Instrument "Step-Up" Information

Just like a child can outgrow a pair of shoes, eventually students will outgrow their beginning band instruments. The holidays are a **fantastic** time to consider "stepping up" your child's instrument to one with a wider variety of features that is made of higher quality materials.

Generally speaking, a beginning level instrument (typically one that was rented when a student joins band) is made with a smaller bore and utilizes cheaper materials, which can make getting a good sound more difficult as a student's musical skills advance. A step-up instrument typically features a larger bore size and additional keys and/or slides to help make the challenges of advanced middle school or high school level music more manageable. A step-up instrument is ideal for a student who is looking for a great instrument that will last them through high school band.

Another instrument option is the professional level of instruments. These instruments feature the highest quality materials and the most features of any instrument type. They are generally more expensive than a step-up instrument, but are perfect for students who might be considering the pursuit of music at the collegiate level.

If a new instrument isn't in your budget, perhaps a new mouthpiece might be a good option for you. Many times, changing to a better mouthpiece can have great benefits for a student's sound and is more cost effective than purchasing an entirely new instrument.

Whatever route you decide to take, please make sure to consult with Mr. England, Mr. Chesnut, or your private lessons instructor before making any music related purchase. We are here to help make sure you get the best deal you can on whatever you choose to purchase!

Local retailers to purchase instruments/equipment:

The Music Stop
215 Robert Rose Dr
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
615.217.6165

Concert Musical Supply
217 W Main St
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
615.896.6518

Music and Arts
536 N Thompson Ln
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
615.893.4241

Online instrument retailers:

Woodwind Brasswind – www.wwbw.com
Taylor Music – www.1800usaband.com
Amro Music - www.amromusic.com

It is *possible* to find quality instruments on eBay, Craigslist, or at the local pawn shop. **However**, if a deal appears too good to be true, **IT PROBABLY IS!** Please don't hesitate to contact Mr. England or Mr. Chesnut to look over an instrument you have found online!

WOODWINDS

Instrument "Step-Up" Recommendations

Flute
Step-up: Gemeinhardt 3SHB, Powell Sonare SF501 Signature, Yamaha YFL 381H
Professional: Gemeinhardt 33SSB, Yamaha YFL 687HCT

Clarinet
Mouthpiece: Brad Behn "Overture", Hite Premier, Vandoren B45
Ligature: Rovner 1R Dark
Step-up: Buffet E12F, Jupiter JCL 1100S, Yamaha YCL 450
Professional: Buffet R13, Yamaha YCL CSGII

Alto Saxophone
Mouthpiece: Hite Premier, Selmer S402 C*
Ligature: Rovner 1RL Dark
Step-up: Jupiter JAS 1100, Selmer SAS280R LaVoix II, Yamaha YAS 480
Professional: Selmer 62J Paris Series III, Yamaha YAS 82ZII Custom, Yanagisawa AWO10

Tenor Saxophone
Mouthpiece: Hite Premier, Selmer S404 C*
Ligature: Rovner 2R Dark
Step-up: Jupiter JTS 1100, Selmer STS280R LaVoix II, Yamaha YTS 480
Professional: Selmer 64J Paris Series III, Yamaha YTS 82ZII Custom, Yanagisawa TWO10

Oboe
Step-up: Fox Renard Artist Model 330
Professional: Fox 800

Bassoon
Step-up: Fox Renard 222. Jupiter 363, Selmer 132
Professional: Fox 201 Symphony, Fox 601 Symphony

BRASS & PERCUSSION

Instrument "Step-Up" Recommendations

Trumpet
Mouthpiece: Faxx 5C, Bach 3C
Mutes: Dennis Wick Straight Mute, Humes & Berg Cup Mute, JoRal Bubble Mute
Step-up: Jupiter JTR 1120S, Yamaha YTR 4335GSII
Professional: Bach Stradivarious 180S37, Jupiter 1602 XO, Yamaha YTR 8335IIRS

French Horn
Mouthpiece: Holton Farkas MDC
Mutes: Humes & Berg 121 FH
Step-up: Conn 6D Artist, Holton H379, Yamaha YHR 567
Professional: Conn 8D CONNstellation, Holton H179, Yamaha YHR 668

Trombone
Mouthpiece: Faxx 5G, Bach 5G
Mutes: Dennis Wick Straight Mute, Humes & Berg Cup Mute
Step-up: Benge 165F, Holton TR150, Jupiter 636LO Tribune, Yamaha YSL 448G
Professional: Bach 42BO, Conn 88OH, Getzen 3047AFR, Jupiter 1236LO XO, Yamaha YSL 882O Xeno

Baritone/Euphonium
Mouthpiece: Schilke 51D
Step-up: Jupiter 470S, Yamaha YEP 321S
Professional: Besson BE2052S Prestige, Jupiter 1270S XO, Yamaha YEP 842S

Tuba
Mouthpiece: Faxx Helleberg, Perantucci PT-48
Step-up: Eastman EBB534, King 2341
Professional: Jupiter XO 1680, Yamaha YCB-822, Meinl Weston 2145CC, Eastman EBC832

Percussion
Sticks: Innovative Percussion IP-LD snare sticks
Mallets: Innovative Percussion IP-F7 or IP-F8 mallets
Accessories: Innovative Percussion MB1 mallet bag, Innovative Percussion RP-1R or CP-1R practice pad

Step up: Stagg Practice Xylo - step up from bell kit

Pro/HS College: Majestic 4.3 Octave Marimba - for practice and performance through all grades

Drum Set: A drum set is a better purchase than just a snare drum or snare kit. Any starter kit from brand name companies is good (Mapex has several great kits). Buying a used brand name kit is always a good idea over a new no name kit. Fork's Drum closet in Nashville has many to choose from. Facebook Marketplace also has many good used kits from individuals.