Abstract

This Request For Proposal (RFP) frames the opportunity of helping young pianists at the 88Keys music school in Richmond Hill maintain proper hand position while practicing without the support of an instructor. The age demographic for these pianists is 0 - 8 years of age [1], and the requested design must be able to correct the posture of the hand, or prevent the hand from developing incorrect form, without external feedback.

Since the school started offering virtual lessons during the pandemic, there was a reduced ability for the instructors to provide physical correction of posture, which when left uncorrected, can lead to injuries, such as a ligament injury [2], and can hinder progression as a musician by forming bad habits and reducing the effects of practicing [3].

A solution to this request must meet the needs of the primary stakeholders - the students, as well as the secondary stakeholders - the parents, and staff at 88Keys, and a successful solution should be effective, safe, and versatile. It should prevent the wrists from dipping below the keyboard, and prevent the finger pads from touching the keys, while still allowing for flexibility in both the wrists and fingers. Additionally, the solution must not cause any damage to the piano and must be compatible with the current technology used in the music school, ensuring most of the students can benefit from the solution.

Current solutions to the opportunity fail to satisfy the aforementioned requirements, as such, there is no existing solution that meets the needs of this community.

References

