

# So Many Instruments Only One You!

A guide to finding  
YOUR perfect  
instrument for  
online learning!

**Music**  **Loft**  
Academy

*Providing Excellence In Music  
and Arts Education*

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## Where Do I Begin?

There are many considerations when choosing your first instrument.

The best way to start is to ask yourself, what instrument am I drawn to?

Many people fall in love with the sound of a specific instrument.

Take for example the story of Arthur Rubinstein, the great pianist, who asked his parents for a piano when he was three. His parents wanted him to play the violin. He smashed it. They finally relented and bought him a piano. The story is quite shocking but the lesson is this, listen to what your heart is telling you.

## General Considerations

**Age appropriateness:** Is your child ready for music lessons. We recommend 8 years old and older for online learning.

**Instrument choice:** The best instruments to learn online include, piano, strings, woodwinds, brass and voice.

**Physicality:** Does the instrument size match the physical capabilities of the child?

**Computer Equipment:** Success begins with having the proper online equipment to learn. An ethernet cable and headphones are a must for TMLA's professional platform.



## Piano or Keyboard

Experts agree that the piano is a foundational instrument. Piano improves hand-eye coordination, fine and gross motor skills, decoding, and, note reading on the grand staff. It often leads to students studying a secondary instrument in the school music program.

You can start lessons on a traditional piano or a weighted keyboard. The piano has a wide variety of musical genres, from classical to jazz to pop/rock. The piano is the only instrument where you are able to play melodies, harmonies and bass lines at the same time. It is a great first instrument for all musicians!

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## Violin/Viola/Cello

All of these instruments are in the strings family. Each has some similarities and differences. Violin music is written in treble clef, Viola in alto clef, and Cello in bass clef. Violin is the highest pitch instrument in the strings family. Both Viola and Cello have a lower sound. Violin and viola are positioned under your chin and the cello is positioned between your knees.

Many people ask, can I play a stringed instrument if I am left handed?

**Yes!** You would just learn the way a right handed person does! As a left handed person myself, I have a lot of dexterity in my left hand. This made it easier to put my fingers on the strings which was an advantage!

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## Acoustic Guitar

There are 3 main types of guitars; acoustic, electric, and classical. Generally speaking most people begin on an acoustic guitar. Acoustic Guitars are typically played with both hands by strumming or the use of a guitar pick. The guitar comes in different sizes to accommodate finger length and body size.

With just a few lessons, students can be playing and strumming chords to some of their favorite songs! Guitarists read music and they read guitar tab which is a shorthand for guitar.

The guitar is portable, so you can go anywhere and play with other people easily.

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## Electric Guitar

Electric guitars are rock and rollers tools of the trade. They have thinner necks which makes it easier to play for younger musicians. Some students begin on acoustic and then switch over to electric. Others just go straight to electric. The guitar comes in different sizes to accommodate finger length and body size. An electric guitar is a guitar that requires external amplification (guitar amp) in order to be heard at typical performance volumes.

With just a few lessons, students can be playing and strumming chords to some of their favorite songs! Guitarists read music and they read guitar tab which is a shorthand for guitar.

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# Flute

A flute is a reedless wind instrument that produces its sound from the flow of air across an opening. The misconception is that this is an easy instrument. It takes more air than the clarinet or saxophone to play! It is small, lightweight and generally plays the melody in an ensemble.

Students generally begin flute when they are in 4th or 5th grade as it requires a lot of breath support and a long arm to hold up the instrument.

Studies have shown that students with asthma have benefited from playing a wind or woodwind instrument. Blowing into a flute for longer periods can also improve respiratory muscle function.

