

Since about 1450 keyboards have virtually remained the same, except for a little variation in the colour of the keys. The organ was the first keyboard instrument and the way of the keys has varied greatly and at times was so heavy that the players were called "Organ Beaters", because they actually had to hit the keys to make a sound, rather than playing them. About the 13th or 14th Century, keyboard music was made of natural modes, modes then being the basis of music. The interval of the B to B, was considered unmusical, so B was lowered bringing in an extra note, this then gave five accidentals, B flat was probably followed by F sharp, E flat, C sharp and finally G sharp.

The first of the Harpsichord family was the virginal. The strings were plucked by a then came the Clavichord, the spinet followed and then the more elaborate harpsichord. Harpsichords then had one manual and a two-foot registers and were slightly more triangular shaped than a modern grand piano.

In 1598, in letters to the Duke of Modena, Paliarino describes an instrument he has made, he called it "Pian e Forte" although this instrument was capable of soft and loud, it is not clear if it is a type of harpsichord fitted with a device or a true hammered piano.

From then onwards the piano has advanced and eventually chips were invented. Then someone got the idea of using these chips on a piano based instrument, using electricity. Now we have advanced so much we have floppy disk drives, dual voices and many other effects.

I decided to write my composition based on one of my pieces, called 'Never Had A Dream Come True'. I also decided to base it on a few other mixed male and female groups. To have a good view of how music has changed across a certain amount of time I have studied from different decades, (70's, 80's and 90's).

Never Had A Dream Come True is a ballad written and composed by Cathy Dennis and Simon Ellis, in 1999. It is written in 4 time (common time) and is in the key of F major. It is performed by a mixed group of three men and three women. It is made up of a verse, a chorus, a verse and another chorus. Originally it also had a middle eighth, a key change and another chorus, but I thought that a ballad should be romantic and the key change made it less romantic, so I left it out. In the piece I tried to make it sound modern so I used an intro, fill ins and an ending. I used quite soft voices and used a ballad. To make it more romantic I did it fairly slow and used strings as my dual voice.

There's A Whole Lot Of Loving was written and composed by Chris Arnold, David Martin and Geoff Morrow, in 1974. It is also written in 4 time (common time) but it is in the key of C and then there is a key change to D. It is performed by Guys and Dolls, which is another girl, boy group. In this version there is no bass line, but I think in the song there is a bass line. It is made up of two verses, a chorus and another verse. It also has a few ties and slurs in it.

Last Christmas is my piece from the 80's. It was written and composed by George Michael. It has two sharps which means it is in the key of D, and is also written in Common Time. It has been re-released by a few bands since it was written, the last

band to perform it being BTW. The structure of it is: two choruses then a verse then two more choruses then another verse. At the end it says D.S, which is Dal Segno (an Italian word meaning 'go back to the repeat sign') and then it should also fade out.

In all of these most if not all the voices could be played on a keyboard, even the percussion can now be played on it. Of the songs I have studied, most of them do modulate. The male and female voices are different because they have different timbre. The male voices are lower so they do the bass line and the females do the actual vocals, due to their voices being a higher pitch.

My composition is based on all of these pieces. It's form is a verse, a chorus, a verse, a chorus, an instrumental, a verse, a chorus and a key change. I used a key change to get the effect of this woman cheering up and forgetting about her separation with her boyfriend. I also decided to use common time because all the other pieces we looked at were written in this way. I used an intro, fill ins and ending. I used quite romantic voices, styles and dual voices. I made fairly slow so it sounded more romantic and got females and males singing in it to make it sound like a boy, girl band. In my opinion my composition sounds romantic, like a ballad should and it is an example of a modern romantic composition.