

CLAIRE GIVENS VIOLINS, INC.

Established 1977

Dealers, Makers & Restorers of Fine Violins, Violas, Cellos & Bows

TIPS ON HELPING STUDENTS MAKE A BUYING DECISION WHEN TEACHING REMOTELY

We realize how difficult it can be to teach remotely during these times and have checked with teachers on how they help their students make a purchasing decision. Here are some ways that might help you and your student distinguish what sounds and feels better while having remote lessons:

- **Power, Depth, Clarity:**
 - Have the student play excerpts they know and have worked on with you; something slow with big dynamic shifts, something vigorous and bold, plus scales.
 - Have your student play in a bigger room, if possible. Have them play for people in their home or living situation to judge power and projection. Try having them move further from the microphone or play in another room while comparing instruments or bows.

- **Sound Quality:**
 - A free program called “Flip Grid” allows the student to record videos easily to compare the instruments or bows being considered and then allows you, the teacher, to hear the comparison.
 - The sound quality is better on a phone or tablet than Zoom or a PC. Use of an external microphone, if available, would also be beneficial.
 - Use headphones when listening to the student

- **How to try the instruments yourself:**
 - To get the best sense of the instrument, we would be happy to ship to you, the teacher, first before turning everything over to the student. We can walk you through sanitizing the inventory before the hand-off.