

# **How to get the most out of Music Lessons**

## **What's the right age to start an instrument?**

For children, starting at the right age is a key element to the success of their lessons. When a child begins lessons too soon, it can create problems—they may feel overwhelmed and frustrated and want to stop lessons. Sometimes progress can be much faster if the child waits a year to start lessons. Children who are older than the suggested earliest starting age usually do very well. The following are guidelines we have found to be successful in determining how young a child can start taking music lessons.

### **2-5 year olds**

If a pre-school child has a keen desire and wants to start music, a group pre-school music class will give them a good foundation in music basics which will be helpful in later private lessons.

### **Piano/Keyboard**

Four years old is the youngest age that we start children in private piano lessons. At this age they have begun to develop longer attention spans and can retain material with ease.

### **Guitar—Acoustic, Electric or Bass**

Eight years old is the earliest we recommend for guitar lessons. Guitar playing requires a fair amount of pressure on the fingertips from pressing on the strings. Children under 8 generally have small hands and may find playing uncomfortable. Bass guitar students generally are 10 years old or older.

### **Voice Lessons**

11 years old is recommended as the youngest age for private vocal lessons. Due to the physical nature of voice lessons (proper breathing techniques, development of the vocal chords and lung capacity), the younger body is generally not yet ready for the rigors of vocal technique.

### **Violin Lessons**

We accept violin students from the age of 5. Some teachers will start children as young as 3, but experience has shown us the most productive learning occurs when the beginner is 5 or older.

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