



GUIDE TO RENTING OR BUYING A VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO OR DOUBLE BASS

The Philadelphia String Project does not provide instruments for participation in the program.

- If your child does not have an instrument your first call should be to the school music teacher or principal. There may be hidden treasures in a school closet that you may be able to borrow until you see how interested your child is in learning to play a stringed instrument.
- If that doesn't work you can check out some of the local stores that rent and/or rent with purchase to buy options.*

Calliope Music 4 E. Lancaster Ave. Ardmore, PA 19003 610.649.8842 Calliopemusicstore.com	Mount Airy Violins & Bows 6665 Germantown Ave Philadelphia, PA 19119 215.438.9031 Mountairyviolins.com
Golden Violins 7801 Winston Road Philadelphia, PA 19118 215.242.0307 Goldenviolins.com	Sam Ash 1887 Franklin Mills Circle Philadelphia, PA 19154 215.612.1339
Kot's Violins 1048 Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 610.225.1870 Kotviolin.com	Sam Ash 139 E. DeKalb Pike King of Prussia, PA 19406 610.265.6444

- You can also check online sites to purchase instruments: Amazon, Ebay, Craigslist. Before you buy online make sure to read the information (on back) on "Sizing your Violin" and/or ask for assistance regarding sizing from one of the interns.

* Stores listed in alphabetical order. This is not a complete list of businesses that rent instruments in the Philadelphia area. We do not accept responsibility or liability for doing business with any of the following businesses. Prices and terms of sale/rental are set by the store.

Stringed instruments come in different sizes. It is important to start your child on the correct size instrument. Most stores will give you guidance on the appropriate size. If you are considering purchasing an instrument off of the internet and have questions about size ask one of the String Project interns for their recommendation. Otherwise, follow the directions below.



Sizing your Violin

It is important to select the correct instrument size so that playing is as easy and comfortable as possible. Use the chart below to measure the player and choose the right instrument with confidence.



Using a tape measure or yardstick, measure the distance between the middle of the left-hand palm and the player's neck. Ensure that hand is fully extended and the arm is perpendicular to the body.

For players in between sizes, select the smaller size.

GRADE	AGE	ARM LENGTH	SIZE	NOTES ON TRANSITIONAL SIZES
K	5-6	min. of 16"	*1/8	* If child is tall as an average 1st grader with arms longer than 18", choose 1/4 size.
1	6-7	min. of 18"	1/4	
2	7-8	min. of 18"	*1/4	* If child is tall as an average 3rd grader with arms longer than 20", choose 1/2 size.
3	8-9	min. of 20"	1/2	
4	9-10	min. of 20"	*1/2	* If child is tall as an average 5th grader with arms longer than 22", choose 3/4 size.
5	10-11	min. of 22"	3/4	
6	11-12	min. of 22"	*3/4	* If child is tall as an average 7th grader with arms longer than 23", choose 4/4.
7-Adult	12 +	min. of 23"+	4/4	

Chart from the "Children's Music Workshop"