

Madame Key

Musical Story for Piano, Narrator, and Visual Arts

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Dedication

To Pablo, with deep admiration and gratitude.

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Some information about *Madame Key*

A Musical Story in Western Art Music is a work where Music and narration work together as an educational piece for kids. They can also add any of the many different options we have within Visual Arts or include more than one.

Historically speaking we have many examples. For instance, one of the most famous musical stories is *Peter and the Wolf* composed and written by the Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev. Others musical stories which can also help you understand the term and the meaning of it are *The Carnival of the Animals* composed by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns or *Journey into Jazz* by the US-citizen Gunther Schuller.

The structure of the piece may also differ. Each composition in Western Art music usually follows a specific structure what we call musical form such a sonata, a symphonic poem, a suite, a concerto, or a melologue. Thus, *Peter and the Wolf* is a symphonic poem, while *The Carnival of the Animals* is a suite or *Journey into Jazz* a melologue. So, following one of these musical forms the composer adds the text: the tale or story. While you are enjoying the music, there is also a narration. Sometimes there is only music, sometimes only narration, and other times both together.



Madame Key is a melologue: a musical story for piano, narrator, and different visual arts such as illustrations, videos, and puppets. While presenting some important characteristics of this wonderful instrument, you can fully enjoy a curious story where the piano is the protagonist and presented through the different characters of the story.

This story tells the adventure of two brothers who want to find out who plays the piano in an abandoned house. In addition, the musical tale has the following learning objectives:

- To show the piano, its possibilities, and how it works. For example: its keyboard, high and low pitches, polyphony, and the role of each hand.
- To listen to the leitmotif, the different melodies that represent the characters and its variants.
- To learn how to appreciate the dissonance and atonal music through repetition as a litany and in favor of auditory memory.
- To encourage individual imagination while listening.
- To learn the value of silence or how to listen to *the* and *in* silence.
- To promote diversity with the main character who is a tremendously capable, strong, creative, fearless, and intelligent female character.
- To develop initiative and creativity in a pro-active way motivated by curiosity.

The piano is part of the percussion instrument family and it has complex mechanism that make sure you can play as you like to..., to make sure you can make the type of sound and music you want to communicate.

There are different piano types. Here the two more commons models:

Upright piano



Here an upright piano..... It is smaller than a concert piano, because they make them for houses.

Not many people have big houses, but many people want to learn and practice on the piano, so the makers created this type of piano to better suit at home.

