

Which Piano or Keyboard should I buy?

Acoustic Pianos

Traditional upright or baby grand pianos are fantastic instruments, look great about the home and, looked after, will last for anywhere between 50-100 years or longer. This means they can be a great investment but they do come at a high starting price; new pianos start from about £3,500 and most secondhand instruments will cost more than £1,000. They also require quite a lot of space

If you choose to go down this route we would highly recommend visiting a reputable dealer; while you may find much cheaper deals on eBay, facebook or other websites, the quality and condition of these instruments can be very varied and it can be hard to tell what is a good deal.

Keyboards and Digital Pianos

Keyboards and Digital Pianos both come with the benefit of being significantly less expensive and requiring less space than an acoustic piano.

Digital Pianos are designed to mimic the experience of playing an acoustic piano and tend to have weighted or touch sensitive keys that allow the same expressive response as a piano. They often have a limited range of voices, mostly piano, electric piano and organ sounds.

Keyboards tend to have lighter, and sometimes smaller, keys which are not usually touch sensitive and produce a consistent volume regardless of how hard the key is pressed. They usually have a wide variety of voices, sounds effects and built in drum patterns.

While a digital piano would be the preferred instrument, in the first 2 years of learning either a keyboard or a digital piano would be suitable for students to practice effectively.

Both come in a range of sizes, usually between 61 keys and 88 keys, which is the length of a standard piano. Full size instruments will be able to be used for longer but in the first 2 years of lessons it is unlikely many students would need more than a 61 key instrument.

As a general rule, how much you are able to spend on a digital piano or keyboard will determine the quality and the potential lifespan of the instrument. Digital pianos can range between £150 and £3,000, while keyboards tend to be between £50 and £500. However, it is sometimes possible to pick up good instruments secondhand through online sites and charity shops, reducing the costs.

Things to look for:

- Full size, or standard, keys
- Touch sensitive or weighted keys are preferred
- At least 61 keys
- Built in speakers (some keyboards are designed for use through computers and software and these will not be suitable for learning)

Popular brands for digital keyboards and pianos include Yamaha, Casio and Roland, though there are many others.

Local Piano Dealers

Countrywide Pianos, High Wycombe: countrywidepianos.co.uk 01494 813388

Chiltern Pianos, Wendover: chilternpianos.co.uk 0808 160 6170

Pianos and Keyboards available through XYZ

Axus AXP10 Keyboard:

<https://xyzmusicacademy.com/product/axus-axp10-portable-keyboard/>

Axus AXP2 Keyboard:

<https://xyzmusicacademy.com/product/axus-axp2-electronic-keyboard/>

Axus AXD55 88 Note Digital Stage Piano:

<https://xyzmusicacademy.com/product/axus-axd55-88-note-digital-stage-piano/>



Other suggested pianos and keyboards

Yamaha PSR F52 Portable Keyboard

Available from Gear4Music, Argos and others.



Visionkey-100

Available from Gear4Music



SDP-1 Portable Digital Keyboard

Available from Gear4Music



Yamaha P45 Digital Piano

Available from Gear4Music, Argos, Amazon and others.



Kawai ES60 Digital Stage Piano

Available from Gear4Music and others.



Yamaha P145 Digital Piano

Available from Gear4Music, Argos, Amazon and others.

