

Instrument requirements for home practice

Starter courses

JMC & JFC

You will need a keyboard instrument at home from the start of the course. Keyboards should have regular-sized keys, pianos should be at concert pitch (A=440Hz) and kept in tune.

Keyboards are great motivation for children to practice: the range of different sounds and tone colours mean children can explore different ways of playing.

Whether you choose a piano or a keyboard, the quality of sound is important.

Extension course

JXC

The minimum requirement at this stage is that keyboards should have touch sensitivity – JXC is a good time to think about upgrading to an instrument with weighted keys (see below).

Advanced course

JAC

Ideally, JAC students will have at home a good acoustic piano which is tuned regularly. This does not mean you need to dispense with your original instrument. An electronic keyboard with weighted keys and a sustain pedal is satisfactory.