



XIANXIN DU HAS WON ARTS RICHMOND HILL AWARD FOR TRUMPET



He received the award for his playing at the Richmond Hill Music Competition, last November. He has received the highest mark in all brass categories. Xianxin has also been invited to perform at the Richmond Hill Music Festival official Awards Ceremony and

Gala Concert on January 12, 2008 at the Community Church of Richmond Hill.

XIANXIN DU HAS WON THE FREDERICK HARRIS MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship has been given to him as recognition of his achievement in playing the trumpet and receiving the highest examination mark in both the province of Ontario and the province of Quebec.

ALEXANDER VOLKOV HAS WON DR. ABARA AWARD FOR STRINGS

He has received the award for his playing at the Richmond Hill Music Competition, last November.

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Lia Bowlin	Mauro Mazzone
Jonathan Park	John Gambrelis
Boyang Liu	Zachary Taerk
Ragini Yalamanchilli	Austin Tang
Stacy Mclean	Alisha Sharif
Deiya Chopra	William Closson
	Suzette Cameron

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMA HAS WELCOMED MORE NEW STUDENTS IN JANUARY 2008:

Alex Lau (saxophone RCM 6)
Alyssa Harracksingh (piano)
Aundrei Alchwiki (piano, voice)
Bill Wang (guitar)
Boyang Liu (piano RCM 5)
Dawood Khawas (piano RCM 4)
Edward Tang (piano)
Fiza Bashir (piano)
Iman Bashir (guitar)
Jeff Shantz (guitar)
Jeremy Daniel (piano)
Joshua Daniel (piano)
Kabir Kahlon (Suzuki violin)
Karina Gagnier (voice)
Letizia Sgandurra (guitar)
Paulina Christodoulou (voice)
Roman Cezar (piano)
Una Hayles (piano)
Victoria Tang (piano)
Zachary Liu (Suzuki violin)



FURTHER AHEAD...



Royal Conservatory of Music SPRING SESSION

Application Deadline	March 4, 2008
Theory Examinations	May 9-10, 2008
Practical Examinations	June 2-21, 2008



KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL
of Greater Toronto
February 16-29, 2008



PEEL MUSIC FESTIVAL
March 24 – April 30, 2008

THE PIANO: WHO? WHEN? WHY?

The modern piano is a complex mechanical device with hundreds of separate parts, much like a car in that respect. (Also like a car, it constitutes a major investment.) Here we compile answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about pianos, their construction, purchase and maintenance, and use in lessons.

Piano Basics and History

Q: How and why was the piano invented?

A: The mechanical genius Bartolomeo Cristofori invented the piano around 1700. The name piano is actually a shortened version of the Italian term *pianoforte*, meaning soft-loud, and referring to the fact that the pianoforte could produce sound volume covering a much larger range than its predecessors, the harpsichord and clavichord.

Q: Is the piano a string instrument or a percussion instrument?

A: The piano is really a "hybrid" - a combination of two types. It's a string instrument because the musical tones originate in the strings; and it's also a percussion instrument, because the strings are set into vibration by being struck with hammers. To be historically correct, it's classified as a "keyed zither" by musicologists.

Q: What types of piano are there?

A: There are two basic types: Grand pianos have their strings and soundboard parallel to the floor, and Verticals (or Uprights) have their strings and soundboard turned up perpendicularly to the floor. Both kinds come in different sizes and styles. Grands can be anywhere from 4 and a half to 9 and a half feet long. Uprights can be 52 or more inches high; around 45 inches ("studio uprights"); about 40-42 inches ("consoles"); and as low as 36-38 inches ("spinets").



Q: Why does the piano have 88 keys?

A: Well, the piano started out with only about 60 keys, same as the harpsichord - in fact it WAS a harpsichord, except that the harpsichord maker Bartolomeo Cristofori got the bright idea of putting hammers on one (to HIT the strings) instead of plectra (to PLUCK the strings). So the piano was invented - this was around 1700, or maybe a little before that. Anyway, as composers began to use the new instrument they started writing more and more complicated music for it. Soon, the keyboard had to expand in both

directions. By the middle of the 19th century, it had 85 keys - up to A - then finally they added the last three at the top. There's even a piano made today - the Bösendorfer Imperial Concert Grand - which has 96 keys; the bass notes go all the way down to C. It's nine-and-a-half feet long and weighs almost a ton.

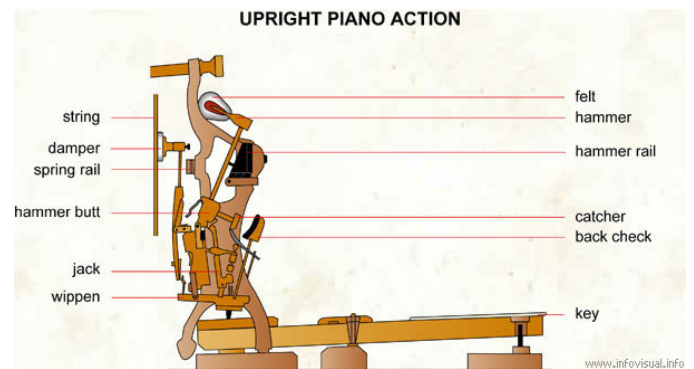
Q: How many strings does a piano have?

A: It depends on the piano. Each note has three strings in the treble, two strings in the tenor and part of the bass, and only one in the very low bass. One of ours has 65 trebles (X 3=195), 12 tenor/bass (X 2=24), and 11 single low bass, so it comes out to 230. But that's a large grand, so you need to look in your piano and count them up.

How the Piano Works

Q: How does the piano create sound?

A: When you push down a key, the mechanism inside (the "action") makes a hammer go up (in a grand) or forward (in an upright) to strike the strings. The hammer is a round stick with a head on it (it looks something like a real hammer), and the head is covered with very dense wool felt. When the string vibrates it makes a sound; the



string is connected to a large soundboard that amplifies the sound much louder than the string could do by itself. When you let go of the key, a felt pad, called a damper, drops back onto the string and stops the sound again. When you press down the right pedal it raises all the dampers so that the strings can keep sounding.

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF PURCHASING A PIANO (NEW OR USED), PLEASE LET US KNOW. IMA STUDENTS GET UPTO 30% DISCOUNT WHEN THEY (OR, MOST LIKELY, THEIR PARENTS), PURCHASE A PIANO.

(continues in the next issue)

FAMOUS COMPOSER BORN IN FEBRUARY

Feb 29, 1792

ROSSINI, Gioacchino (Italian)
