



ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC
London

Royal College of Music Museum

My Piano Activity Book



What makes a piano?

Keyboard instruments have been around for hundreds of years. We have one in our museum that's more than 500 years old! But not all keyboards are the same.

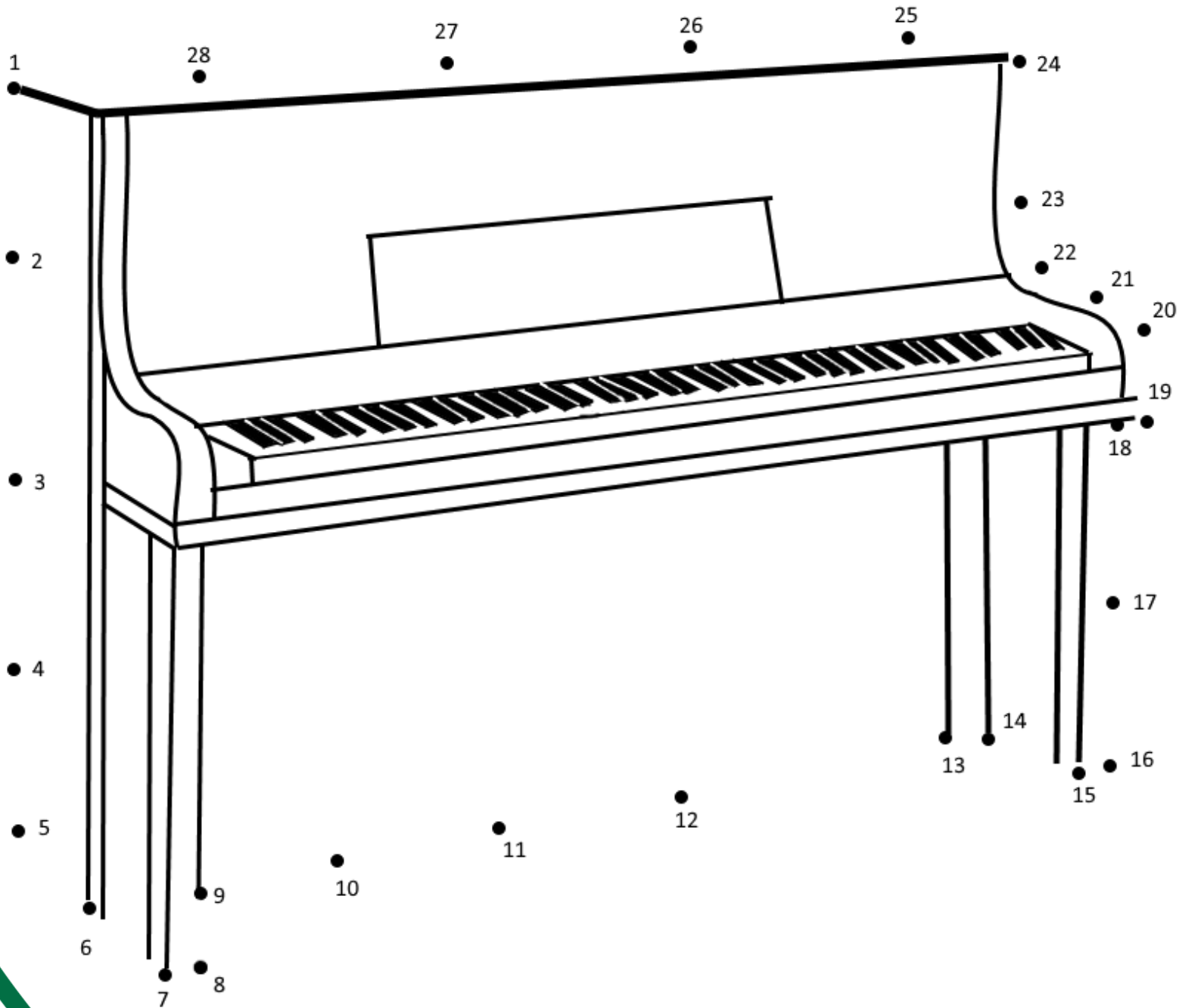


For a long time the strings inside keyboard instruments were plucked. In 1700 a man named Bartolomeo Cristofori invented a way of hitting the strings with little hammers instead of plucking them. The piano was born!

