



Should I buy a piano or electric keyboard?

All students need some type of instrument at home for daily practice. While an acoustic piano is preferable for sound quality, and to build strength and dexterity, it is not mandatory that students have a real piano in order to learn.

How do I buy an instrument?

Acoustic Pianos - Pre-owned pianos can be purchased through private sources (check Craigslist, Next Door, Penny Saver, etc.) and some music schools. Piano stores also offer “rent to own” options, allowing customers to rent a piano monthly and then apply those rental payments to a new instrument in the future. Music Departments at some universities have annual spring sales of their practice pianos. Universities in the Los Angeles area are CSUN, UCLA, USC and Cal State Dominguez Hills.

When purchasing a pre-owned piano from any seller public or private, it is important to have it checked out by a reputable piano tuner / technician to make sure the piano is in good condition and the price is fair.

Electronic Keyboards - Keyboards can be purchased at vendors such as Guitar Center, West LA Music, Costco, or online. Use the following guidelines in order of importance. If you do not intend on purchasing a full-sized keyboard (88 keys) make sure the keyboard you choose has the first three features.

1. A minimum of 49 regular-sized keys, approx. 5 1/2 inches long and 3/4 inch wide. If possible, 61 to 88 keys would be better.
2. A sustain pedal, not a sustain “button.” Check the back of the keyboard for an input to see if the keyboard can support a pedal. A sustain pedal can be purchased separately if it is not included with the piano.
3. Touch sensitive – responds to differences in touch that affect loudness and softness.
4. Weighted keys – the feeling and resistance of playing the keys resembles that of a piano. This feature is usually only included on full size keyboards (88 keys).

Can you recommend a Piano Tuner / Technician for my acoustic piano?

Yep, only the best!

Hollis Erdman
Piano Tuner / Technician
(310) 804-9829
deke@me.com