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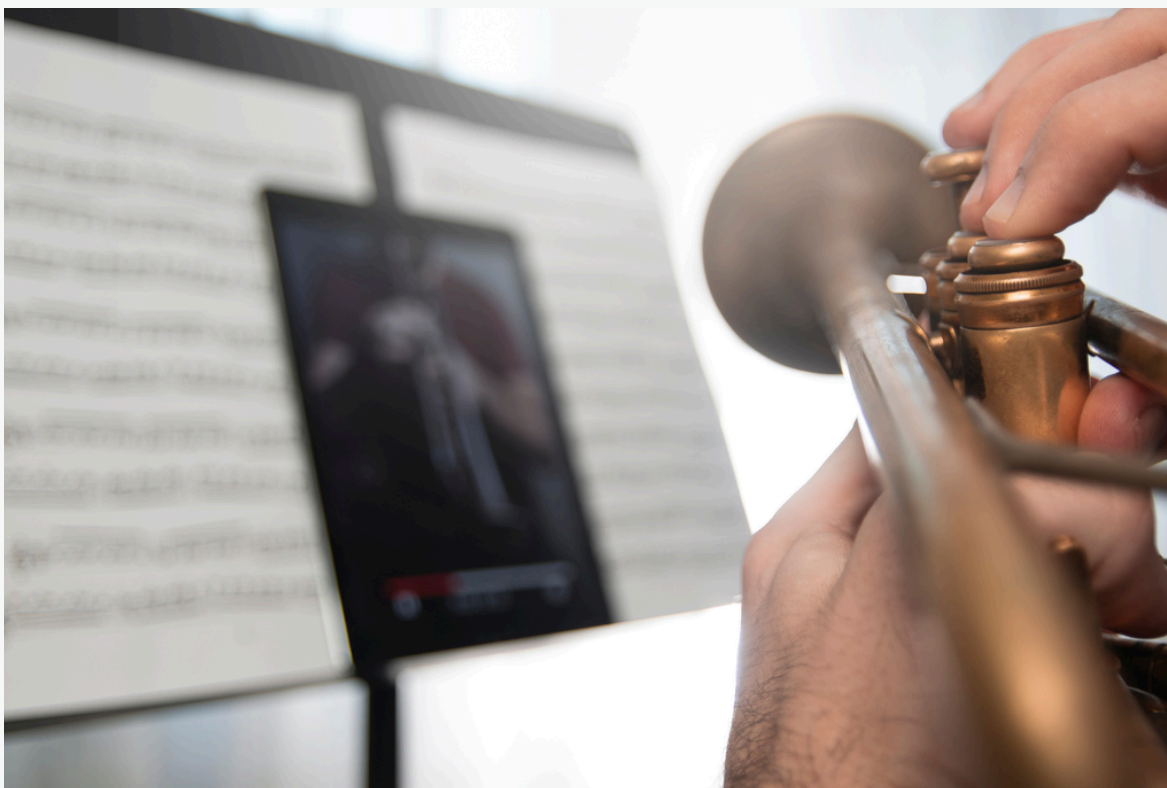
## Clarinet/Saxophone

The clarinet and saxophone use a “single reed” and a mouthpiece to produce the sound. It is a wonderful solo instrument. The clarinet is lightweight while the saxophone is heavier.

Students generally begin clarinet or saxophone when they are in 4th or 5th grade as it requires a lot of breath support. Both instruments use reeds to produce a sound.

Studies have shown that students with asthma have benefited from playing a wind or woodwind instrument.

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## Trumpet or Trombone

The trumpet and trombone are part of the brass family. The sound on the instruments is produced by buzzing into a mouthpiece. A buzz is produced by putting your lips together to make a motorboat sound.

Students generally begin brass instruments when they are in 5th grade as it requires a lot of breath support.

Studies have shown that students with asthma have benefited from playing a brass instrument.

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# Voice

Voice is the most portable and very popular instrument. Most people believe students can start as young as 6 but that is not true. Yes, there are some phenoms out there but the mechanics of the voice are intricate.

Think of vocal chords like an instrument. The larynx and vocal chords are not yet developed. Vocal chords at this age are delicate membranes that can damage easily. The larynx isn't fully developed until mid-20s in men, and early 20s in women, but obviously you shouldn't wait that long to have lessons. Regardless, it has been proven to be a terribly risky idea to start voice lessons before the voices change. Age 13-14 is a safe time for girls, and 14-15 for boys.

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# Benefits of Studying with TMLA



**1**

Introductory Lesson starting from \$39.95!

**2**

Certified Music Educators and Background Checks

**3**

Manage schedules easily with our convenient, self-booking platform.

**4**

Professional lesson platform which allows for minimum latency between student and teacher. Play together as if you were in the same room!

**5**

Comprehensive and accredited Music Education Platform.

**6**

The Royal Conservatory Certificate Program.

**7**

Our Specialized Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Program.