

RENT OR BUY MY STRING INSTRUMENT?

While families are allowed to purchase an instrument for their child, I have never once recommended it to a young musician. Here are the reasons why:

1. Stringed instruments come in different sizes, and students often grow out of their initial size within the first few months. All too often I have to send an email home telling parents they need to buy their child a new instrument because their child has outgrown their current one.

2. Instruments offered on the internet may be flashy with their various colors and cheap prices, but they are often so cheaply made that they break easily, are not repairable, and kids have trouble producing a consistent tone and become easily frustrated.

3. As you rent, you establish credit with the music store for a future purchase, and their repair experts will replace and repair ANY damages such as broken strings.

4. In addition, when you rent you have the opportunity to change sizing on stringed instruments for FREE as the child grows.

5. Colorful instruments may be motivating to young musicians to practice for a few weeks, but I have observed that the flair quickly wears off. Part of learning an instrument means learning the discipline to practice every week, there is no way around it.

6. No respectable music store would put paint on an instrument as they would know that in order to produce a good sound, the wood on an instrument needs to breathe. Quality instruments will have a special-made varnish which allows for this. Coating a poor quality instrument with colorful spray paint will not make it better quality.

It's ultimately your choice to rent or buy, but in my experience renting an instrument avoids lots of unnecessary troubles for both parents and children.