P. F. COWING.

MEANS FOR THE STUDY OF MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 10, 1906.

1,068,569. Patented July 29, 1913.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

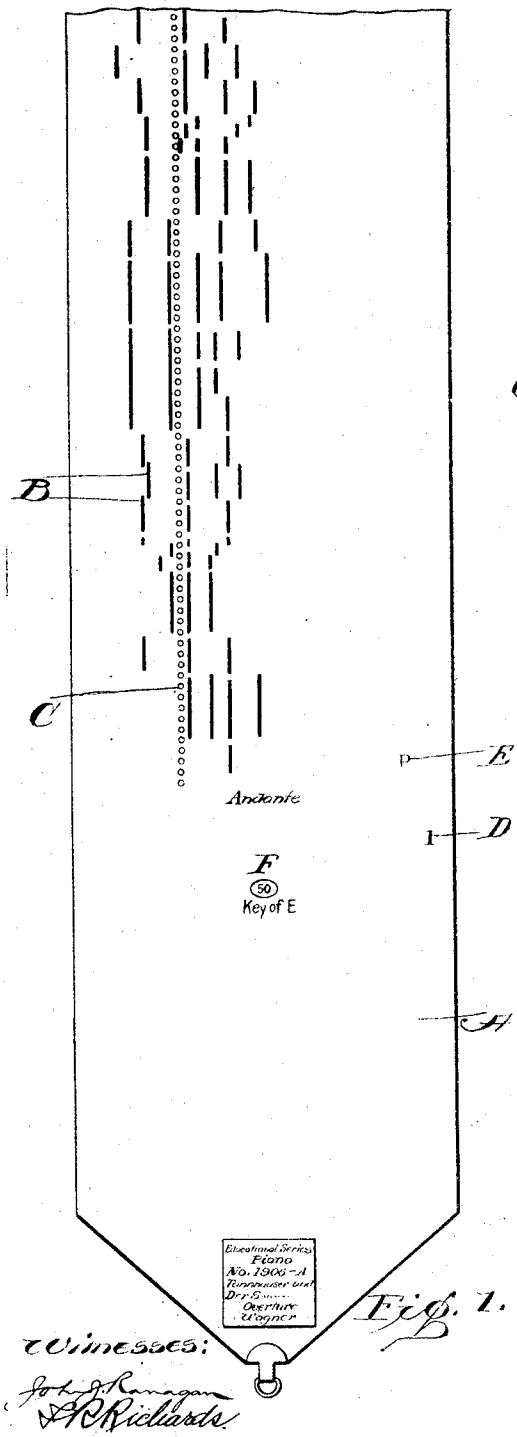

Fig. 1.

