

Breaking down a fine-tuned classic

While pianos come in all shapes and sizes today, with even the option of getting just the keyboard alone, the basic construction of a modern piano has not changed in the nearly 300 years since its invention.

In the early 1700s, Italian harpsichord maker Bartolomeo Cristofori di Francesco made the first "pianoforte." Cristofori's invention differed from harpsichords in that hammers were used to strike strings instead of plectrums used to pluck them. Concert grand pianos, with their classic asymetrically curved shape and unrivaled performance sound, still have many of the same components as Cristofori's original.

PARTS OF A GRAND PIANO