Let's find out more about the piano!

Connect the dots

Connect the dots to reveal the hidden image.



Find the word

Solution at end of booklet.

H Z G S C E G K E W W Q P D I
A O E D Q I U R J B Q X I R P
W V W N S Q R P A O O U A A R
C U B P M A A O N J X G N O V
X A R H L X Z T F Z R V O B E
T N E M I N A P M O C C A Y I
G J U E X D T H Q O T D W E X
D N A R G A S F P F X S L K I
Z D U P R I G H T G U L I O D
A C S K R F X G I H D H A R I
K U X U X M E O P V A P Q M C
X Z O E G Y A D V Y E M W N W
Q L U F T I W R U D P I M R D
F Q K A K Z V P A T N R C E E
Y W D F S N X L E G E W Z Q R

ACCOMPANIMENT
CRISTOFORI
ETUDE
FLOURISH
GRAND

HAMMER
KEYBOARD
PEDAL
PIANO
UPRIGHT

Piano glossary

ACCOMPANIMENT - the musical part which complements the melody

CRISTOFORI - Bartolomeo Cristofori, inventor of the piano

ETUDE - a short piece of music which helps the player practice a musical skill

FLOURISH - non-essential notes which add variety to a piece of music

GRAND - a piano with horizontal strings

HAMMER - the part of the piano that hits the strings when a key is pressed

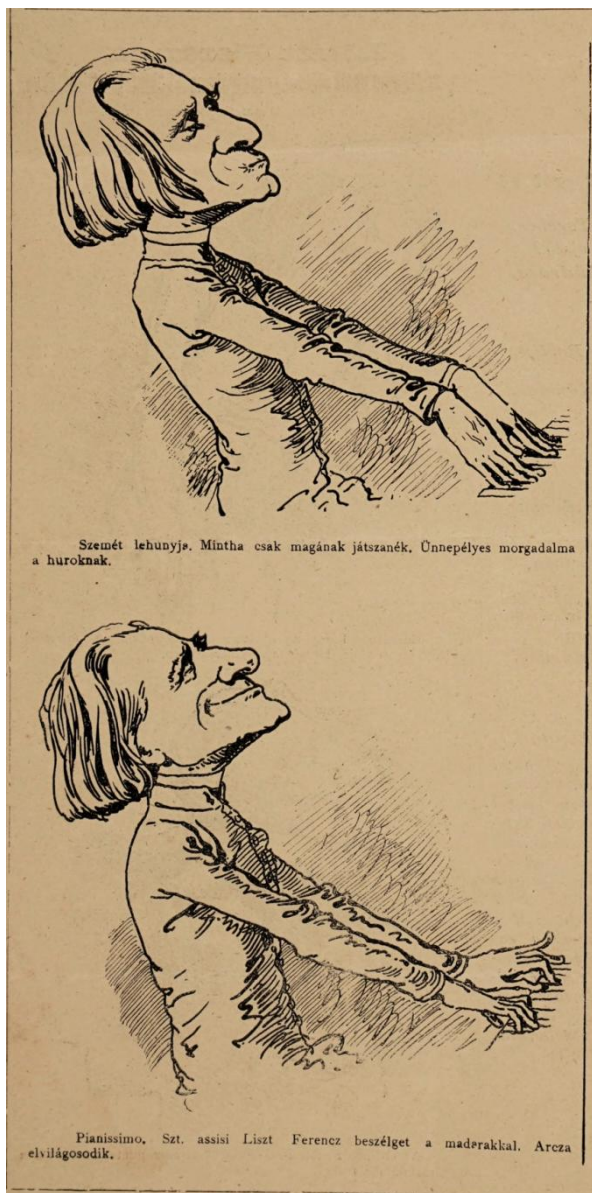
KEYBOARD - the bank of keys on a piano

PEDAL - levers pressed by the foot to adjust a piano's sound

PIANO - a keyed instrument with strings struck by hammers

UPRIGHT - a piano with vertical strings

Lisztomania



Franz Liszt was a famous pianist and composer. Some called him a **virtuoso**, which means he enjoyed showing off his piano skills.

