

## Recommended Instruments and Brands

As you are considering your child's future in band, you may be considering purchasing your child an instrument. This can be extremely exciting, but also very daunting as you scan through the many thousands of instruments available. It may be tempting to purchase an instrument that is only a couple hundred dollars on Amazon or at Walmart, but this is not the best option for your child.

Instruments are a part of the classic "you get what you pay for" category of purchasing. Cheap instruments are usually riddled with design flaws and made on poor equipment. Most importantly, they are made without standard replacement parts, which means that when the instrument breaks (which it will), it cannot be repaired by the repair shops.

As tempting as it is to purchase these inexpensive "instrument shaped objects", they will likely have a very short lifespan and cause significant frustration for your child. In the spirit of making this search process significantly easier, I have put together a list of recommended brands for each instrument. These brands will provide your child with an excellent experience throughout middle school and high school.

I have also provided some information on each instrument that may be beneficial to consider when buying more intermediate and advanced instruments. If your child is considering pursuing their instrument at the collegiate/professional level, I recommend you and your child discuss buying with a professional player or private teacher if possible. I also recommend your child try out several instruments in an instrument shop in order to determine which instrument is best suited. However, I have provided a little bit of information to consider when purchasing each instrument. This is not an exhaustive list of considerations, but a few things to watch out for when beginning your search.

Finally, I will provide a list of "Instrument Shaped Objects" or ISOs that are not recommended for purchase. This list is extensive, but not exhaustive. If you come across an instrument you are unsure of, please feel free to reach out to me and I will offer my recommendation and assistance.

Best,

Mr. Schroeder

[insert position title here]

## BRAND RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>FLUTE BRANDS</i>	
Armstrong Azumi Bundy Carnegie Emerson Gemeinhardt Jupiter Olds Pearl Selmer Yamaha	You may consider looking at open holed flutes. Open holes is standard for anyone going to college for flute, but may be something to consider around at some point in high school.
<i>OBOE BRANDS</i>	
Ammoon Bundy Buffett Cabert Carnegie Fox Jupiter Loree Olds Renard Selmer Yamaha	Basic student Oboes come with a small hole down near the bell designed to be plugged with the knee. Higher quality oboes will have a playable “Bb Key”. If you buy an oboe, be sure it has a Bb key. Oboe players are also expected to make their own reeds if they choose to pursue oboe on a professional level. Instructions on buying and creating should come from a private teacher. Finally, Oboists are expected to learn English Horn in College. Your child does not need to learn before college, but if they have the opportunity to try, they should take it.

<i>BASSOON BRANDS</i>	
Amati Bundy Fox Jupiter Moosmann Olds Renard Selmer Yamaha	Do not purchase a bassoon unless you are certain your child will be playing it after college. Even then, it is likely you will not have any need to purchase one unless your child is majoring in playing bassoon. Most college campuses and community bands can provide bassoons. Bassoon players are also expected to make their own reeds if they choose to pursue oboe on a professional level. Instructions on buying and creating should come from a private teacher.
<i>CLARINET BRANDS</i>	
Ammoon Artley Buffett Bundy Carnegie Jupiter LeBlanc Olds Selmer Vito Yamaha	Clarinet players should start on plastic clarinets. They are more durable and can withstand a lot more potential damage. If your child is looking to play clarinet professionally, they will need to consider purchasing a wooden clarinet. Be sure to get in contact with a clarinet player who can help you with proper wooden clarinet care. Collegiate clarinets are also often expected to have an A Clarinet in addition to their main C Clarinet. These are not necessary until college. Professors are often very particular about what a good A Clarinet is. Be sure to talk to a professional before buying clarinets. Your child cannot major in Bass Clarinet in college. If your child wants to bass clarinet, that is great, and they should do so, but they should not stop playing normal C-Clarinet.