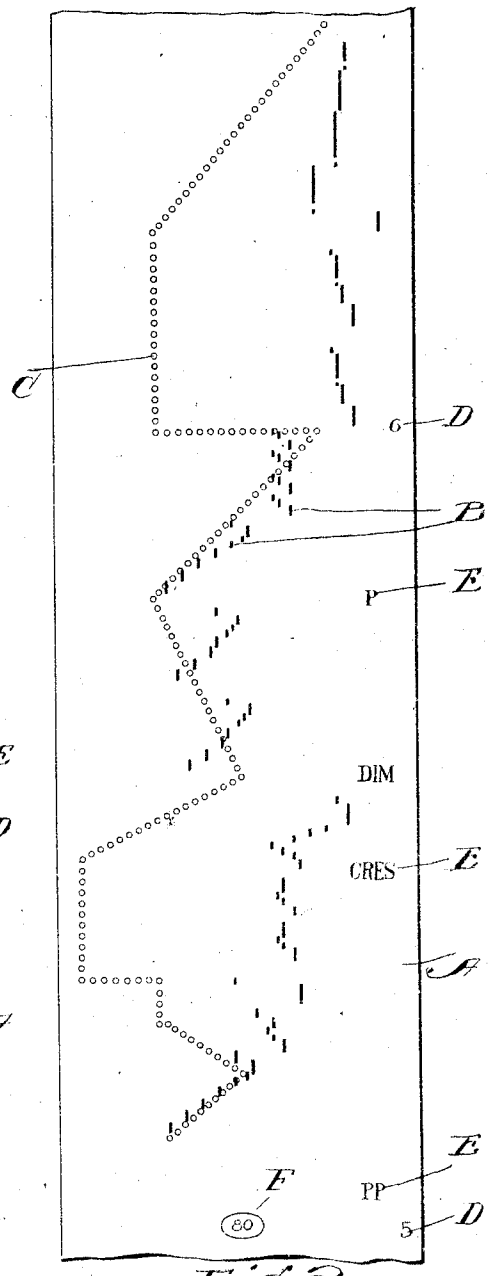

Fig. 2.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

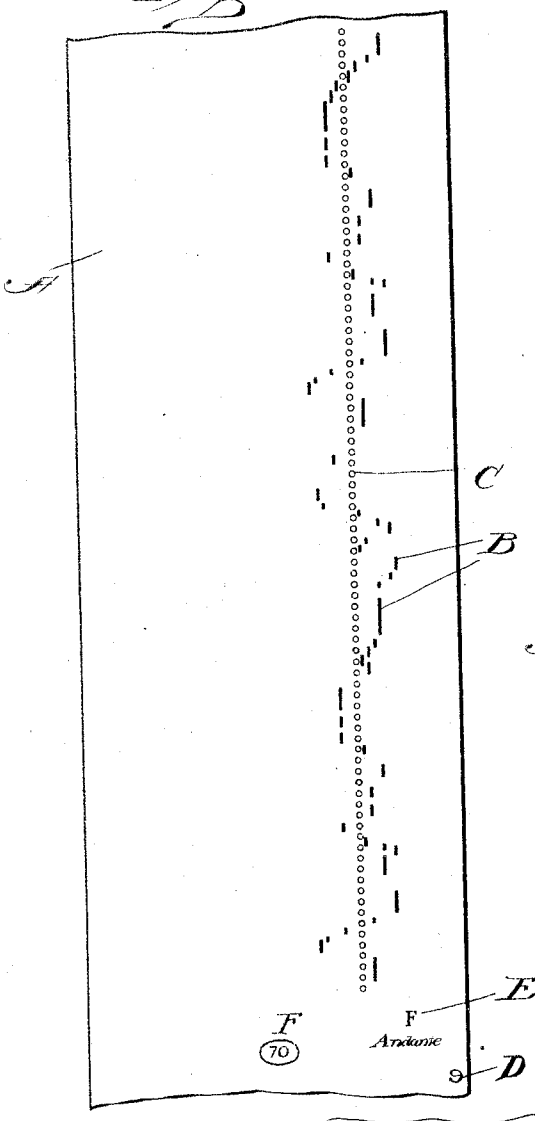


Fig. 4.

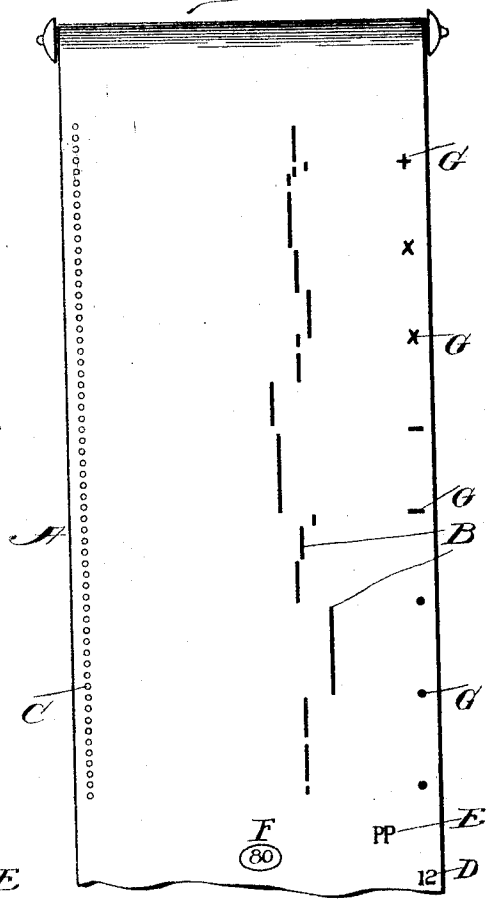
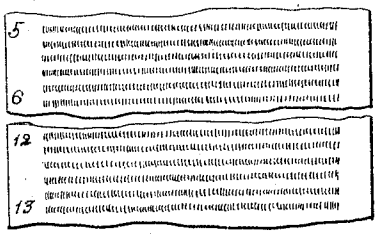


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MEANS FOR THE STUDY OF MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS.

1,068,569. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 29, 1913.

Application filed April 10, 1906. Serial No. 311,005.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PERCY FOOTE COWING, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Means for the Study of Musical Compositions, of which the following is a specification.

The invention includes improvements in perforated rolls, such as are employed in player-pianos, etc., disks and cylinders, such as employed in phonographs, etc., or any other means for mechanically controlling the reproduction of musical tones when employed in a self-playing or mechanical musical instrument.

