



Stein



Conrad Graf



Broadwood

Lesson 8

Piano growth and Beethoven's passion

Fortepiano

A fortepiano is an early piano invented by Bartolomeo Cristofori around 1700. Haydn, Mozart, and the younger Beethoven wrote their piano music with this. The fortepiano has leather-covered hammers and thin, harpsichord-like strings. It has a much lighter construction than the modern piano. The action and hammers are lighter, giving rise to a much lighter touch.

The range of the fortepiano was about four octaves at the time of its invention and gradually increased. Mozart (1756–1791) wrote his piano music for instruments of about five octaves.

The piano works of Beethoven (1770–1827) reflect an expanding range; his last piano compositions are for six and a half octaves. (The range of modern pianos, attained in the 19th century, $7\frac{1}{3}$ octaves.)

Fortepianos had devices similar to the pedals of modern pianos, but these were not always pedals; sometimes hand stops or knee levers were used instead.

A modern Steinway Model D weighs 480 kg (990 lb), six times the weight of a late 18th-century **Stein piano.**

- **The hammers and action became heavier.**

Bartolomeo Cristofori

The piano was invented by harpsichord maker Bartolomeo

Cristofori in Florence around the turn of the 18th century. The first reliable record of a piano appears in the inventory of the Medici family (who were Cristofori's patrons), dated 1700. Cristofori continued to develop the instrument until the 1720s, the time from which the surviving three Cristofori instruments date.



Johann (Georg)
Andreas Stein

Johann (Georg) Andreas Stein, was an outstanding German maker of keyboard instruments. He was primarily responsible for the design of the so-called "Viennese" fortepiano, for which the piano music of Haydn, Mozart, and the early Beethoven was written.



Conrad Graf

The fortepianos of Stein and Walter are widely used today as models for the construction of new fortepianos.

Another important builder in this period was Conrad Graf (1782–1851), who made Beethoven's last piano.

Graf was one of the first Viennese makers to build pianos in quantity, as a large business enterprise.



Broadwood

John Broadwood married the master's daughter (Barbara Shudi, 1769) and ultimately took over and renamed the Shudi firm.

The Broadwood company (which survives to this day) was an important innovator in the evolution of the fortepiano into the piano. Broadwood, in collaboration with Jan Ladislav Dussek, a noted piano virtuoso active in London in the 1790s, developed pianos that gradually increased the range to six octaves.

Dussek was one of the first pianists to receive a 5½ foot piano, and in 1793 he wrote the first work for piano "with extra keys", a piano concert (C 97). The firm shipped a piano to Beethoven in Vienna, which the composer evidently treasured.



Modern Piano

The interior of a modern grand. The metal frame, thick multiple steel strings, and cross-stringing. These huge changes in the piano have consequences for musical performance. An increase in pitch range, from five octaves (see image at right) to the modern standard of seven and $\frac{1}{3}$ octaves.

Many aspects of earlier music can be mentioned that it was composed with contemporary instruments in mind. It is these aspects that raise the greatest difficulties when a performer attempts to render earlier works on a modern instrument.

Piano history and musical performance

- **More elegant, passionate, intense, dynamic, contrasted,**
- **5th symphony: overcome his adverse fate**
- **Dramatic intensity**
- **Personal history**
- **Tell stories and express passionate emotion**
- **Inspire Romanticism**
- **...**

Napoleon and Beethoven

- **Symphony 3 Eroica**
- **The first major work of Beethoven's middle period is his 3rd Symphony called Eroica, which means heroic. This symphony is a landmark to symphonic music, the first movement alone is longer than many of the symphonies written by Haydn and Mozart.**
- **Beethoven originally intended to dedicate and name this symphony after Napoleon Bonaparte, because Beethoven greatly admired the Republic that he thought Napoleon was trying to build. However, after Napoleon declared himself Emperor, Beethoven furiously scratched out Napoleon's name from the work and later renamed it Eroica.**