

# Take Pride in Your Investment

## Tips for Maintenance and Care

By Ken Trujillo

### Tuning

“Tuning your piano immediately after delivery may not be a wise expenditure”! All acoustic pianos will go out of tune as they acclimate to their new environment. You may experience some sticking keys during the acclimation period, however, they will work themselves free as its settling in.

The day your piano is delivered, **note six weeks forward on your calendar for tuning and service.** This initial tuning will stabilize the piano in its new home setting. **For the first year:** tune it once more - six months later. The more stabilized the tension and tolerances are during the 1<sup>st</sup> year, the better your key & action performance and tuning stability will be from that point on. Keep it tuned minimum EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER! It's best to tune your piano either in early spring or preferably fall season due to upcoming holiday festivities. **What causes a piano to go out of tune?** Changes in humidity and weather conditions are the primary cause. Very heavy use may also require tuning more frequently. Keep it away from direct sunlight!

### For High Gloss (Polyester) finishes

#### A. To wipe off *finger prints* use:

**Rymple Cloth** - this *finely-meshed* firmly twisted yarns of 100% woven cotton provides more surface wiping-area for trapping and collecting oils and dirt particles. It is completely biodegradable and contains no wax or silicone. You buy a large roll of *precut* sheets at a paint and supply company (ex. Sherman Williams®) for approximately \$50. Take 3-4 sheets and fold, dampen with water, and wipe. Do not use any *wax-based* products - only water! The large roll will last 10 years or more.

**Viva® Paper Towel** - you can buy a small roll of this 100% seamless, cotton-base product at your local grocery store. Do not use any other substitute of paper towel Take 2 sheets and fold, dampen with water, and wipe. This is less expensive than Rymple Cloth, and will still produce the same results. Other *paper towel products* or old cloths like T-shirts, diapers, etc. have seams, as well as, synthetic rayon, nylon-polyester type fibers that will produce fine *hair-line* scratches on the mirror finish.

**B. To dust use:** Lamb's Wool Duster - only 100% natural lamb's wool. Untreated, organic lamb's wool from New Zealand, for example. Do not buy a cheap substitute of combinations of filler fiber imitations including some lamb's wool, camel, alpaca, llama, mohair, or angora. Use this quality duster exclusively for your piano. Dust lightly - not firmly! Do not spray with any *end-dust* type solution!

**C. To occasionally polish, if needed, use:** *McGuyer's Mirror Glaze No. 7®*. You can buy this at Pep Boys Auto or other-type outlets. Polish like you would your' automobile using either Rymple Cloth or Viva®. This will fill and help remove any *hair-line* scratches, as well as, reinforce its durability and restore your finish back to its mirror-like quality.

**For brass pedals and hardware on both high-gloss and natural wood finishes use *Brasso®*.**

### For Natural Wood Finishes

**A. Do not use anything wax or silicone based!** The build-up over years cause wood fibers to *check* like alligator skin especially during dryer environments. I recommend *Weiman Furniture Cream®*. You can buy this at True Value Hardware. Get a plastic spray bottle and fill half with Weiman and half with water. Spray on surface and wipe same direction as the grain with a soft towel. This will clean and add natural luster. Dust with lamb's wool.

**B. To clean the keys of the piano:** take a clean washcloth, firmly wring-out in mild dish-soap, and gently wipe keys. You can also spray *Windex®* on a *terry towel* and wipe keys, but do not spray directly on to keys!

**Remember: Regular and proper caring for your piano protects your investment and ensures its appreciation! Enjoy and take pride in your new piano!**