

The Keyboards

The keyboard instruments don't fit into the other four families of instruments very well so we sometimes group them together separately. *People actually argue whether the piano fits into the string family or the percussion family, if you can believe it!* Read this information on keyboards and write the names of the instruments beside each one.

The Keyboard Family

Write the names of the instruments on the lines next to each picture.

The Piano is a wooden instrument with 88 keys. A piano can either be upright or grand. An upright piano is built with the strings vertical. A grand piano has the strings horizontal, and can be up to 9 feet long. The keys are connected to hammers which hit the strings to make a sound. A piano also has a cast iron frame which helps to amplify the sound.



A celeste looks similar to an upright piano, although has smaller keys. Just like the piano, the celeste has keys which connect to hammers. However, instead of hitting strings, the hammers strike metal plates or bars, sort of like a glockenspiel. It has a very soft and gentle sound.



A harpsichord looks similar to a grand piano, and is made with wood and strings just like a piano. While a piano strikes the strings with hammers, a harpsichord instead plucks the strings with quills. Because it is being plucked, harpsichords can only play at one dynamic level.



Electronic keyboards and synthesizers are able to create a lot of different sounds. These keyboards have a built in computer which play anything from a traditional piano sound, voices, any of the other instruments of the orchestra, or even funny things like dog and cat sounds. When you press a key, the computer plays a sound.





Master Musician Assessment

Name the Instruments of the Keyboard Family

Name: _____ Grade _____ / 4

Grade: _____ Date: _____



1. _____



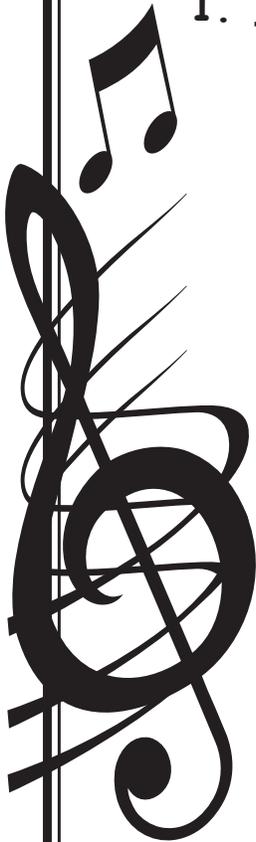
2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



Harpsichord

Celeste

Piano

Keyboard