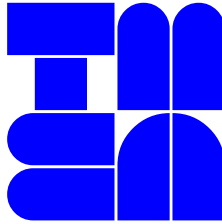


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**Dr. Jeff Laird**  
President Elect 2002-2003  
President 2003-2004  
Immediate Past President  
2004-2005

## **Texas Music Educators Association**

310 Magic Oaks Court Spring, TX 77388

August 5, 2003

Dear Parent,

I am extremely pleased that your family has decided to introduce your child to instrumental music through one of Texas' many great school music programs. Research shows that your decision will benefit your child in innumerable ways.

To help ensure that your child gets off to a good start, I would encourage you to heed the advice of your music teaching professional when selecting an instrument. While a professional line instrument is certainly not necessary at this time, quality should play a major role when considering a purchase, lease or rental. Even beginner or entry-level instruments can vary greatly in quality.

Indeed, the cost of a good quality beginner instrument can seem high to some, but it is a small price to pay to increase the potential success of your child. An instrument that is seriously inferior can only set your child up for failure. Additionally, constant repairs on lesser-quality instruments can prove quite costly, if parts are available at all.

Again, your child's band or orchestra director is your best resource for reliable information on this subject. I assure you that your child's success is their highest priority.

I wish your child the very best in his or her musical endeavors.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Laird". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'L'.

Dr. Jeff Laird  
President, Texas Music Educators Association