



All About Music

I Love To Play The Piano!

The piano is a very important part of music. Many musical notes do not seem possible without it and many notes sound better on the piano. The piano can play all types of music from classical to rock and roll. It can also be played solo or with other instruments, so it is very versatile.

There is some disagreement on when the first modern style piano was built. Most say the modern style piano (or piano et forte, meaning soft and loud) was probably built by the Italian, Bartolomeo Cristofori in 1709. It was described as a harpsichord with both soft and loud!

The difference between the harpsichords that came before and the piano, was the way the strings sounded. Inside the piano the strings are tightened into tune. A grand piano, for instance, looks like a harp when



on it's side. Modern style pianos use hammers to pluck the string. So when you touch the keyboard, the hammer hits the string which affects the sound of the note. If you stroke the key gently, the sound will be soft. If you use a heavy touch on the key, the sound will be much louder!

PIANO FACTS:

- The average medium sized piano has about 230 strings. Each string has about 165 pounds of tension. With the combined pull of all the strings, that equals approximately eighteen tons!
- There are over 10 million pianos in American homes, businesses and institutions.
- Yamaha, established in 1887, was the first piano manufacturer in Japan.
- The world's largest piano is a Challen Concert Grand Piano. This piano is eleven feet long and has a total string tension of over 30 tons. This piano weighs more than a ton!
- The working section of the piano is called the action. There are about 7500 parts in there. They all play a role in sending the hammers against the strings when the keys are struck.

