

Welcome to Tartan Tundra Music

Jean McDermott
600 3rd Street, suite 204
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-456-3435 (456-FIDL)
Cell: 907-978-5879 (easy to remember, it's a palindrome)
<http://tartantundra.com> 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 therapy dog. Blueberry is also an elkhound. Please don't feed the dogs anything unless it is something I have given to you for the dogs.

Please, no food in the studio. Also, no gum. Thank you.

- **Map:** There is a map you can download on <http://tartantundra.com> . It is in the left-hand sidebar.
- **Payment is due monthly**, on the last paid lesson of each month. I will send a reminder email the weekend before payment week.
- 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.
- **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 at **Music Mart**, 5th and Noble, 452-4500, rented down in Anchorage at **The Horn Doctor**, 907-272-4676. **Please patronize local stores if at all possible.**

Books and Equipment

- **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:** *The Scottish Folk Fiddle Tutor* for beginners and *Canons and Rounds* by William Star., *The Fiddler's Fakebook*, *The American Fiddle Method*, and many others depending on level and style 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.
- **Ukulele:** I haven't found a good book for ukulele, but have lots of handouts, and two great songbooks, both available on Amazon.
- **Voice:** We use Singer's Friend on the iPhone or iPad. This is a free vocal warmup app.
- **Internet:** We make more and more use of the the internet to research, find, listen to, 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 group pieces at least once, often more. There is no charge for recitals or rehearsals.