Grand piano

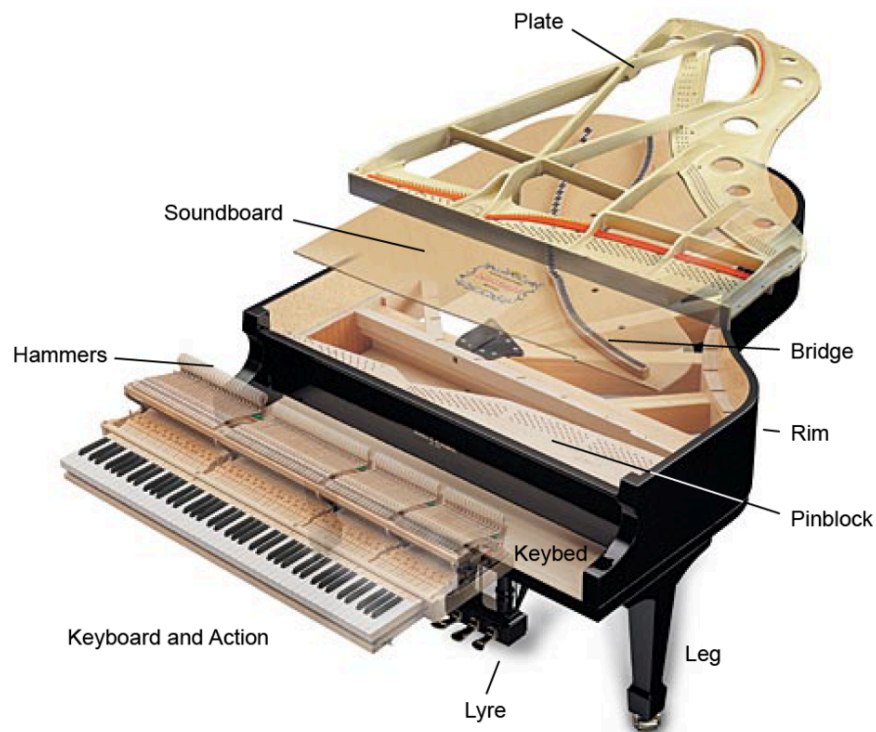


This is a grand piano, probably one of the biggest instruments!

Do you know that there are different sizes? This is the biggest one! Isn't spectacular?

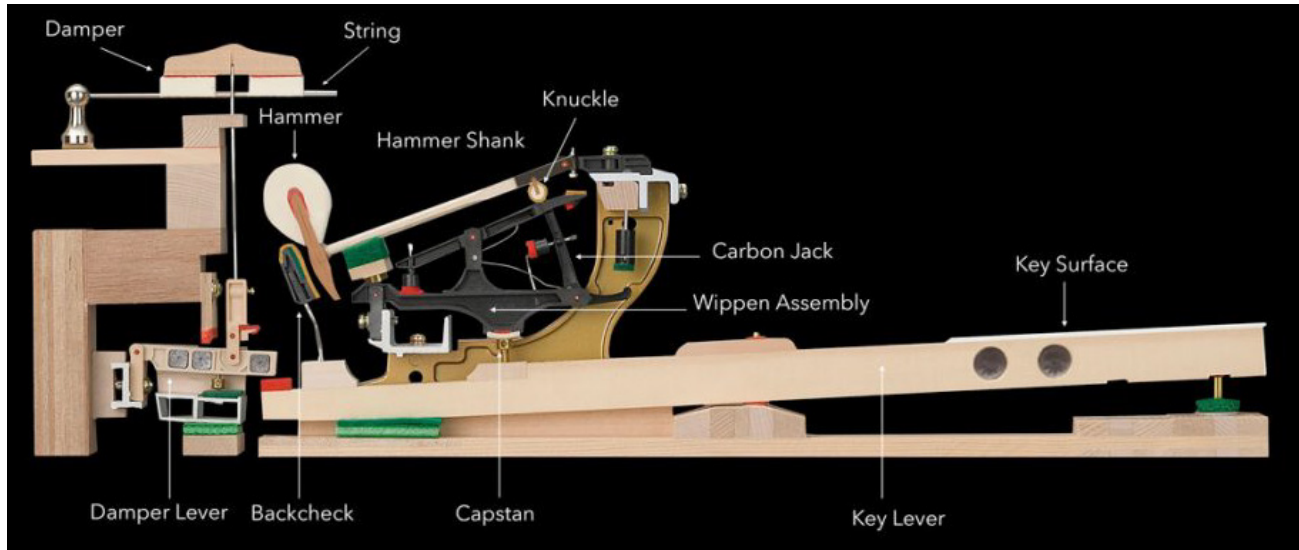
Parts of the piano.

Here you have a deconstruction of a Grand Piano



Mechanic of the piano

Do you remember we said that the piano is a percussion instrument which has a complex mechanic? It has a lot of different parts (and many screws!!!!!!) that all together have the power to make loud and soft sounds. It is a percussion instrument because the sound is produced by 'hitting' the strings!,



The piano can also play polyphony! (many sounds at the same time) through melodies or just one.

It can be played alone or with other instruments too, with more people and different instruments when it is integrated in bands or Western Art Music ensembles.

It can be played in any type of music like rancheras, blues, jazz, or Rock Roll, even classical pieces; and the piano can be enjoyed with family and friends in the home or big audiences in concert halls.

The piano is a small orchestra and one of the most versatile, complex and complete instruments in Western Art Music!

What do you think now about the piano? It is awesome!!!

THE END