

**Survey Results for**  
***"The piano(s) in your life"***

09/11/2017

# Question 1

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<b>Type of Piano Owners</b>	
Amateur and Casual Players	16
Professional Musicians and Composers	12
Family with Children who Play	7
Music Teachers	6
Piano Tuner	1
Owens a Piano but doesn't Play	1
Number of People who don't Own a Piano	2

# Question 1 Cont.

<b>Interest in Idea by Type of Piano Owners</b>				
	Number of Type of Owners	Definite Yes	Interested/ want to know more/ Not Sure (4)	Definite No
Amateur and Casual Players	16	8	7	1
Professional Musicians and Composers	12	4	8	0
Family with Children who Play	7	1	6	0
Music Teachers	6	2	4	0
Piano Tuner	1	0	1	0
Owns a Piano but doesn't Play	1	0	1	0
Number of People who don't Own a Piano	2	0	2	0

# Question 2

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<b>Best Characteristics</b>	
Responsive Action	9
Tonally Responsive	5
Deep Tone	4
Physical Feel of Piano (e.g. nice wood, worn ivory keys etc.)	2
Visually Beautiful	2
Great Dynamic Capability [Similar to responsive action?]	1

## **Pertinent Quotes:**

- My favourite instruments are able to play incredibly quietly and consistently, and also the keys physically have some consistency in their resistance.
- Things I remember about pianos I really liked, pedals that worked really well. Even responsiveness and key weight.
- Portability...
- I like pianos open if possible to hear the full frequencies of the strings.

# Question 2 Cont.

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<b>Worst Characteristics</b>	
Overly Bright	6
Mechanical Problems	5
Lack of Dynamic Capability	4
Heavy Keys	3
Out of Tune	3

## **Pertinent Quotes:**

- Also hate the fact that the music stands on uprights and grands are so different..makes performing on grands difficult if used to eyeline of an upright.
- The weight of a piano can be a problem when they need moving.
- I would like a Steinway grand and the house to put it in!

# Question 3

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## Do People Want a Different Piano?

Yes	29
No	12
Refurbish Current Piano	2
N/A	1

## 'Yes' Answerers who Gave More Detail Wanted...

Grand Piano	9
Richer Tones	6
Specifically mentioned Steinway	5
Baby Grand	3
Silent Practice Piano	1

# Question 3 Cont.

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## Pertinent Quotes:

- A foldable acoustic baby grand
- Being able to get inside the piano (plucking strings with plectrums, muting individual strings with fingers or the palm of a hand, etc.) is what I like to do, and obviously this isn't possible with my Roland digital at home, which only affords conventional 'playing-of-notes' type playing.
- I would like to have a piano with built-in microphones e.g. contact mics, all of which one could connect to a computer or some form of sound system and use to manipulate and/or enhance some sounds.
- I wish I could have my grand piano back. I loved the feel of it, the sound, the way it included other musicians because of its position in the room etc., and the look.
- Constantly..... I deserve a Grand!

# Question 4

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## Number of people who experienced problems moving a piano: 21

### Pertinent Quotes:

- I can't stand being there when it happens.....
- My baby grand came with me to my new home. I've memories of it being taken apart (literally) to get it hauled up my staircase to our viewing area upstairs. I wouldn't want to do it again.
- Definitely would go for the movers if we had to do it again.
- An instrument that would not need expensive professional assistance to move I would definitely consider that option.
- I have moved a Hammond organ several times, which was heavy and laborious enough for me to eventually donate it to the university at which I work, in order to avoid having to move it again.

## Common Problems

Weight of Piano	8
Stairs!	3
Damage to Piano	2

# Question 5

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**Number of people who have been restricted by owning a piano: 27**

**Pertinent Quotes:**

- Yes. I once lived in my car because I couldn't find an apartment in NYC that could accommodate me and my piano
- And when considering a move neighbours and sufficient space for the instrument has to be a primary consideration
- Yes - it is so heavy and difficult to move that at the moment I cannot keep it in my current home
- It means you have to buy a house with an extra room just for the instrument. An expensive hobby.....
- Likewise, the purchase of a digital piano was largely because I knew how inconvenient it would be to move an acoustic (despite the fact that the latter is, ideally, what I would prefer).

# Question 6

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**Number of people who have played the inside of a piano: 21**

**Pertinent Quotes:**

- This has expanded my creative sound greatly and I regret that I cannot use it more as I do not own a grand piano, only an upright one.
- My upright piano is not easy to get the arm into otherwise I might consider doing this more as I know it can sound very interesting
- Yes I learned this from you Sarah! It changed my life!!
- I think the effect of the strings being played in a piano is beautiful. It adds scope.
- I find it more comfortable than playing 'repertoire' - it feels more natural and spontaneous to me, whereas playing notated compositions by others always made me feel uncomfortable and self-conscious.
- The most annoying thing about plucking specific notes inside the piano, is having to silently depress the key to find the note. If there was some way of quickly identifying the strings on the inside, that would be a bit help.

<b>How People Played the Inside of the Piano</b>	
Plucking	7
Using or attaching an object	7
Muting	3
Scraping	2

# Question 7

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## Most Popular Spot to Listen to a Grand Piano

Millimetres Away from Strings	11
Where you Sit to Play	7
Several metres away/ part of the audience	6
In the 'Curve' of the Piano	5
Underneath the Piano	4

# Question 8

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## No. of People who Agreed with Each Statement

Upright pianos and electronic keyboards save space but have inferior sound to a good grand.	28
Grand pianos are heavy and unwieldy and cost a lot to move.	33
'Inside' playing techniques are now not uncommon in contemporary classical and improvised music.	26
It's uncomfortable to lean into a grand piano to play.	12
I have struggled to find pianos to practise or perform 'inside' playing.	6

### Pertinent Quotes:

- It is uncomfortable to lean it but it depends a lot on what's expected. Sometime things have to laid flat on the strings so upright pianos are problematic.
- I'd improvise MUCH more often, even in public performances, if more venues had pianos that were suitable for playing inside (i.e. grands rather than closed uprights).
- I have a keystation now and it triggers sounds, so feel it has no relationship with an acoustic piano
- Extended techniques are not uncommon but they can still be something of a rarity. It can be difficult to be in and out of the piano for some of the scores that include this kind of music but really if you're of the type to play this that's part of the fun/challenge. Sometimes people are not too happy about you getting inside their shiny steinway with stickers screws nuts and bolts. sometimes I don't care.

# Question 9

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<b>What People Think of the Idea</b>	
Strong Takers	15
Interested/ Curious to know more (mostly technical questions)	22
Interested in the idea but judgement depends on the sound quality	3
Definite No	1
Unknown	4

## **Pertinent Quotes:**

- I like the direct reply from the string on an upright; especially useful when improvising with musicians as sound needs to travel more quickly....big, concert grands can sometimes feel a little 'removed' from the event....
- I would still opt for an upright piano at my home, as it is more compact. For me, a vertical piano would be more suited to a larger home or public building.
- Could be exciting, I would need to know more about acoustics to judge though
- It's a lovely idea for folk who don't have space and want that "big" sound.
- The workings would have to be very beautiful aesthetically as its it is a very dominant

# Question 10

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<b>How Much People Would Expect to Pay (£)</b>	
No Idea	12
>3,000	2
3,000 - 5,000	1
5,000 - 7,000	6
10,000 - 20,000	5
20,000 - 30,000	1
30,000+	1
“Thousands”	3
“Marginally cheaper than a grand piano”	2
“60 - 80% of a grand piano”	1
“8,000 - 80,000”	1