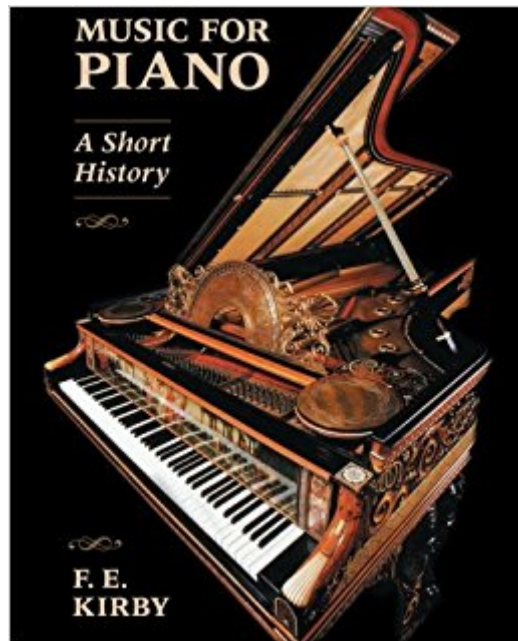


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# Music For Piano: A Short History



## Synopsis

This historical survey focuses on music for piano solo but also includes important compositions for piano duet and two pianos. Scholarly yet readable, it covers the entire repertoire from the Renaissance to the late 20th century and incorporates a bibliography of 1,100 sources for further study.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rejoice, all who have hoped for a revised, rewritten, expanded version of F.E. Kirby's narrative *Short History of Keyboard Music* (Schirmer, 1966). Kirby's new book omits material on organ and harpsichord music, edits and updates the older title's piano chapters significantly, and adds more music by women and black composers (though saying "it is evident" that Clara Schumann gave up composing to "meet the needs of her family" reveals a shallow spot in his new research). With improved style but unchanging devotion, Kirby provides piano-lovers with a solid introductory source for understanding historical developments of style in part of the western art-music tradition. The selective bibliography is outstanding. Useful as a college text and highly recommended to public libraries. ?Bonnie Jo Dopp, Montgomery Cty. P.L., Rockville, Md. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

When F. E. Kirby published *A Short History of Keyboard Music* in 1966, scholars and keyboard players welcomed it as the first detailed historical interpretation of music for organ, harpsichord,

clavichord, and piano. In this book, which is comparable in length but substantially different in content, Kirby focuses on music for the piano "in the fine-art or classical tradition", providing an in-depth survey of music for piano solo, and including discussions of important compositions for piano duet and two pianos. Beginning with early types of keyboard music that influenced the first music for the instrument in the seventeenth century, and ending with the bold, iconoclastic works of the late twentieth century, Kirby provides a scholarly yet readable overview of the literature, drawing on the results of the most recent research. Concerned with the historical context of the works, the author traces the development of the composers' styles in light of the times in which they lived. With an emphasis on principal composers and important compositions, the book is an excellent introduction for anyone interested in the development of the great repertoire of piano music. Incorporating an extensive topical bibliography of more than 1100 sources for further reading - likely the largest ever compiled - and illustrated throughout with music examples, this volume is indispensable to students and teachers at both the graduate and advanced undergraduate levels, music historians, and anyone interested in music literature.

The short history is indeed short. It is not encyclopedic but is a concise overview of the literature. It will help make decisions about what historical, standard rep, and modern music is appropriate for any pianist or teacher to seek out, for themselves, their students and their audience. The section on 20th century composition helps wade through the backwaters of modern music to find the pieces that have come to be regarded as modern standard repertoire. The writing style is Academic Dry, so do not expect to be entertained, only informed.<sup>88</sup>melter

Very thorough, needs to update modern/contemporary repertoire.

I got this book for a piano lit class and it has a lot of good information, It is not too overly wordy getting to the point quickly. This is a good book for any musician to have in your personal library.

Even better than Gordon's Keyboard Literature. It contains a more thorough approach to background on pieces, genres, instrument, style and output of composers.

This is a must have text for this subject area. I found it to be very well written and useful.

Thank you!! like it! Perfect! ,Music for Piano : A short history, F.E Kirby. Good luck to you! .

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This is just the right book to use for the study of piano literature! It is well-written, comprehensive and entertaining.

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