

Holiday Gift Guide - Music

As you approach the holiday season, you may consider getting music-related gifts for your students. Accessories are a great gift. Here are some ideas to consider. Of course, most of these are not required for class but are simply suggestions for things that students might find helpful for making music practice more enjoyable.

All music students:

- music stand
- instrument stand (makes practice more convenient)
- tuner/metronome (Korg makes good tuner/metronomes)
- books of popular songs for your instrument (local music stores - many to choose from)
- quality headphones or earbuds
- luggage tag/name tag for instrument case
- iTunes store gift cards

Woodwinds:

- reeds (Van Doren are excellent; Rico are also good; consider [Legere plastic reed](#) for oboe/bassoon - great investment)
- silk swabs
- cork grease for reed instruments
- mouthpiece cleaner brush for saxophones

Brass:

- valve oil
- tuning slide grease
- water spray bottle for trombones (drug store/dollar store sells empty water bottles)
- mutes (jazz students can use straight mute, cup mute, and/or plunger mute; straight or cup mute can make practicing quieter as well)
- Yamaha silent brass (allows students to play brass and sound goes to headphones - wonderful for practicing in apartments, or while others in the house have Zoom meetings- great investment)
- Mi-T-Mist spray cleaner for mouthpieces

Strings:

- rosin
- Snark clip-on tuner (also good for guitars) or Korg tuner
- mute - makes playing string instrument quieter
- case for shoulder rest & accessories [such as this one](#) (helpful for instrument cases that are small)
- cellos and basses - rock stop
- If bow hair is dirty or coming out, consider a new bow (bow should last several years)
- cellos may consider getting a hard case for travel
- extra strings

Jazz Band students:

- Jamey Aebersold books with Play Along Tracks sold [here](#). Consider one of the books in [J A Starter pack](#) for students who want to learn to improvise. Also check out Aebersold Streaming service for practicing jazz.
- Guitars - Mel Bay method books
- Brass - straight mute, cup mute, and/ or plunger mute

Percussion

- sticks or mallets
- drum pad
- drum pad stand

[Vic Firth](#) sells excellent quality percussion equipment - also check Dubs Drum Basement in Dublin

I highly recommend the local music stores. Shopping locally helps you avoid delays with the holiday rush. Local music merchants have fair prices, great service and quality products. *I strongly recommend that you purchase from companies that specialize in music for good quality instruments and accessories.*

Here is a list of local music stores that I know and trust:

Schwan Violin (strings specialist), Main Street, Pleasanton
Ingram and Braun's Musik Shoppe, Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton
Jams Music, San Ramon Rd, Dublin
Dubs Drum Basement, Dublin Blvd, Dublin
A&G Music, Fourteenth Street, Oakland (good refurbished used instruments)
Park Avenue Music Center, Park Ave, San Jose

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at smclimon@pleasantonusd.net

Happy holidays everyone!