<i>SAXOPHONE BRANDS</i>		<i>FRENCH HORN BRANDS</i>	
Amati Bundy Carnegie Conn Jupiter Keilwerth King Olds Selmer Yamaha Yanagisawa	The biggest consideration with buying a saxophone is in regards to whether you want to play jazz Saxophone or classical saxophone primarily. Saxophone tones can vary significantly, and your student should take the time to find a saxophone that suits them. You will also definitely need to consider a mouthpiece that is geared towards your child's style of play (jazz or classical).	Bach Carnegie Conn Holton Jupiter King Olds Reynolds Yamaha	There are several versions of French Horns. First and foremost, do not purchase a Single Horn. They are not sufficient for your child and will last them next to no time before needing to upgrade. If you are purchasing your child a horn, purchase a double horn. An additional consideration would be the possibility of a screw on bell. A majority of professional French Horn buy one with an unscrewable bell, primarily for portability.
<i>TRUMPET BRANDS</i>		<i>TROMBONE BRANDS</i>	
Bach Carnegie Conn Getzen Holton Jupiter King Yamaha	When purchasing trumpets, stay away from oddly colored trumpets, the color will flake off. When pursuing a high quality instrument, make sure that the valves and slides all move effectively. More advanced trumpets will have rings on the first and third valve slides rather than just the third. Your child will also likely want to consider trying out different mouthpieces.	Bach Carnegie Conn Edwards Getzen Holton Jupiter King Olds Reynolds Yamaha	The most important part of the trombone is a good slide. Definitely do not buy a slide that isn't pristine. If looking to buy more advanced/professionally, it becomes important to buy a "trigger-trombone" or "trombone with F-attachment". The trigger makes professional level repertoire playable and will be necessary at the collegiate level.

<i>EUPHONIUM BRANDS</i>	
Bach Besson Carnegie Conn Holton Jupiter King Miraphone Olds Wilson Yamaha	<p>Euphoniums come in three distinct varieties. The first is a beginner 3-valve model. I do not recommend purchasing one. It is likely what your child will start on with a school provided horn. If you are interested in purchasing your child a horn, I recommend purchasing one with four valves. 4-valve euphoniums are better quality instruments with greater range.</p> <p>However, if you are looking for a professional instrument, your child will want a four-valve compensating horn, which has 3 valves in the normal placement and an additional valve down by the side.</p>

<i>TUBA BRANDS</i>	
Bach B&S Carnegie Conn Holton Jupiter King Miraphone Reynolds	<p>You do not need to buy your child a horn while they are in high school. Tubas are expensive and will be provided by the school. If your child is interested in owning one though, you have two considerations. If your child is looking to play for fun after high school, then you should look at getting a tuba in Bb. This is what they have played through all of high school. At the pro level, your child will require a C Tuba. This instrument has completely different fingerings, but C tubas are the industry standard in professional. You will also want to make sure a professional tuba has five valves. Often, beginner college tuba players start with a four valve, which they wind up replacing in favor of a more versatile instrument. Finally, consider whether your child wants rotary valves or piston valves. Rotary valves may allow for a little more speed (maybe. Jury is out). Pistons are significantly easier to maintain.</p>

AS PROMISED. HERE IS AN EXTENSIVE, BUT NOT EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF INSTRUMENT SHAPED OBJECTS THAT ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR YOUR CHILD

Austin Bazaar	Gruskin	
Avalon	Hallelu	MM Maxam
Anaxa	Hameln	Magideal
Allora	Harmony	Maxine
Andoer	Hawk	Maxtone
Autofy	Healy	Maybach
Barrington	Hella	MBAT
BandNow	Heimer	Medusa
Barcelona	Helmke	Mendini
Belcrest	Hisonic	Merana
Belton	Hi Art	Merano
Benjamin Adams	H. Hoffer	Millbrook
Bestler	Hoss	Mirage
Bluebird	Hsinghai	Monique
Borg	lotone	Morelli
Cecilio	Jean Baptiste	Moz
Cibaili	Jean Paul	Nuvo
Classmate	JinBao	Palatino
CMT	Jinyin	Palm
Conductor	Jollysun	Paolo Mark
Costzon	Kaizer	Parrot
Crescent	Lade	Prestini
Crystalcello	Lagrima	Queen
Delphi	Lafayette	Raisons
Deura	Laurel	Ravel
D'Luca	Lazarro	Reig
Dolnet	Legacy	Rossetti
Eastar	Le'Var	Schill
E.F. Durand	LJ Hutchen	Selmar (with an "A")
Eldon	Lil Orchid	Selman
Elenker	Lolite	SG Musical
Emperor		Simba
EM Winston		Singer's Day
Etude		Sky
Fever		Slade
Futaba		Sonatina
First Act		Soul
Gibson-Baldwin		Star
Glenn Edwards		Stagg
Glory		Swastik