

CHOOSING A PIANO

Tips for Families

Purchasing a piano can be a bewildering experience, but having the right piano for your family is a vital part of successful and enjoyable piano study. Here is a quick primer to help you find your way through all the options!

Acoustic Pianos: These are the ideal for piano study. Some piano sellers offer rental instruments, which give you a solid piano without the worry of upkeep, and allow for time to be sure piano lessons are right for your child. Used acoustic pianos can be found on places like Craig's List for free or very little, but you **MUST** have a piano technician evaluate it before purchase and tune it every 6-12 months (\$100-150). You will also need to pay a mover to bring it to your home (about \$100-\$250). Used pianos can be found sometimes for free and new pianos start at thousands of dollars and go much higher, but a good acoustic can last a lifetime if well-maintained.

Types of Acoustic (Traditional) Pianos:

Grand – The kind of large piano you usually see in concert halls. Can range from “baby grand” at 4.5 feet long, to almost 10 feet for a concert grand.



Upright – The standard home piano, it comes in various heights. It can sound great but may not be as nice as a grand. It's perfect for a family on a budget, or someone who doesn't have a lot of room.



Spinet/Console – A Spinet looks like a very short upright, not much taller than key-level. Playing it feels and sounds very different from other pianos, and spinets are rarely of good quality. A taller Console (pictured) is a better option. Be sure to choose a good brand, or it may be very poorly made.



Good/Decent Brands of Acoustic Pianos (no particular order) Yamaha, Young & Chang, Mason & Hamlin, Steinway, Baldwin, Chickering, Kawai, Schimmel, and others (check with me).

Places to Find Acoustic Pianos:

- Social media and sites such as Facebook, Craig's List, OfferUp, etc (free/low-cost used)
- [Local companies]

Digital Piano: This special kind of electronic keyboard can mimic the sound and “feel” of a traditional acoustic piano. It is not the ideal, but can be an option for some students.

- High-quality used digital pianos can be found starting at about \$250.
- Decent new digital pianos start at around \$400 and can range into the thousands for high-end instruments.
- Some come with a bench and built-in cabinet to look like an acoustic. Others may require separate purchase of stand and bench, which start at about \$25 each.



Quality Digital Pianos for Students (minimum requirements):

- 88 keys
- Weighted keys (“hammer” action is required; NOT “partially-weighted” or “touch-sensitive”)
- Built-in speakers
- Pedals (not always necessary with small children/beginners, but be sure there is an option to add pedals when needed)

Good Digital Piano Brands (Check with me for further/updated details)

- Yamaha (such as P45 or P71, P105, P115 and higher; Clavinova)
- Casio (Privia PX, CDP)
- Korg (SP, B1)

Places to Buy Digital Pianos

- Social media and sites such as Facebook, Craig’s List, etc (used)
- Amazon.com
- GuitarCenter.com
- Walmart.com
- Costco.com

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE (click to access)

- <https://takelessons.com/blog/2012/08/keyboard-vs-piano-what-do-new-students-need>
- DigitalPianoReviewGuide.com
- PianoBuyer.com
- <https://www.pianobuyer.com/article/advice-about-used-pianos>

Please call/text or email me with any questions, and before final purchase. I’m here to help!