

## PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT

There is no need for any music student at MELS to purchase an individual instrument. However, the demands at the high school level (after a student has played for several years) may make this desirable, particularly if a student is playing with music groups outside of school.

### I. Recommended Music Stores

The following stores offer beginning or intermediate-level instruments, including rental and repair services:

- **Sam Ash Music** (Recommended Model: Carlo Robelli) \$  
Forest Hills: 718-793-7983; Manhattan: 212-719-2299
- **Catalano Music** (Recommended Model: Artisan) \$\$  
New Hyde Park (Long Island): 516-488-2522 ([www.catamusic.com](http://www.catamusic.com))
- **Shar Music Online** (Recommended Model: F. Hoffman Etude/Prelude) \$  
([www.sharmusic.com](http://www.sharmusic.com))
- **Strings and Other Things** \$\$\$  
Manhattan Midtown: 212-362-0857 ([www.stringsandotherthings.com](http://www.stringsandotherthings.com))

In general for a **beginning-level** instrument package, you can expect to pay:

Violin	Viola	Cello	Bass	Guitar
\$110-200	\$220-400	\$650-850	\$900-1200	\$100-150

### II. Recommended Intermediate (High School) Models

Violin (4/4 Size)	Viola (15" or 16" Size)	Intermediate Cello (4/4 Size)	Intermediate Bass (3/4 Size)
Franz Hoffman Concert Violin \$299 Shar Music	Franz Hoffman Concert Viola \$439 Shar Music	Eastman Strings Model VC90 \$899 Sam Ash (special order)	Most are priced over \$2000. Speak with Mr. Shieh.
Carlo Robelli RV505 Model \$499 Sam Ash	Eastman Strings Model VA 100 \$499 Sam Ash (special order)	Artisan Model 100 \$1000 Catalano Music  Franz Hoffmann Prelude Cello \$1,029 Shar Music	

### III. A Final Note: On Green Violins and other Instrument-Shaped Objects

Just because it looks like an instrument doesn't mean it is one (ex. do not buy Cecilio brand instruments!). Many non-wood colored instruments, in particular, are meant to be toys and are not made for actual performance. Purchasing a quality instrument is very important so that a student does not get frustrated when trying to learn. Please e-mail Mr. Shieh the link if you ever consider buying a used instrument online so he can look at the make or the model!