



COLLEEN COLE CONSERVATORY

KEYBOARD SUGGESTIONS FOR BEGINNERS

- **Yamaha NP12 61-Key Piaggero Digital Piano \$200**
 - If I were looking to buy a keyboard for a young beginner, this is the one I would buy.
 - 61 keys will suffice through Level 5 piano music.
 - Required, but sold separately: **Yamaha Power Adaptor PA130 \$10**
 - Optional, but recommended: **Yamaha FC5 Compact Sustain Pedal \$15**
- **Yamaha NP32 76-Key Piaggero Digital Piano \$300**
 - These are the keyboards I teach with in my piano studios.
 - 76 keys will suffice through Level 8 piano music.
 - Required, but sold separately: **Yamaha Power Adaptor PA130 \$10**
 - Optional, but recommended: **Yamaha FC4A Piano Sustain Pedal \$30**

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING A KEYBOARD

Which keyboard to purchase will all come down to how much you want to spend. Please note that these keyboard features are not required. These are suggestions for what features to inquire about when purchasing your keyboard:

1. **FULL-SIZE KEYS:** Keys are the width of real piano keys.
2. **TOUCH-SENSITIVE KEYS** or **VELOCITY-SENSITIVE KEYS:** Key sounds softly when pressed lightly and sounds loudly when pressed hard.
3. **MUSIC RACK:** Holds up the music book
4. **BUILT-IN SPEAKERS:** Keyboards and digital pianos should have built-in speakers; synthesizers will not.
5. **DAMPER PEDAL JACK:** Pedal is usually sold separately.
6. **“TRUE PIANO SOUND”** or **“GRAND PIANO SOUND”**
7. **WEIGHTED KEYS:** Feels like you are pressing down a real wooden piano key instead of a light piece of plastic.
8. **AT LEAST 61-KEYS:** The more keys the keyboard has, the longer a student will be able to use it. A 61-key piano will suffice through about the 6th year of piano.
9. **FEW BELLS-AND-WHISTLES:** Many keyboards come with a lot features that you don't need, such as 500 instrument sounds, midi interface, or 300 prerecorded songs. I recommend that you spend your money on the quality of the keyboard, rather than the quantity of bells-and-whistles.
10. **YAMAHA:** My personal favorite in keyboard brands is Yamaha; they are well made and have a great sound.

KEYBOARD STAND

A piano is lower than a table; there should be 10” between the top of the bench and the top of the white piano key.

- The most economical solution is to place your keyboard on a table. Use a standard chair or stool which you raise by 4” to a height of 22”. A standard 24” stool is too tall. No wheels.
- The most common type of keyboard stand is an “X” stand for about **\$30**, but it can easily be pushed over. If you place an “X” stand against a wall, then it should be alright. Any chair or stool can be used with this keyboard stand. Some keyboards are sold bundled with an “X” stand and a bench.
- The slightly more expensive “Z” style keyboard stand is much more sturdy, and is about **\$60**. Any chair or stool can be used with this keyboard stand.