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In respect to the piano, silence could not be achieved without the dampers. These little blocks of wood with felt attached to one side sit pressed against the strings by way of gravity (grand) or spring tension (upright). The felt stops the string from vibrating allowing the musician to maintain complete control over the silence.

Without its dampers in proper working condition, a piano would ring constantly or maybe not ring at all.

Dampers have been used on keyboard instruments with strings since the clavichord back in medieval times. Whether the string is struck or plucked, you can expect to find a damper.

You may ask why there are only dampers on a majority of the strings but not all. This is because a short string under great tension won't sustain for long. The missing dampers from these notes in the extreme treble section of the instrument, as is always the case, allow the strings to ring sympathetically with notes lower in the piano's range producing a clear, full sound and boosting the harmonics.



There are a few interesting techniques involving dampers that are not so common but create an interesting effect worth mentioning.

If you want to create a wa-wa/vibrato effect after playing a chord, move the dampers to and from the strings without letting the felt touch the strings. This moves the air near the strings and manipulates the sound waves. This works best on grand pianos.

Another fun effect is to depress the damper pedal and sing or play a different instrument into the piano. The strings will vibrate sympathetically with the pitches coming from the other instrument/voice and the piano will sing along with you. This also works best on grand pianos.

### **\$5 OFF YOUR NEXT TUNING**

For every person you refer me to that I complete work for, I will give you a \$5 credit toward your next tuning as my thanks. This only applies to private piano owners and not to institutions (Churches, Schools, Piano dealerships, etc.).

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