

TOY PIANO STORIES

chromoson

ensemble / for /
contemporary music

CALL FOR SCORES

ensemble chromoson

@ensemblechromoson

luca lavuri, toy piano

carolin ralsler, flutes

maria mogas gensana, akkordeon

philipp lamprecht, percussion

massimiliano girardi, saxophones

federico campana, electronics

DEADLINE 31 OCTOBER 2025





The call

The ensemble chromoson's pianist, **Luca Lavuri**—a passionate collector of toy pianos—curates a set of instruments rich in character and history, each with its own voice and timbre. More than a century after its invention, the toy piano continues to fascinate: once a children's plaything, it has since transcended its origins to become both a historical curiosity and a contemporary instrument. Its sound world is fragile yet compelling, playful yet profound. In dialogue with ensemble and electronics, the toy piano offers a space for exploration—emerging as a soloist, blending seamlessly into textures, or disrupting sonic hierarchies with its distinctive presence.

With this call for scores, ensemble chromoson invites composers of all ages and nationalities to engage imaginatively with the toy piano, situating it within the broader field of contemporary composition. Submissions should explore the instrument's versatility, expand its expressive potential, and contribute to the evolving discourse on its role in 21st-century music.



Instrumentation/electronics:

- Toy pianos:
 - Michelsonne 49, 37 (x3), 30, 25 keys,
 - Jaymar 30 keys,
 - Schoenhut 25 keys,
 - KAWAI 44 keys
- Flute (piccolo, flute, alto & bass flute)
- Saxophone (soprano, alto, tenor, baritone)
- Accordion
- Percussion (Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, Crotales (2 Octaves), Bass Drum, 4 Tomtoms, 2 Snare Drums, 1 Tamtam (75cm), 1 Thundersheet)
- Electronics (2-channel fixed media or live-electronics with amplified toy piano)
software: Max/MSP, PD, Ableton Live 12, REAPER)
- click track optional, no conductor



Criteria

- Each composer may submit up to two scores.
- Previously performed works are eligible, though preference will be given to pieces that have not yet been performed or published.
- Duration: 5–7 minutes.
- Minimum instrumentation: toy piano + 2 instruments.
- Electronics may be used but are not required.



Application Materials

Please include the following with your submission:

- Score(s).
- Short biography in continuous text (max. ~1,000 characters including spaces).
- Copyright-free portrait photo in printable resolution (with credit details).
- Short description of the piece (max. 500 characters).

Send your complete application to:
ensemble.chromoson@gmail.com



Deadline:

31 October 2025. Late submissions cannot be considered.

Selection Process

- The ensemble chromoson will select works from the submissions by 5 November 2025.
- Selected pieces will be performed in a concert on 4 December 2025 in Bolzano, Italy.
- Composers whose works are chosen must provide all performance materials (parts and electronics) by 15 November 2025.

For inquiries, please contact: ensemble.chromoson@gmail.com 

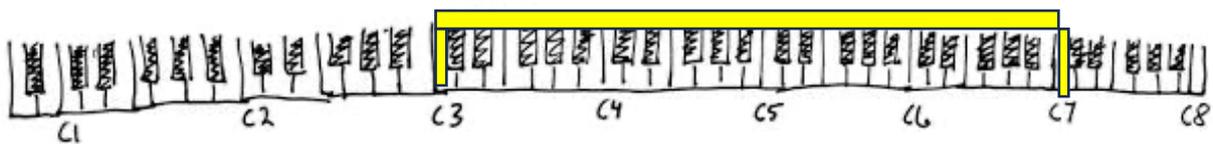
“Historical” Toy piano

MICHELSONNE

49 Keys



Information:
Extension: C3 to C7



Year: probably 1970

Tuning: around 440 Hz

Video: <https://youtu.be/b8Vhu3v3deM>

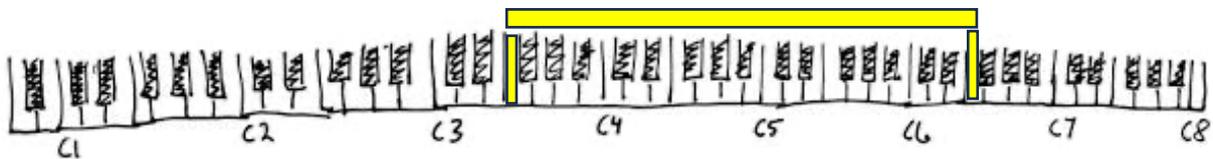
MICHELSONNE

37 Keys



Information:

Extension: F3 to F6



Year: probably 1970

Tuning: 443-445Hz up the note (quite stable)

