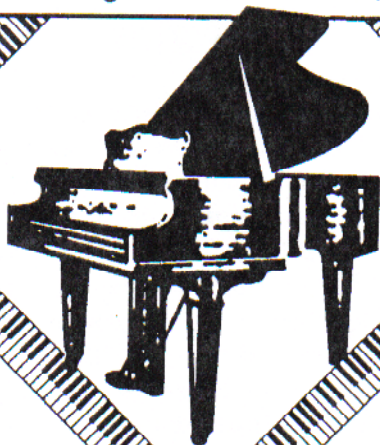


RICK JONES PIANOS



Specializing in Used Pianos

5209 Holland Drive
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

(301) 937-4900

1-800-466-2198

Fax: (301) 345-8465

e-mail: rjpianos@yahoo.com

www.rickjonespianos.com

Owner's Manual

CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL OF US AT RICK JONES PIANOS

We want to thank you for purchasing a piano from us. Buying a piano can be a nerve-wracking experience, and the fact that you chose our company is an honor. We hope you will be completely satisfied with your instrument. It is not at all unusual to have a sticky key or pedal after delivery. If you do have any problems, please feel free to take advantage of your warranty! Just give us a call. We want our customers to be "worry-free!"

Hopefully, you will be thrilled with your piano and tell others. Word of mouth has always been essential to our success. If you recommend us to a family member or friend, and they purchase a piano from us, we will give you a free tuning.

And don't forget, if you would like to upgrade your piano, we offer 100% trade-up at any time.

WHERE TO PLACE YOUR PIANO

Your new piano does not like direct sun. Avoid placing your piano in front of windows that bring in midday or afternoon direct sunshine. Also, avoid exterior basement walls. Pianos are pretty darn tough regardless and you should feel free to place your piano next to main level well-insulated exterior walls.

CARE OF THE FINISH

If your outside case is polished ebony, you simply need a 100% cotton rag and Glass Plus. Glass Plus has zero ammonia and will not damage the finish. Spray/mist rag and wipe outer case. Works great! You can use the same rag to wipe greasy fingerprints off keytops. Do not spray the piano, spray the rag!

If you purchased a natural wood finish, use a 100% cotton rag and Lemon Behold. Mist finish and wipe away dust. Use Glass Plus on keytops. Stand back, smile and say, "Isn't she pretty?"

KEEPING THE INTERIOR CLEAN

The interior of your piano should be dusted periodically. You can use one of the smaller hose attachments on your vacuum cleaner to pick up much of the dust. If any children's toys, coins, or other foreign objects should find themselves inside your piano, don't try to remove them (unless it can be done easily). Call Rick Jones Pianos, Inc. for a qualified tuner-technician to remove the object.

TUNING YOUR PIANO

Your piano will be tuned within 24 hours of departure from our warehouse. You should be pleased with its tuning and pitch when you receive it. You will receive a free first tuning certificate good for six months after delivery. Most customers have their first tuning done on average four months after delivery.

Most manufacturers recommend twice-yearly tunings for their pianos. Remember: your 10-year warranty and lifetime tradeup value is conditional upon your having your piano tuned at least once per year.

THE PIANO

The father of the piano is Bartolomo Christofori, who in 1709 invented a means of producing music in which strings were struck by hammers instead of plucked as in a harpsichord. Almost three centuries later the basic principle of the piano remains the same despite countless attempts to improve and simplify it.

This glossary of terms will provide a better understanding and appreciation of what makes a piano the amazing musical instrument it is.

- GLOSSARY-

THE ACTION

With its more than 10,000 separate parts, the action is a mechanical marvel that causes a hammer to strike the proper string when a key is depressed. In the vertical piano, this means converting downward pressure on a key into forward motion of the hammer toward the strings, with the hammer traveling five times as far and approximately four times as fast as the front end of the key. A piano action could be fairly simple if striking a hammer against a string was all that was required. However, the hammer must instantly rebound, otherwise, the note would be muffled by the hammer interfering with its vibration. You can't repeat that same note quickly, unless the hammer returns to its starting position immediately after you release the key. In a modern piano the hammer is in contact with the string less than 1/200 of a second. The mechanism that accomplishes all the above is a complicated system of levers and pivots which must be assembled with painstaking accuracy so that the action is responsive to a player's touch.

Materials used for the best actions are still largely wood, felt, woolen bushing cloth, high tech plastic and leather. Just consider the skill required to assemble thousands of small moving parts (many so small that a variance of a thousandth of an inch affects their performance) so that they work smoothly and silently for 50 years or more without lubrication or constant adjustment.

THE DAMPER

Part of the action, the damper is a delicately balanced device that lets the performer stop a string from vibrating. More than 900 precisely made parts are required for a set of dampers. AMAZING!

THE PIANO SOUNDING BOARD

The sounding board reflects and amplifies the tone caused when a hammer hits a string. It is probably the most important part of the piano. Without it, no music would be produced.

Like a hi-fi speaker, a sounding board is a vibrating diaphragm. It must vibrate at exactly the same rate as the strings, and to work properly, must be under constant tension. This is accomplished by having the center of the board arched, or crowned, with the strings pressed down on the board where they cross the bridges.

So that it vibrates freely, a sounding board is usually only $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch thick. Ribs help strengthen the board and preserve the crown. Woods used in a sounding board obviously must be carefully selected and seasoned. Also, the heavy and massive cast iron plate that covers the soundboard never touches any part of the soundboard.

THE PIANO STRINGS (WIRES)

The pitch or sound of each note is determined by the number of vibrations per second of each string's "speaking length" (the part between the wooden bridge at the bottom of the sounding board and where the string bears on the ironplate.) The number of vibrations given off by a string can be controlled three ways:

- (1) By tension on the string. (the lower the tension - the lower the pitch.)
- (2) By length of the string. (The longer the length - the fewer vibrations and the lower the pitch.)
- (3) By diameter of the string. (Wrapping additional wire around a string lowers the pitch.)

These three factors are called the scale. Piano manufacturers obtain the 88 different notes by varying the scale.

To lower the pitch a single octave, you must double the string length and so on, redoubling all the way down the scale. However, if you started with a two-inch speaking length string, kept string diameter and string length constant when worked down all 88 notes, you would end up with a 22-foot upright piano.

This is why strings in the bass section are wound with wire. In the extreme bass, another wire is used around the first wrapping because a single winding heavy enough for the proper diameter couldn't be wrapped tightly enough around the center wire.

THE TONE

When a hammer strikes a string, not just a single sound, but a combination of sounds is produced - each overlapping and blending in a way only a trained ear can distinguish. The pitch of the string, called the fundamental tone, sounds first. The lowest pitch a string makes is produced by the vibration of the entire speaking length. Next, the strings produce a number of higher tones called harmonics. The first harmonic is produced when the string divides itself in two and each half vibrates separately. Then, almost simultaneously, the string divides itself again. This time it breaks into three partial sections each vibrating at three times the original rate and producing a still higher tone.

FINALLY

As you enjoy this amazing machine, We hope our manual helped you appreciate all the craftsmanship and effort it took to produce this great instrument. Larry Fine, the author of *The Piano Book* said it best: "The piano is, I believe, unique in our culture in the way it weaves music, craft, history, business, science, and engineering-both low-tech and high-tech -into a remarkable tale worth telling."

THANK YOU

All of us, here, at Rick Jones Pianos want to thank you for your trust and good business. We will make every effort to keep your business and we hope you are happy enough to spread the good word about our unique company. Feel free to call us if you have any questions about your piano.