



PIANO SERVICE ON SITE

What is on site piano servicing?

As with most fine instruments, pianos need occasional servicing to keep the instrument performing at its optimal level for maximum enjoyment. Piano parts in the instrument wear with age and usage, and changes occur over time, usually without the pianist noticing. Every so often it is prudent to have the parts inspected for wear, so that necessary adjustments can be made to keep the instrument on standard.

Contrary to mechanical restoration, on site servicing is a specialised skill that does not require the piano or its parts to be taken away to a workshop for restorative work. It aims to work with the current condition of the parts, to improve their functioning and the overall performance of the instrument. This is the most common kind of service on younger pianos and performance/concert instruments.

There are different aspects to the on-site service. The technician uses his expertise to tailor the work to the instruments requirements, relying on many different skills to reach the best result in the time allowed. This kind of service typically consists of regulation, voicing, tuning, cleaning and even essential repair work.

REGULATION

- *Adjusting the action parts and keyboard to perform at its optimum and factory settings while working with existing condition of the parts.*

- *Examples of regulation*
 - *Keyboard levelling and height setting, touch depth and aftertouch for correct action feel*
 - *Action blow distance setting, setoff adjustments, drop adjustments, repetition adjustments to ensure the correct functioning of the piano mechanism*
 - *Damper lift adjustments, ensuring even and correct lift positions and neat damper functioning*

VOICING

- *Improving the tone of the piano to ensure that it is even across the different registers and dynamic ranges, without being too bright or too muffled, and to make the tone suit the room's acoustics and the pianist's preferences.*
- *How is piano voiced (it can be any combination of the below):*
 - *Reshape hammerheads to remove grooves and restore them to original shape*
 - *Regulation and tuning are correct to ensure piano is prepared for voicing*
 - *Regulate the hammers so that they deliver the best blow to the strings for optimal energy transfer.*
 - *Piano hammerheads are needled and/or filed to create the required tone.*



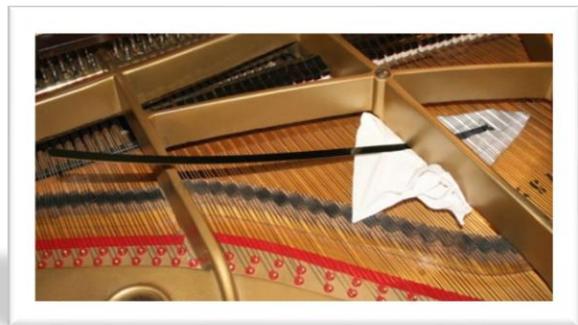
PEDAL SERVICE

Ensure all pedals work correctly, that they are lubricated and regulated to the correct life and shift positions. Where applicable, the sostenuto pedal will also be adjusted accordingly.



ADJUSTMENTS

- *Some piano parts might require adjustments that can be done on site and will improve general functioning of your piano*
- *Examples:*
 - *Re-centre selected pins, if they are loose or too tight*
 - *Clean piano (dust and dirt built over time can affect functioning of piano parts)*



TUNING

- *Making adjustments by turning tuning pins thus adjusting tension of the strings to their correct respective musical pitch*

- *Tuning is done 1-4 times a year and prior to every concert or performance*
- *Some pianos might require pitch adjustment and/or tuning prior to service on site*

What pianos benefit from on site servicing

Every piano, whether it gets played or not, will benefit from servicing. The type of service will depend on the mechanical or structural condition. Often it is better to have restorative work done before on site servicing.

How often should on site servicing be done

For the typical family piano, the piano should be serviced every 2- 4 years to maintain an acceptable level of functioning. Advanced pianists should aim to have their instruments serviced every 1 – 2 years, this would include music school practice pianos and live venue pianos. For concert instruments and recording studios, the time period between service intervals shouldn't be longer than 1 year.



The typical amount of time for a service of this nature is one full day on site. This is approximately 8 hours. If the piano has not been service for a significant amount of time, then two or more full days may be needed to restore the function and tone of the instrument to its intended condition.

Who can do the on site servicing

When choosing a technician, it is critical that they be able to provide credible references and have a proven track record as a trained concert technician. It is a highly skilled trade that requires years of refining skills in piano maintenance at concert level. Choosing the wrong technician can do more harm than good to your precious instrument.