

# THE PIANO: Your Instrument

## Buying a Piano

Buying a piano is one of the most important investments you will make toward becoming a proficient pianist. Unlike other household goods, pianos are designed to last 20 - 50 years or more, so long as you provide them with proper and consistent care.

There are several stores in town available for shopping to purchase or rent a piano:

AZ Piano [www.azpiano.com](http://www.azpiano.com)

Piano Gallery [www.arizonapianogallery.com](http://www.arizonapianogallery.com)

Steinway Showroom of Arizona [www.steinwayarizona.com](http://www.steinwayarizona.com)

My advice is to rent or buy the best instrument that fits your budget. Parents are sometimes tempted to purchase a very inexpensive and poor-quality piano initially, to gauge whether the student will continue with lessons for the long term. Although that approach is somewhat understandable, it has two pitfalls:

- A quality piano with a good musical sound serves as an inspiration for study and a tool to develop technique, touch, and the ear.
- Buying a low-quality piano can actually impede progress of the student.

For more information about piano prices and quality, and more detailed information on how to choose a good piano, please visit [www.bluebookofpianos.com](http://www.bluebookofpianos.com) or [www.pianobuyer.com](http://www.pianobuyer.com)

## Piano Maintenance

Proper maintenance (tunings, regulations, voicing, and repairs) will keep your instrument performing over the longest possible time. The backbone of any maintenance program is **regular tuning**. These tunings should occur two to three times per year to respond to changes in humidity and temperature as well as movement of the strings from use. Damage done by avoiding proper maintenance is likely to be expensive.

If you would like some hints on how to care for your instrument and to find a tuner/technician, visit the website for the Piano Technician's Guild at [www.ptg.org](http://www.ptg.org)