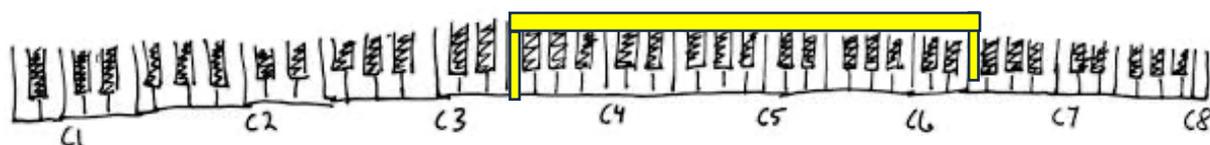
Video: https://youtu.be/RDXmP_Nahac

MICHELSONNE

37 Keys



Information:
Extension: F3 to F6



Year: probably 1970
Tuning: 440-443Hz
Video: <https://youtu.be/1QzK1UL6610>

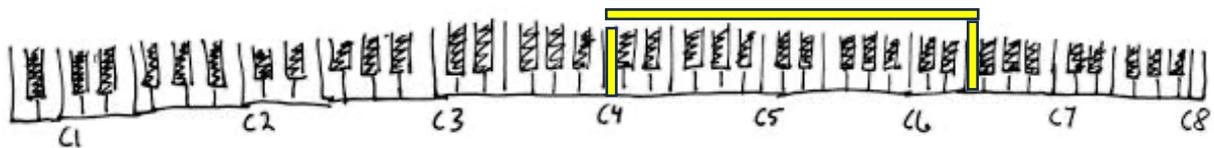
MICHELSONNE

30 Keys



About:

Extension: C4 to F6



Year: probably 1970

Tuning: 443-445Hz up the note (quite stable)

Video: <https://youtu.be/w3xxzOC8Sy8>

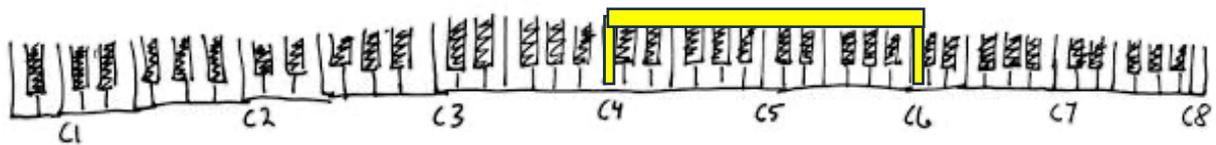
MICHELSONNE

25 Keys



About:

Extension: C4 to C6



Year: probably 1970

Tuning: 443-445Hz up the note (quite stable)

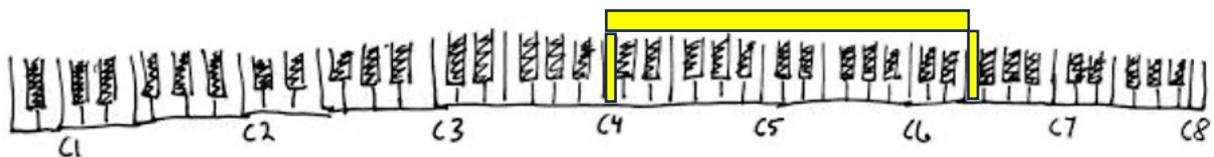
Video: <https://youtu.be/f3FGcl5211Q>

Jaymar (Schoenhut) 30 Keys



About:

Extension: C4 to F6



Year: probably 1970

Tuning: 443-450 (not stable)

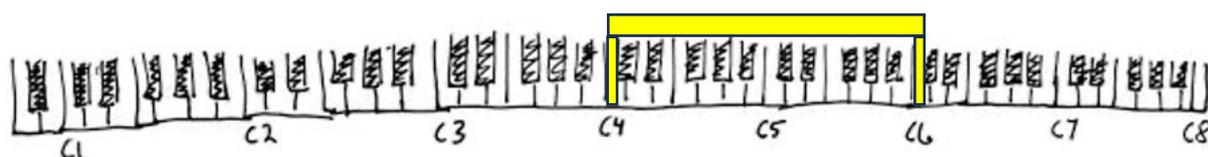
Video: <https://youtu.be/IKoOXOgaTxI>

Schoenhut 25 Keys



About:

Extension: C4 to C6



Year: probably 1970

Tuning: 443-450 (not stable)

Video: <https://youtu.be/NUzDvY2Trww>

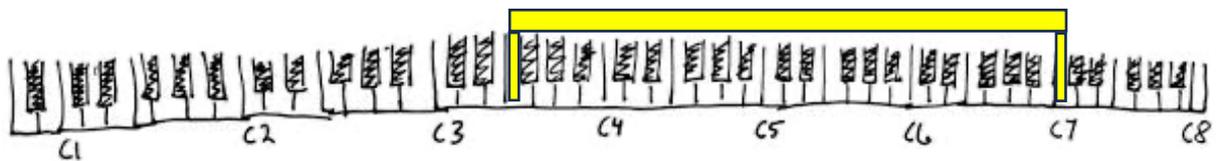
“Modern” Toy Piano

KAWAI
44 Keys



About:

Extension: F3 to C7



Year: New model (up 2020)

Tuning: 440-442Hz up the note (really stable)

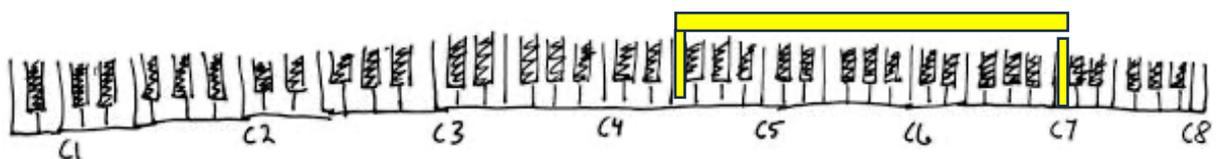
Video: <https://youtu.be/ROovl0CY-q5>

KAWAI 32 Keys



About:

Extension: F4-C7



Year: New model (up 2020)

Tuning: 440-442Hz up the note (really stable)

Video: <https://youtu.be/dGkf96xS5-Q>