

# The Minimum Acceptable Practice instrument

- **88 Full-Sized Keys** - Keys must be 5.93 inches long. This is approximately as long as a dollar bill. To test, place a dollar bill on the key with one end pressed against the fallboard. The piano key should run to the end of the ink on the bill.
- **Properly Weighted Touch** - A (55g) technician's key weight should depress the Middle C key to its escapement point (half-way down). If the key goes down too far or not at all, it is improperly weighted.
- **A Sustain Pedal** - Any practice instrument must have a "damper" or sustain pedal. The piano-style pedal with incremental pedaling is recommended.
- **Tuning Stability** - The instrument must be in tune and must be able to *stay* in tune for months at a time. Playing on an out of tune piano can severely damage a student's "ear for music."
- **Proper Action Regulation** - Regulation is to piano touch what tuning is to piano sound. It's impossible to develop proper playing technique and the appropriate finger strength on an improperly regulated piano. The keys must be balanced, responsive and evenly-weighted.
- **Piano Bench** - Posture is critical to the developing pianist. It's important to have a bench that is made to match the piano your student is practicing on.

Practicing on a cheap keyboard, an "old beater" or an out-of-tune piano will RUIN your student's playing technique, damage their "ear" and make them want to quit lessons. Don't take the risk.

How does the practice instrument you're considering measure up?