Caring for your piano:
guidelines for tuning and other maintenance

One of the biggest obstacles to keeping your piano in tune can be changes in the humidity of your home. The changing seasons coupled with the region you live in can create drastic changes in humidity. For this reason, the best time to tune your piano is right after the seasons change, for example, when the chill of autumn replaces the heat of summer. In this way, you can be assured that your piano will stay in tune until the next drastic seasonal change.

Many piano owners have their pianos professionally tuned twice a year, usually at the beginning of spring and the beginning of autumn, when the temperature and humidity changes are at their most drastic.

You can monitor the humidity in your home with a simple gauge that will measure the relative humidity in your home. Relative humidity is a measurement of the amount of moisture in the air, and is usually expressed as a percentage. I recommend this thermo-hygrometer, which can be placed inside your piano:
http://www.valuetesters.com/thermometers/general-tools-dth700-thermo-hygrometer.html

So now, if the sound and tuning of your piano heads south for the winter, you understand why. If you tune your piano only once a year, try and aim to have it tuned in the same month each time, so that humidity conditions are similar from tuning to tuning.

Also, be sure to ask your tuner about other maintenance such as voicing and regulation for optimum tone and ease of playing. A little care, maintenance and good old fashioned know how will help keep your piano in top playing condition for years to come!

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