Liszt was an energetic performer, stamping his feet and waving his arms.

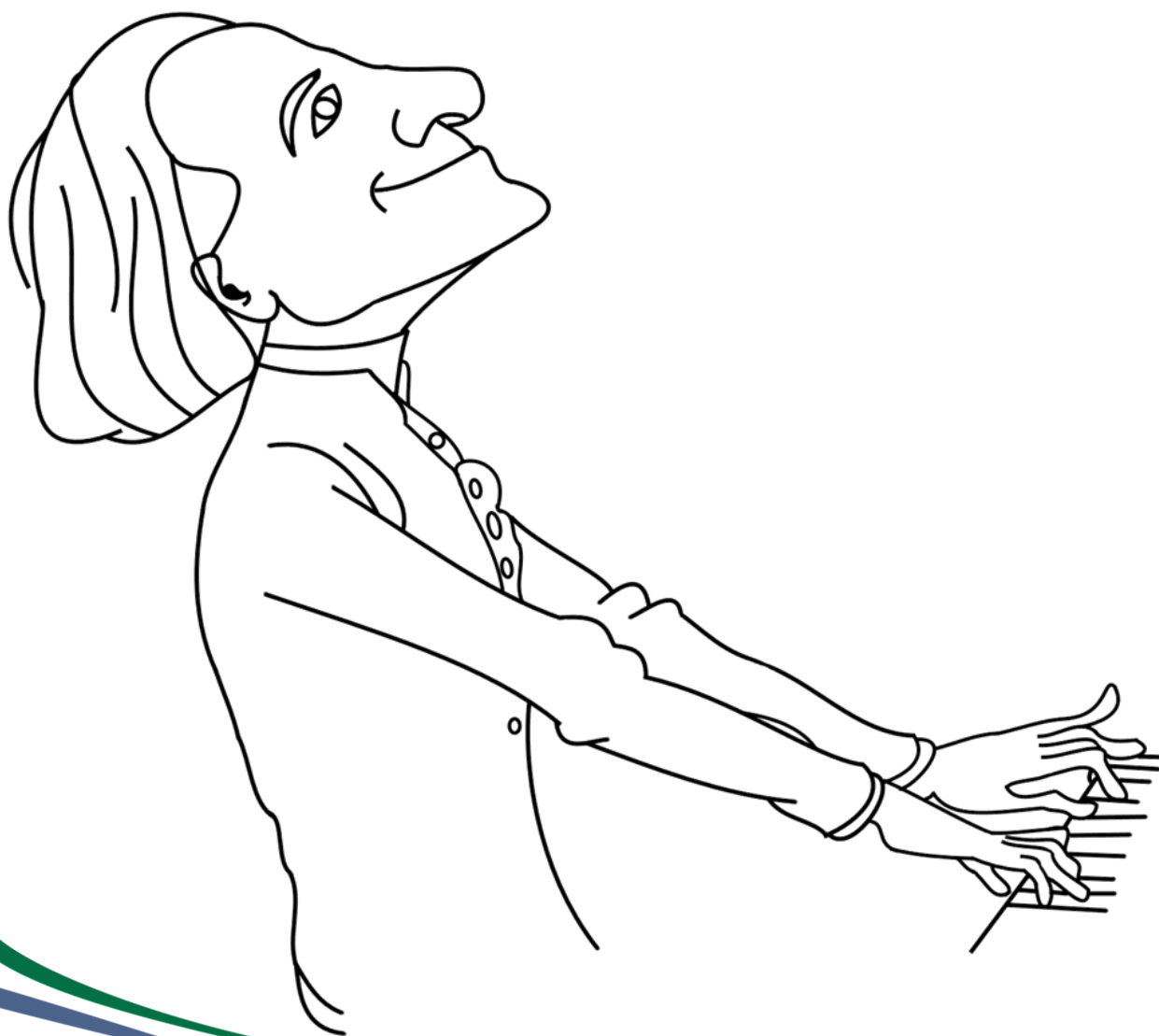
He was so good at playing the piano, that he got quite a large fan club.

People loved him so much, some people even nicknamed it **LISZTOMANIA**.

This caricature is from a series about one of his concerts.

