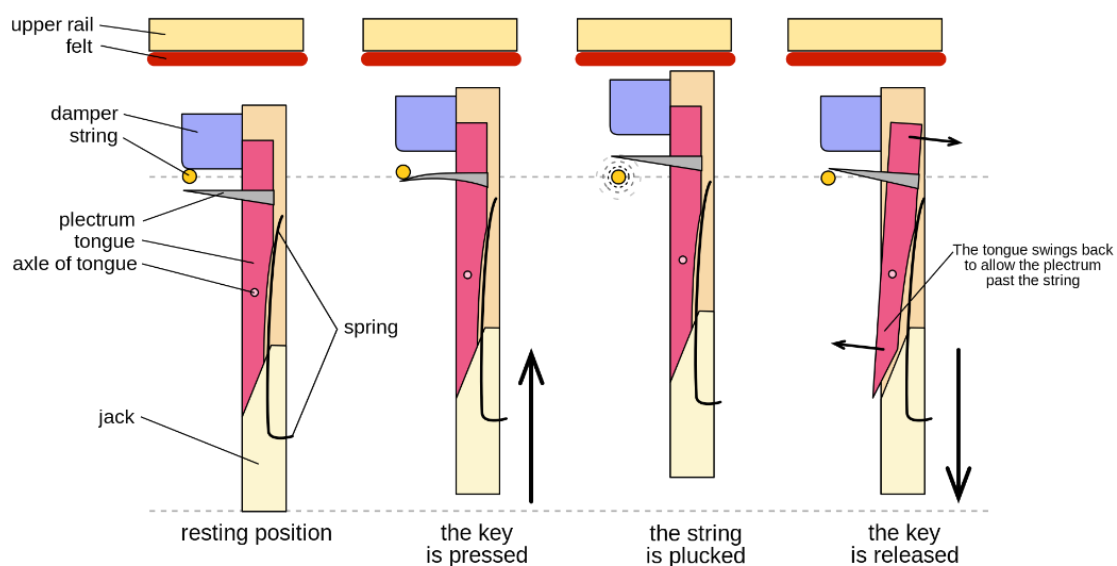


Music of the World

Chordophones - Keyboard Instruments, Plucked: Harpsichord & Virginals

The Harpsichord is a stringed instrument that may have multiple keyboards. It was probably invented during the 14th century and became popular during the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Some harpsichords have stop buttons, much like a pipe organ. The body of the harpsichord houses the wire strings which are stretched and under great tension. The sound is produced by depressing the key which pushes the jack up and causes a plectrum (pick) made of quill (from a bird feather) or plastic to pluck on the string.



A Harpsichord demonstration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7jWYiQz1cA>

Notice that while the lower keyboard of this Harpsichord is being played that the upper keyboard also moves thus playing a second set of strings:

https://youtu.be/r9jV4_tEtXQ?t=32

Virginals were popular during late Renaissance period about the 16th century and were smaller than the harpsichord. Many did not have legs, making it more portable. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3o0nnxDQOFA>

