BENNI KRUEGER PIANO TUNER · 0800 244 049 · PIANOTUNER.CO.NZ

Second-hand piano viewing form

Type into it on your phone or computer, or print it and take it to the viewing.

The piano

Date of viewing

Asking price

Seller or listing

Manufacturer and brand

Serial number

Estimated age

Ask the seller

When was it last tuned?

Years without a tuning: very likely a pitch raise, and possibly other repairs.

Where has it been kept?

Years in a damp garage or shed almost certainly means major work.

Check each part

PART	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	OK	PROBLEM	NOTES
Casing and lid	Structural cracks	☐	☐	
Cast-iron frame	Any crack rules it out	☐	☐	
Soundboard	Cracks rule it out	☐	☐	
Tuning pins and pinblock	Loose pins; gaps above the pins	☐	☐	
Strings	Rust and corrosion; snapped strings	☐	☐	
Bridge	Cracks or damage	☐	☐	
Hammers	Deep grooves in the felt; mould (dark grey, spotty)	☐	☐	
Hammer alignment	Uneven gaps between the hammers	☐	☐	
Keys and action	Play every key: silent keys, or keys slow to return	☐	☐	
Dampers	Above the hammers (over-damper): an antique	☐	☐	
Pedals	Do they all work?	☐	☐	
Pests and damp	Mouse droppings, moth-eaten felts, borer damage	☐	☐	

Pitch: how many cents below 440 Hz is the A above middle C?

10 cents or more: very likely a pitch raise, in most cases three tunings ($540 + GST in total).

Faults that rule it out (tick any you find)

- [ ] A crack in the cast-iron frame
- [ ] Cracks in the soundboard, or a structural crack anywhere else, such as in the case
- [ ] Snapped copper-wound bass strings: made to order, upwards of $600 + GST per string, and Benni doesn't replace them
- [ ] Loose tuning pins that won't hold a tuning

The price and your budget

- For a good piano that has been serviced recently, $500 to $1,500 is a fair range.
- A neglected free piano often needs $500 to $1,500 or more of work, on top of moving it.
- Never pay a delivery fee upfront to a third party for a “free piano”: it's a common scam.

Moving

Tuning after the move, or a pitch raise if neglected

Repairs

Total, with the asking price

Getting it home

- [ ] It fits through the front door and into the room where it will stand
- [ ] A quote from a piano moving company (many charge extra for steps and difficult access)
- [ ] A spot on an internal wall, away from windows, direct sun and drafts
- [ ] The first tuning booked for two or three weeks after the move

In Wellington

- Expect a pitch raise unless it has been tuned recently: most pianos here haven't been maintained for decades.
- Check the strings for rust: corroded strings are prone to snap during a pitch raise.
- Steps and tight entrances add to the moving cost, and a small entrance can stop a piano getting in.

Notes

Anything else you noticed

Not sure? Have Benni check it before you pay.
For $90 + GST ($103.50 incl. GST) he inspects the piano where it is and tells you on the spot what he thinks of it and what it's worth. With a short written summary, it's $180 + GST ($207 incl. GST). Travel to the seller is included across Wellington, the Hutt, Porirua and Kāpiti. Book at pianotuner.co.nz/contact or call 0800 244 049.