



Students may use the Conservatory's guitars during class, but each student needs a guitar at home on which to practice.

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING A GUITAR

- CLASSICAL GUITAR: I recommend classical guitars with nylon strings for entry-level students. Nylon strings are easier on children's fingers as they build finger strength. Additionally, the wider neck on the classical guitar makes learning chords easier.
- SIZE: Guitars come in multiple sizes such as full size,  $\frac{3}{4}$  size, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  size. Typically, if the student is 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ '-5' tall, then a  $\frac{3}{4}$  size guitar is appropriate. A full size guitar is for those 5' and taller. You should consult with the guitar store to help you decide which size is best for your child.

### SOME GOOD CLASSICAL GUITAR OPTIONS FOR BEGINNERS

#### • Cordoba Coco Mini Mahogany Acoustic Guitar \$130

- this is the guitar I recommend: it has dot inlay fret markers which most classical guitars do not have, and it has 14 frets which is also rare for a classical guitar
- this guitar has a wonderful sound for the price; I own a few of these guitars and use them for teaching
- this guitar comes with a gig bag and strap
- available at Guitar Center in San Antonio and Austin
- also available on the Guitar Center website: click [here](#)
- a larger model of this guitar is also available at Guitar Center for \$170

#### • Cordoba C3M Acoustic Nylon String Classical Guitar \$200

- this guitar has a very nice sound for the price; I own this guitar and am happy with it
- available at Sam Ash and Guitar Center in San Antonio and Austin
- also available on the Sam Ash website: click [here](#)
- also available on the Guitar Center website: click [here](#)

#### • Both Sam Ash and Guitar Center have quite a few inexpensive classical guitars \$50-\$130

- click [here](#) to see the selection at Sam Ash
- click [here](#) to see the selection at Guitar Center

If a student already has a classical guitar, an acoustic steel-string guitar, or an electric guitar available to practice with at home, that will be fine.

The advantage to ordering through Guitar Center or Sam Ash is that they have nearby store locations, so you can easily return your guitar if you are unhappy with it.

The above guitars are only my opinion. Please talk to the store from which you will be purchasing to help you decide which guitar is the correct choice for your student. Please let me know if you have any questions.

– Christopher Mayes