

Ask The Piano Man

During the past 300 years tens of millions of pianos have been manufactured, by thousands of builders worldwide, with tens of thousands of names. In the United States alone, approximately 9,000 brands of pianos have been placed on the market many are still in use or on display in homes or elsewhere.

Buying a piano privately can be dangerous and costly. What appears to be a rare bargain may prove to be a real liability. Unless you are a piano expert, your best assurance is to rely on the judgement of the most experienced dealer in your area with a proven record of integrity and fair dealing.

It is unwise to pick up an old piano privately “to get started with”. A poor piano offers discouragement to the child and is at best a questionable investment for the parent.

Here are just a few of the many danger areas encountered when a non-expert piano buyer buys a piano from a private party;

- **Plate:** May be cracked or broken which cripples the piano musically and renders it useless.
- **Strings:** Base strings may be “tired and tubey” totally devoid of tone.
- **Sounding Board:** May be cracked or worse yet, may have lost its crown to become tonally deficient.
- **Ribs:** May be broken or pulled away from soundboard.
- **Bridges:** May have lost proper bearing, be broken split or cracked, necessitating a mayor expense.
- **Tuning Pins:** May be loose, may have previously “doped”, may require oversized pins, may require new pin block, avoid like a plague any pianos with pins showing evidence of having been pounded.
- **Pin Block:** May be split and is very costly to repair since this is concealed, experience judgement is required.
- **Actions:** May be literally worn out rendering piano useless. If rebushing is required, this is very costly. A complete regulation requires much time of an expert and is expensive if properly done.
- **Hammers:** May be worn out or improperly filed so as to require replacement. Another costly repair.
- **Trap work:** The internal leverage controls of the expression pedals may need complete overhauling.
- **Refinishing:** Many people learn to their sorrow that refinishing a piano is not a home do it yourself project; that is requires much hard work and know how best left to a skilled craftsman. Good refinishing work is expensive.
- **BEWARE OF TERMITES,** bugs, mice, and other insects that attack wood.

If you don't know pianos..Know your piano man.

Contact us (973) 886-7414