Where Can I get an Instrument?

Renting an instrument is a relatively inexpensive way to get started. It is often a good option for children who are just beginning, especially if you are unsure of their long term commitment. Most rental locations allow you to rent-to-own which applies your rental payments toward the eventual purchase of an instrument. Renting can also be a good option if your child is growing quickly and may soon be ready for a different size (this applies to string players).

Buying an instrument is a great investment if you or your child plans to play for some time. Some instruments, like guitars, are fairly reasonably priced and it may make more sense to buy. Most instruments appreciate value over time. Make sure to compare prices, and make sure you have an instrument that is comfortable for you or your child. Look for instruments that are in good playing condition. Used instruments can be just as good as new ones, but realize that repairs can be expensive if the instrument is not yet in playing condition. Additionally, be prepared for some additional costs, depending on the instrument. For example, most new guitars (and some used ones) require a set-up job of $30-50. If you purchase a violin or viola, you will need to purchase a bow, case, rosin, and shoulder rest as well. Occasionally, you can find good deals online, but be careful, and make sure there is a return policy in place. Your instructor can advise you on what to look for and what to listen for as you shop for a new instrument.

Recommended Locations in the Boston Area for Instrument Rental/Retail

**Rayburn Music**  
840 Summer Street #001 South  
Boston, MA 02127  
617-266-4727  
www.rayburnmusic.com  
Strings, woodwinds, and brass  

**Steinway & Sons**  
1 Columbus Ave.  
Boston, MA 02116  
617-426-1900  
www.steinway.com  
New and Used pianos and keyboards  
Retail Only

**Guitar Center**  
1255 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02215 617-247-1389  
www.guitarcenter.com  
Keyboards, Guitars, Basses, Amps, Percussion  
Retail Only

**Mr. Music**  
128 Harvard Avenue  
Allston, MA 02134  
617-783-1609  
www.coolguitars.com  
Guitars, Basses, Amps, Percussion, Keyboards, Folk Instruments  
Retail Only

**Williams Piano Shop**  
123 Harvard Street Brookline, MA 02446 617-232-8870  
www.williamspianoshop.com  
New and Used Pianos  
Retail and Rental

**Johnson Strings**  
1029 Chestnut Street Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464  
1-800-359-9351  
www.johnsonstring.com  
Strings  
Rental and Retail

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