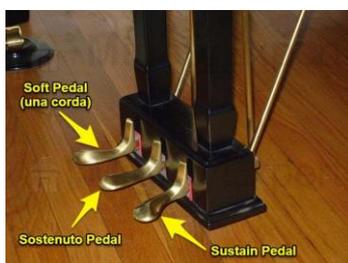


Competency	- 5.0 Exhibits awareness of the structure, sound production and tone quality of musical Instruments.
Competency Level	-5.2 Defines and describes the mechanism of the Piano
Activity	-5.2.1 The mechanism of the Piano.

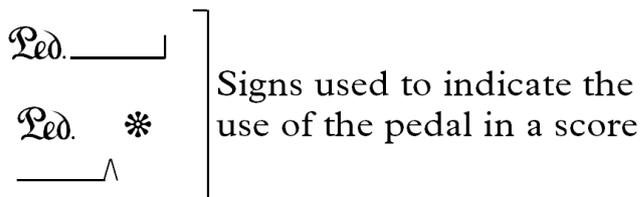
The Mechanism of the Piano.



- ❖ The piano was invented towards the end of the 17th century by the Italian composer Bartolomeo Cristofori.
- ❖ The Most popular keyboard instruments of the day were the harpsichord and the clavichord.
- ❖ Both these instruments looked like the piano but the major difference was the way the sound was produced.
- ❖ The piano only gained popularity in the Classical period and gradually replaced the harpsichord as the favorite keyboard media.
- ❖ There are 7octaves and 88 keys on the modern piano. The high pitched notes are to the player's right and the low-pitched notes are to the left.
- ❖ The tone on the piano is produced by hammers hitting at the strings when a key is depressed. A damper stops the strings from vibrating further when the key is released.



- ❖ There are 3 pedals on the piano
 - a. The left “soft” pedal or the “Una corda” pedal softens the tone produced when depressed. To release the soft pedal, the term “Tre corda” is used.
 - b. The middle “sostenuto” pedal sustains selected notes when depressed.
 - c. The right “sustaining” pedal or “damper” pedal lifts the dampers off the strings when it is depressed to sustain the notes and to enrich the tone produced.



These mean: depress the right (sustaining) pedal, then release it.

- ❖ The piano is seldom used in the orchestra. It is usually used as a soloist of a piano concerto with orchestral accompaniment.
- ❖ The word (pianoforte) literally means soft-loud.

Some of the main differences between an upright piano and a grand piano are:

- ✓ Strings are stretched horizontally in the grand piano and vertically in the upright
- ✓ The middle pedal of the grand piano is called the **sostenuto pedal**.
- ✓ Middle pedal of the upright piano is called the **practising pedal**. When pressed a long felt falls between the strings and the hammers and the sound is very soft.

Questions:-

1. Who invented the piano?
.....
2. What is his nationality?
.....
3. What is the effect of the “Una corda” pedal?
.....
4. How many keys are there on a piano?
.....
5. Give another name for the sustaining pedal.
.....