great online resources like [Music and Arts](#), [Midwest Musical Imports](#), or [Dillon Music](#).

# Drums

## Related Classes

Children's Drums, Drum Lessons

## Required Materials

Practice Pad, Drum Sticks

## About Purchasing Drums

For Drum Classes and lessons at 92NY, we have drum and percussion equipment ready for you to use during your class or lesson! However, to keep the beat going at home, we recommend having a Practice Pad and Drum Sticks for home practice. As you or your child develop more skills, if you have nay continued interest in purchasing a drum set or other percussion equipment, be sure to talk to your drum instructor about the equipment that best suits your individual needs.

**Recommended Practice Pad** - *8" Remo Tunable Practice Pad with Ambassador Coated Drumhead*

**Recommended Drum Sticks** - *Vic Firth Drumsticks (5A or 5AB)*

## Drum Brands and Models to Consider

Ludwig, Pearl, Tama, Mapex, Gretsch, DW, Vic Firth,

## Places to Purchase

### Online

Practice Pads - [Musician's Friend](#), [Guitar Center](#), [Sweetwater](#)

Drum Sticks - [Sweetwater](#), [Vic Firth](#), [Steve Weiss Music](#)

### In Person

Guitar Center, or another local music shop