

Piano Perspectives



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Beyond Tuning

What does it take to make a piano pleasing to play? Tuning is clearly the first step. Unless the notes of a piano sound clean and harmonious, much of the joy of playing is lost. But are there other things to consider beyond tuning?

As well as being musical instruments, pianos are mechanical devices, and like any mechanical device, a piano is subject to wear and tear. As wear and tear accumulates, it begins to influence the sound, feel and appearance of the instrument. Reversing the effect of this deterioration by various reconditioning processes can do much to make a piano more delightful to play.

What is more, many pianos in homes today were built to meet a particular price point in a competitive marketplace.

Often, relatively simple things that could have made a piano more responsive musically were left undone to keep the price low. Regulating, reducing mechanical friction, voicing and various other tweaks can result in marked improvements to even a relatively new piano.

How can you as a piano owner know what might be done to make your instrument as enjoyable to play as possible? If you are having your piano tuned by a knowledgeable, skilled and trustworthy piano technician, your source for answers is readily at hand. Your piano technician can identify whether there is work that needs to be done, and what service strategy will give you the best value for your money.

Depending on what your piano needs and how you choose to manage your budget, you may choose to have several hours of work done at once, or to have perhaps thirty to sixty minutes of extra reconditioning work done at every tuning.



If your piano is being played regularly, and especially if it is being used for practice by someone who is taking lessons, then it only makes sense to do what is within your means to make it play as well as it can. Floyd Gadd, piano technician, would be more than happy to work with you in developing a plan to bring this about.

Getting Ready to Buy a New Piano? Check out this free guide!

For many years, *The Piano Book* by Larry Fine has been the resource to consult when preparing to purchase a piano. Recently Larry has begun publishing a semi-annual piano buying guide, called the *Acoustic & Digital Piano Buyer*. This guide is available free on the internet at www.pianobuyer.com and is also available for purchase in a paper edition. Of particular interest to those who are shopping locally are the sections on Yamaha pianos (available at Surridges Music Centre) and Heintzman Pianos (available at Creasy Pianos.)

Just Getting Started? Consider a Piano Rental.

Floyd Gadd is currently preparing a small number of pianos to be made available on a rental basis. These pianos will be reconditioned and thoroughly tuned, voiced and regulated. Floyd believes that progress and achievement in music lessons are best served by providing the student with an instrument that is musically responsive, and is attractive in its tuning, its tone, its touch and its appearance. If you have a child or children taking lessons, are reluctant to purchase a new piano right away, but want an instrument that will reward the effort invested in practicing, give Floyd a call. He will be happy to let you know what he has available.