



A home for Music in Canada

by Leyland Bradley

Artifact Spotlight: The Exploded Piano

What happens to a piano when it falls out of the back of a truck? It basically explodes. But a little imagination and innovative thinking changed the fate for one destroyed piano and is now a favourite for children's educational programming at the National Music Centre.

As the story goes, the piano met its fate when it fell out of the back of a truck. The piano lid and casing were destroyed beyond repair, but the inside remained intact. Dubbed 'the exploded piano,' the question of what to do with the broken piano became obvious.

When propped vertically, the piano wires can be 'played' or struck with soft mallets and hands to emit sounds. Children are encouraged to explore the piano to their hearts content in an interactive, hands-on environment.

The exploded piano remains a staple for children's programming, and represents the many learning opportunities available for all ages at NMC.

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