



Birds on a Wire International Guitar Program

Family and New Player Handbook



From our friends in Hamberg Germany! (Photos: U. Wichmann)

Wild Mountain Bluebirds (First Year)

VRA New Player 'Material List'

Specifically selected for new beginners and easily available via Amazon each of these items has been tested, used and loved by students and families of 'Birds on a Wire' and 'OM Studios International' many times over and specifically for the high-quality to low-cost ratio.

1. Yamaha Classical Guitars - Simply the highest quality instruments for the best price.
 - ½ - **Yamaha CGS102A** - Half-Size Classical Guitar * (total length 34")
 - ¾ - **Yamaha CGS103AII** - Three-Quarter Size Classical Guitar * (total length 37")
 - 4/4 - **Yamaha C40II** - Full Size Classical Guitar * (total length 40")
2. Classical Guitar Padded Bag - Essential for safe transport.
Classical Guitar Padded Bag (Size via total instrument length *)
3. Guitar Foot Rest - Most foot rests are generally of good quality regardless of price.
On-Stage FS7850B
4. D'Addario Accessories Guitar Tuner - less expensive and does not break as easily.
D'Addario PW-CT-12
5. Music Writing Book - **Hal Leonard Wide Staff Manuscript Paper (Red Cover)**
6. Sheet Music Stand - Inexpensive and essential for use playing at home.
Eastrock and **Kasonic** both offer '**folding 2-in-1 stands**' (stand and table top compatible)
7. Guitar Stand - Keeps your new instrument accessible and safe (surprisingly important)
Dommi Guitar Stand A-Frame Wood - looks good in every living room.

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Researchers at MSU found 93 percent of STEM graduates reported musical training at some point in their lives, as compared to only 34 percent of average adults.

Birds on a Wire is specifically designed for new players.

2023 / 2024 ~ Valley Ridge Academy ~ Thursdays 3.15p  
(\$160 per month via Zelle, Venmo, Check ~ OM Studios International, Inc.)

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Weekly Session Materials:

*Instrument and Case, Foot Rest, Tuner, Pencil, Music Paper Book*

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## Instrument Sizing Chart

|                |               |          |
|----------------|---------------|----------|
| 4-6 years old  | 3'3" to 3'9"  | 1/4-Size |
| 5-8 years old  | 3'10" to 4'5" | 1/2-Size |
| 8-11 years old | 4'6" to 4'11" | 3/4-Size |
| 11-Adult       | 5' or taller  | 4/4-Size |

\* Please connect with any questions, we are happy to help.

## How Does Playing Music Help Your Child's Development?

*Here are a number of brief insights from our friends in the scientific community:*

- Playing Music Creates Stronger Connections Between Brain Regions, Improved Brain Function, Better Memory and Attention and Builds a Higher IQ \*
- Playing Music Builds Better Fine Motor Skills
- Playing Music Together Creates Social and Emotional Intelligence
- Playing Music Creates a Higher Level of Executive Functioning in the Brain \*\*

\* The Royal Conservatory of Music - [\*The Benefits of Playing Music\*](#)

\*\* Dr. Anita Collins - [\*How Playing an Instrument Benefits Your Brain\*](#)

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"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician." - Albert Einstein  
(Einstein named his violin 'Lina')

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With instrument in hand, First Year players develop the physical coordination and confidence that creates a beautiful lasting relationship with music.

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Central to the First Years 'Wild Mountain Bluebirds' - *Read, Write, Play* studies are:

- Correct and Balanced Playing Posture
  - Physical Accuracy and Fluid Motion
  - Rhythm, Musical Notation and Phrasing
  - The Eye, Voice, Finger Connection
  - The Elementals of a Successful Musical Experience
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*This is Emma's first performance. Enjoy...!*  
Our colleague, Stefan Schmidt  
Friedberg, Germany is holding the pencil.

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**The most important and supportive parent phrase is:**

*"Amazing...I love that piece...Can you play it again?"*

**The second most effective is:**

*"That sounds beautiful! How do you do that...?"*

A Connected and Supportive Family Experience is the Essential Quality of Success!

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Creating a true and genuine interest in your new players musical experience is the 'secret' to connect your natural sense of love to their success.

For a new player it is certainly the most valuable reward.

Your return is the potential for many years of beautiful music.

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**Many Parents choose to Learn Together:**

- Parents will be happily guided in the same techniques of reading, counting and playing that are used to lead ensembles and orchestras around the world.
- It is simply not long until this path leads to playing pieces and duets together, even from the very beginning stages. For many, this becomes a beautiful lifetime connection.

