

# Welcome to Tartan Tundra Music

Jean McDermott

600 3rd Street, suite 204

Fairbanks, AK 99701

907-456-3435 (456-FIDL)

Cell (text only): 907-978-5879 (easy to remember, it's a palindrome)

<http://tartantundra.com>    [jeanofiddler@gmail.com](mailto:jeanofiddler@gmail.com)

At Tartan Tundra everyone is treated as an individual with his or her own distinctive learning style. Music should be fun, and while it can also be hard work, learning music can give a great sense of accomplishment. Music is something that will bring everyone around you pleasure for the rest of your life.

## Important Things to Know

- **There are two dogs that "work" here.** Both are friendly to people. Ole, the Norwegian Elkhound, is a certified therapy dog. However one dog doesn't get a long with other dogs, so **never** bring a dog here. Also, please don't eat in the studio, and never feed the dogs anything unless it is something I have given to you for the dogs.
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- **Map:** There is a map you can download on <http://tartantundra.com> . It is in the left-hand sidebar.
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- **Payment is due monthly**, on roughly the last paid lesson of each month. There is an easy chart of the payment days available for download on the website.
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- **Just because you don't see my car, don't assume I am not here.** It may be in the shop and I may have a loaner.
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- **There is a comfortable waiting room**, so there is no need to wait in the hallway if you are early for your lesson.



## Where to get an Instrument

Violins and Violas can be bought and rented at **Music Mart**, 5th and Noble, **452-4500**, and down in Anchorage at The Horn Doctor, 907-272-4676. Violins, violas, and all the instruments except bodhráns can be bought at **Grassroots Guitar**, on College Rd. across the street from Creamer's Field, **451-7668**. **Please patronize local stores if at all possible.**

## Books and Equipment

**I highly recommend the KORG clip-on tuner that Grassroots Guitar carries.** Do not buy the Snark tuner for violin or viola. It doesn't work for those instruments.

- **Notebook:** All students. I prefer a composition book because the pages don't fall out. I have some at the studio for your convenience. I write assignments, music, notes, and students and parents can write down questions and observations. The notebook serves many purposes. A book of music paper is useful.

- **Music stand:** Especially important for violin and viola. A cookbook stand could be used on a table or counter, too.

**Violin and Viola players** will need a shoulder rest for the first lesson and thereafter. Kun, Viva and Everest are some good brands. The shoulder rest needs to have adjustable legs.

## • BOOKS

- **Viola:** Viola Book: *Müller Rusch String Method Book 1*. Depending on level, *Fiddlers Philharmonic, book 1* (mostly Celtic), Samuel Applebaum's *Beautiful Music for Two String Instruments Vol 1*, and *American Fiddle Method*, viola edition.
- **Violin:** No beginner book at present, but I am at work on a book. Handouts will be given, and original compositions. We often use *Canons and Rounds* by William Starr, *The Fiddler's Fakebook*, *The American Fiddle Method*, and many others depending on level of playing.
- **Mandolin:** I've yet to find a good mandolin book. You will learn to read music! A chord book a good idea.
- **Guitar:** There are several good Mel Bay books, and a chord book is good to have, but not required.
- **Ukulele:** I haven't found a good book for ukulele, but have lots of handouts.
- **Voice:** We use Singer's Friend on the iPhone or iPad. This is a free singing warmup app.



**Internet:** We make more and more use of the the internet to research, find and print music. Some of these services cost money and the student is expected to pay for such downloads. However there is also a lot of free music online.

Using YouTube to listen to tunes/pieces is invaluable. Even a musician like me, who has an extensive CD collection, can't compete with the sheer volume of music you can hear online. The internet: use it!

**Practicing:** I expect students to practice at least several times a week. For children, rewards are given: for five different days of practicing, they can choose one candy OR two stickers. For four different days of practicing they can choose one sticker (but not candy). How long a student is asked to practice is highly variable and geared to the student.

## RECITALS

**We have two recitals per year**, one around the first week of December, and one around the middle of May. Themes are chosen, and after all the music has been played, we have a potluck and visit. It is not required, but it is a lot of fun! In advance of the recitals we practice at least once, often more. There is no charge for recitals or rehearsals.