



## A Guide to Buying a Refurbished Yamaha Piano

### Background

*In recent years, there has been a rapid decline in the number of trained, qualified and experienced piano tuners, repairmen and restorers. This has led many traditional piano stores to give up the technical aspects of pianos and simply become a retailer of new or near new pianos, calling in outside tuners for their technical work. Due to this, retailers have been forced to source pianos that have been reconditioned overseas and transport them to Australia in bulk to save on freight and removal costs.*

*Piano reconditioning and refurbishing factories have been set up throughout Asia to feed the supply to Australia. In some cases, these factories are generally employing cheap unskilled labour and using cheap after-market parts and materials.*

*In turn, many have also created a rating system for the completed pianos, ranging from D, C, B, A and AAA (the best quality).*

*It is sometimes difficult for the piano purchaser to determine what rating the piano is, as some have extremely well-presented cabinets but are a D-rated piano inside.*

*20 years in the piano industry has taught us that true AAA-rated pianos are few and far between. If you go to a store and there are over 20 reconditioned Yamaha, Kawai, etc, pianos and they are all AAA rated, proceed with caution.*

***At Leaver & Son, we only ever have a small selection of reconditioned Yamaha pianos because it has taken us over 10 years to find the best suppliers with the best quality and prices.***

***In addition, because we are also one of the last surviving piano workshops, we carry out our own inspection, service and tuning when the pianos arrive.***

***That's why we have the confidence to offer a 15-year in-house warranty on all of our pianos!***



## Things to look for when buying a secondhand Yamaha piano:



## Questions to ask if buying at a private sale:

### ***Has the piano been regularly tuned and maintained?***

Pianos generally require tuning at least once a year. If the piano has not been tuned for up to 5 years it will in most cases still be able to be tuned however it may require 2 or 3 tunings, spaced a week apart to raise it up to A-440 pitch. (A-440 is the accepted pitch standard used when tuning instruments in western countries) If not maintained with regular tuning, there may also be mechanical repairs to complete as well. Raising the tuning of a piano up to A-440 pitch can cost up to \$500.

### ***Has it been played regularly over its lifetime and by how many people?***

A piano played by one student for 5 years could differ greatly in quality over a piano that's been played every day by many students.

## Things to consider

### ***Extras to budget for when buying a secondhand piano***

Pianos are large, heavy and complicated mechanical instruments. The costs associated with transport and subsequent tuning and repair can often be far more than people envisage. If you are considering purchasing a piano privately, you need to factor in at least an additional \$800 - \$1,000 for removal costs, tuning and repairs.

***Purchasing a reliable piano will reward and encourage those learning piano.***

Just like learning to drive a car, a beginner's piano needs to be a reliable instrument. If the piano doesn't 'sound like the one at school' or notes stick or are broken, beginners can become frustrated and give up. Ensure you carefully examine a potential purchase for the major points above and once transported get it checked over by a qualified piano technician and tuner to give the player the best possible experience.



***Good luck with this important purchase and if we can help with  
removal, tuning, repairs or restoration,  
please give us a call on **08 8362 8813** or **0408 221 272!*****

***We also sell a select range of new and secondhand pianos –  
please check out our [website](#) for latest offers.***