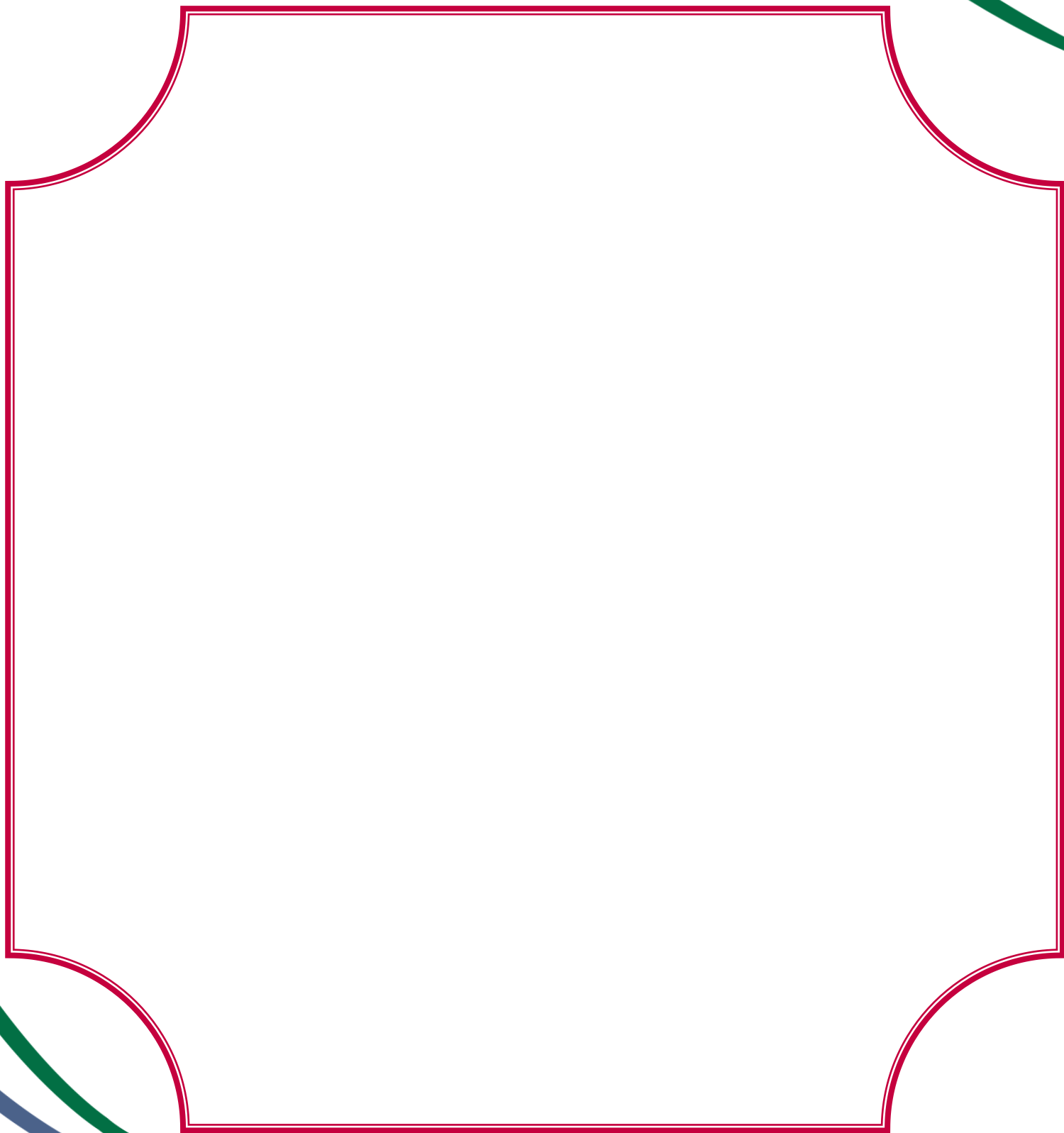
Colour in your own version of Liszt on the next page!

BONUS! What do you think Liszt is thinking about while he plays the piano?



Cartoon challenge

Use the space below to draw a cartoon of someone you know playing the piano.



We need a piano

The concert is about to start and the piano is missing! Help the stage crew find the piano backstage.

