

Buying a first keyboard

Key things to look for.

- 1) Full sized keys
- 2) A minimum of 61 keys —this is big enough for the first 2 to 3 years of learning—after that you will probably need more keys.
- 3) Touch sensitivity (sometimes called touch response) --- meaning that the keyboard responds to different pressures of playing by creating louder or softer sounds.
- 4) The input for a sustain pedal.

Desirable but not essential and generally only available in more expensive keyboards is the feature of weighted keys, where the keys have a bit of resistance built in making them feel more like piano keys to play.

Yamaha and Casio keyboards are well known and reliable brands. Medeli is another brand that seems to be becoming popular. These are just the ones that I personally know---there are no doubt others!

For a basic model meeting the above 4 criteria and bought new you might expect to pay in the \$300's to \$500's---you can sometimes get older models for a cheaper price if buying second hand.

Try talking to Shearers in Hamilton, Piano Traders in Auckland or The Music Warehouse--- or start watching out on Trade Me and similar online sites.