



Sarah Wright, instructor

**Wondering** what equipment you will need for lessons and practicing at home?



## The million dollar question: Piano or Keyboard??

If you have the space, nothing beats an actual **piano** for practicing. I recommend looking on Craigslist and Facebook first, because people are always looking to get rid of pianos (often for free if you'll move it!) Ask how many times it has been moved, when it was last tuned, and if it was ever kept in a garage or non-insulated space. Feel free to send me a picture or info about the piano you're looking at if you want an opinion on the brand. I can also recommend a piano tuner.

If you're looking for something smaller or more portable, a **keyboard** is the way to go. Make sure the keyboard has at least 61 keys, and that it has the ability to plug in a pedal. Look for phrases like "digitally weighted keys" or "touch sensitive/responsive") to make sure you'll be able to play loudly and softly (an important part of playing piano expressively!) Feel free to send me info about the keyboard you're looking at if you want my opinion before buying!

If you go with a piano, the only other thing you'll need is a **bench** or **chair**! Make sure when you're sitting that your elbows are about level with the keys, and you can place your feet flat on the floor. If you aren't tall enough to reach the floor, put a box under your feet to rest them on. If the chair is too short and you're reaching up for the keys, sit on a big book to boost yourself to the correct height.

If you buy a keyboard, you'll need a couple more items in addition to a bench or chair. You'll need a **stand** for the keyboard to sit on (they usually look like an "X" and are collapsible), a **music stand** to prop up your books, and later on, a **pedal** to connect to the keyboard. Keyboards need more accessories, but they definitely take up less space!



The last thing you'll need is the music! You'll either purchase **books and materials** from me, or I'll send you links so you can order them yourself.

