



Let's start with a concert grand on stage at a major performance hall. These pianos are tuned every day, sometimes more than once.

“How often should I have my piano tuned?”

I am asked this question more often than any other question, sometimes multiple times a day. It seems as though there should be a general answer, but really this question has so many different answers it's mind boggling. It all depends on the situation.

Let's start with a concert grand on stage at a major performance hall. These pianos are tuned every day, sometimes more than once. Consider the environment: large room, hot stage lights, doors opening and closing letting air in and out, an HVAC system pumping in new air from outside every few hours with little regard for how it will change the humidity in the room, pianists playing complex music and banging away on the instrument to make sure the people in the back can hear. The piano is usually tuned before the rehearsal preceding the

performance, then again immediately before the performance. Sometimes it is again tuned during intermission to prepare for the second half. These pianos must sound perfect and therefore are tuned as much as possible.



Next we will look at school pianos. First we will look at the teaching studio/classroom variety. These are tuned monthly or seasonally depending on the number of technicians available and the stability of the room. The rooms are not as large as a performance hall, nor are there many hot stage lights. There are, however, pianists using these pianos for many hours a day, and usually the same HVAC system. The humidity in these rooms can range from 10% in the winter to 70% in the summer, a significant difference. The other variety is the practice room piano. These pianos are similar to the studio piano in the room quality and HVAC system, but they are beaten sometimes between 12 and 18 hours a day. Unfortunately because they are used for practice only most of the time, the tuning is not so important and will go around 4-6 months between tunings.

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Lastly, we will explore the average home piano. People live in many different types of homes built from many different materials and of many different sizes. Depending on the age, the home may have forced air heating and cooling, radiators, baseboard heating, and even no cooling at all. Sometimes a house may be equipped with a humidity control system attached to the heating system. Usually these pianos are not beat on as much as a school piano or a performance piano which helps the tuning remain a bit longer, but isn't a major factor. A piano starts to go out of tune as soon as I stop tuning it. Any percentage change in humidity or degree change in temperature lasting longer than 24 hours will effect the tuning. Some home pianos only stay tolerably in tune for a month, others can last a year or more if the humidity and temperature are strictly maintained. Don't get me wrong, they will go out of tune, but the change may be minimal. The best thing you can do for your piano to help keep the tuning for as long as possible is to have a humidity control device installed. Usually, though, for the average home piano, having it tuned every 6 months is a practical routine.

"How often does my piano need to be tuned?"  
Well, it depends.

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