

Pianos on the scrapheap 钢琴成了废品

Vocabulary: musical terms 词汇: 音乐用语

When it comes to owning an upright piano, society has **changed its tune**. One hundred years ago, having the **instrument** in your home was a sign of social status, as well as being an important source of home entertainment.

But, nowadays, it seems that the piano's **heyday** is over, and fewer people are choosing to **tinkle the ivories** at home. The once impressive instrument sits **silently** in the corner of people's living rooms, gathering dust.

Many families have had **to face the music** - the instrument takes up too much space - and so make the difficult decision of selling their piano. But, to their dismay, no-one is buying. Even when they're **going for a song**, buyers are not coming forward. What's more, many owners are finding that they cannot even give their old pianos away.

Piano **restorers** across the globe have been inundated with calls from owners, hoping to hear that their instrument is worth a lot of money. John Gist, from the Gist Piano Centre in Louisville, Kentucky, receives 10 to 15 calls a day from people asking how much their piano is worth.

The answer comes **like a broken record** - not much. "It becomes a money pit," says Gist, and his advice is simply "to get rid of it." Pianos are complicated to restore, as they have thousands of moving parts. **Fine-tuning** the instrument is complex: loosening the **strings** can take around 10 hours; even just polishing the piano can take up to 70.

So, the instruments that once **rang out** in thousands of households across the world are slowly and steadily ending up **on the scrapheap**. But the **death knell** hasn't sounded for the piano just yet. There is one market where the piano is **booming** - China.

Sales of pianos have reached a **crescendo** in the Chinese market, with 300,000 pianos made there every year. Famous Chinese **virtuosos** like Lang Lang, who first performed as a child, have **struck a chord** with many other young musicians who have an interest in classical music, and parents **in tune with the times** see piano playing as a way their child can get ahead.

But despite its growing popularity in China, the traditional, wooden piano appears to have had its **swan song**, with those who are buying opting for **digital** versions, which are cheaper, quieter and, crucially, can be easily stored so they don't gather dust.



词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Why were pianos popular one hundred years ago (Give two reasons)?
2. What phrase is used to mean 'to play the piano'?
3. What verb means 'to bring something back to its former condition'?
4. Is the following statement true, false or not given? *Many pianos end up in rubbish dumps in China.*
5. Why are digital pianos still popular?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I think you need to _____ the music – he's not interested in you!

play	face	hear	see
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2. I buy all of my clothes from the internet, it's so much cheaper. Look at this handbag, for example – it's going for a _____.

music	record	tune	song
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3. My dad always complains about how untidy my bedroom is. He's like a broken _____.

piano	instrument	record	chord
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4. The politician's speech about expensive childcare will _____ a chord with many women.

hit	play	strike	sound
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5. His little sister started playing the piano when she was just four years old. She's now a real _____.

virtuoso	crescendo	solo	piano
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Why were pianos popular one hundred years ago (Give two reasons)? They were a sign of social status and a source of home entertainment
2. What phrase is used to mean 'to play the piano'? To tinkle the ivories
3. What verb means 'to bring something back to its former condition'? To restore
4. Is the following statement true, false or not given? *Many pianos end up in rubbish dumps in China.* False. The market for pianos is booming in China
5. Why are digital pianos still popular? They are cheap, quiet and can be stored easily

Exercise 练习

1. I think you need to face the music – he's not interested in you!
2. I buy all of my clothes from the internet, it's so much cheaper. Look at this handbag, for example – it's going for a song.
3. My dad always complains about how untidy my bedroom is. He's like a broken record.
4. The politician's speech about expensive childcare will strike a chord with many women.
5. His little sister started playing the piano when she was just four years old. She's now a real virtuoso.

Glossary 词汇表

changed its tune	改变态度
instrument	乐器
heyday	全盛时期
to tinkle the ivories	弹钢琴
silently	无声地，默默地
to face the music	面对现实
going for a song	非常便宜
restorers	修复者
like a broken record	不怎么样（就像损坏的唱片，不值钱）
fine-tuning	细微的调音
strings	琴弦
rang out	响起
on the scrapheap	在废物堆上
death knell	丧钟
booming	蓬勃发展
crescendo	渐强，高潮
virtuoso	艺术大师
struck a chord	共鸣
in tune with the times	与时俱进
swan song	最后的作品，绝笔