

### Keyboard Instruments

Keyboard instruments such as harpsichords, virginals and clavichords were invented before the piano. Harpsichords are still played today but they were most popular in the \_\_\_\_\_ and early Classical periods. Harpsichords have a quite tinny, \_\_\_\_\_ sound. When you press a key a string inside is plucked by a jack. You can't vary the strength of the pluck, so you can't vary the \_\_\_\_\_.

The most popular keyboard instrument is now the \_\_\_\_\_. The piano was invented around \_\_\_\_\_. The technology is more sophisticated than it was in earlier keyboard instruments. When a key is pressed, a \_\_\_\_\_ hits the strings. The harder you hit the key, the harder the hammer hits the strings and the \_\_\_\_\_ the note – so there's a big range of dynamics.

Pianos have a wide range of notes with up to seven and a half \_\_\_\_\_. Pianos also have pedals that let you change the sound in different ways. The soft pedal on the \_\_\_\_\_ mutes the strings, making a softer sound. The sustain pedal on the right lifts the dampers. This lets the sound ring on until you release the \_\_\_\_\_. Grand pianos have a middle pedal too. This lets the player choose which notes to sustain.

### WORD BANK

1700	louder	left	Baroque	piano
string	pedal	dynamics	octaves	hammer

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