



Please buy a piano key to help us buy a piano!

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Our graduate students are proposing (with the Chair's blessing) the purchase of a new piano for the 2nd floor lounge. The piano will be available day and night, pending some security details and care for Ann's work environment, and all are encouraged to sit down and play, from beginners to Mr. Crump. *Case Van Geest House of Pianos*, a local family-owned piano company (<http://www.vangeestpianos.com/>), is providing a beautiful new piano at an outstanding price.

Over the years there is variance in how students interact socially, and this can have huge effects on productivity and emotional and intellectual health. The last few years have enjoyed the most cohesive student social groups in a long time. Part of that is due to the creativity, enjoyment, and cathartic release of getting together musically. A piano is a catalyst for this. A piano is a magnet. It draws people and other musical instruments to it.

A piano in our 2nd floor lounge would transform that room. It is an ideal location. It is often empty after hours, and it is a perfect place for students to get together where the music will not disturb people working late in surrounding offices or laboratories. A piano would be the linchpin for the enhanced social warmth, artistic creativity, and intellectual rejuvenation that comes from musical jam sessions.

We are humbly inviting donations to help us buy the piano. To do this, we are selling the 88 piano keys! One key can be purchased for \$40. You can buy one key (you pick which one), a portion of a key (team up with a friend?), a chord, or heck, a whole octave if you like. A virtual piano keyboard has been posted in the mail room to chart our fund-raising progress. In the beginning, the virtual keyboard will have no keys. As each key is sold, it will be added to the keyboard with the name of the sponsor or the dedication of the sponsor. You can claim a key in the mail room, or send email to claim a key to piano@brain.mcmaster.ca. Our web page <http://brain.mcmaster.ca/piano> has details, photos, and a list of piano key names.

Donations can be cash or cheque made out to Judy Shedden. They can be given to any of us (those signed below) or to the secretaries.

Thank you!

We look forward to making music together!

Stan Govenlock,

Matt Crump,

Paola Fabrizio,

Judy Shedden



The piano's world encompasses glass-nerved
virtuosi and stomping barrel-housers in fedoras;
it is a world of pasture and storm, of perfumed
smoke, of liquid mathematics.

Kenneth Miller

I hit the piano with my elbow sometimes
because of a certain sound I want to
hear, certain chords.

Thelonious Monk

The piano is a
monster that
screams when you
touch its teeth.

Andre Segovia



The music is really about
communication musically and
about blending things and
tearing down walls.

Bela Fleck

And there is a time where you can be beyond
yourself. You can be better than your technique. You
can be better than most of your usual ideas.

Dave Brubeck