In accordance with the present invention: a musical composition, for instance, is broken up into certain sections or motifs, descriptive parts, &c. These sections after eliminating any unnecessary accompaniments, are recorded on the record of the mechanical musical instrument. The various sections are then indexed to correspond with the description produced on the roll itself or in an accompanying pamphlet or book. By this arrangement a person may have described and illustrated to him the various parts of a musical composition so that he may obtain a thorough idea of the work so illustrated. By putting certain passages of music on the record of a self-playing instrument as I have herein disclosed many things may be brought out which would be difficult were the whole composition on the record. In the same way, music or sections of music of the same nature may be compared, or of an opposite class may be contrasted. In fact, my invention may be employed for many purposes of instruction, explanation, comparison, contrasting, etc., where in the ordinary way a lecturer or teacher would be necessary.

By way of more detailed explanation I have represented in the accompanying drawings a musical record showing my invention as applied to a perforated music roll.

Referring to the drawings in which the same reference character indicates the same part in the different views, Figure 1 represents a section of a music roll having thereon the opening motif of the overture of the opera Tannhauser. Fig. 2 represents another section of the same overture stripped of accompaniments. Fig. 3 is still another section also stripped of accompaniments. Fig. 4 is another section of the music roll with part of said opera thereon and stripped of accompaniments and made quite simple. Fig. 5 is a view of a portion of a pamphlet or book containing the instruction.

In the drawing the part marked A represents the different sections of the music roll sheet.

B represents the ordinary perforations therein, forming what is hereinafter termed a record.

C represents the usual expression marks or indicators which may or may not be used.

The numerals marked D represent indices on the music roll respectively referring to particular sections D' of a means provided with a description of the music. This means is preferably a separate pamphlet or book having indices corresponding to those on the roll, but as already stated it may be a part of the roll itself.

The characters marked E represent marks of control and expression.

The characters marked F refer to the speed.

The symbols marked G indicate the position of bars in the ordinary printed music for ease in finding the section indicated in the printed music from which the record was obtained.

Referring more specifically to Fig. 1, it will be seen that there is very little change made in the music from the way in which it is ordinarily recorded, as the accompaniment in this case is principally octaves and chords which do not overshadow the motif itself.

In Fig. 2 it is seen that the motif is stripped of accompaniments quite different from the usual manner, and is practically a series of single notes which is the heart of the motif. It will be noted that no space is left between the end of the part indexed 5 and the beginning of the part indexed 6. Actually they are different motifs, but 6 is a sequence of 5, so no break is made, although the point at which the change occurs is marked by the index number 6. The usual marks of expression and control can be used or not as is found advisable.

In Figs. 3 and 4 the manner in which the simple theme is alone brought out is clearly shown.

In Fig. 4 it will be noted that I have shown four characters or marks. These characters are used to designate the position of the bars in the music as ordinarily written with staff bars and notes. Of course these marks are by way of illustration only as any other mark or character may be used as is found best. This is a great advantage in locating the motif in ordinary printed music.

It is not to be understood from what has been said above that the motifs shown are the only ones that may be used in the overture mentioned, nor is my invention limited to operas. Also a motif or part may be repeated several times in succession so as to impress it upon the memory and avoid the necessity of winding the roll back in order to play a section two or more times.

The accompanying pamphlet referred to may contain the whole, or portions of, the motifs or themes printed in the ordinary manner besides the explanation and description already referred to.

The marks representing the position of the bars may be placed on rolls of complete pieces, as may also the index marks to show in the complete composition where the various motifs or themes referred to are brought in.

In the case of records for other musical instruments than piano players, certain modifications must be made to suit the nature of the case. For instance, it would be impracticable to have the index numbers printed on the record for a phonograph, in which case the index number would probably be spoken &c.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. The combination of means having a record for automatic mechanical instruments, said record being divided into sections or motifs, means provided with matter descriptive of said sections and means related to the record and descriptive-matter means to indicate their respective relation.

2. The combination of means having a record for automatic mechanical musical instruments, said record being divided into sections or motifs stripped of unnecessary accompaniments, means provided with matter respectively descriptive of said sections and means for indicating the respective relationship of the sections of the record and the descriptive matter.

3. A music roll having perforations constituting a record for an automatic mechanical musical instrument, said record being divided into sections or motifs, means separate from the roll and provided with matter descriptive of said sections, and means carried by the roll and the descriptive-matter means to indicate their respective relationship.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand at the city, county and State of New York, this 9th day of April, 1906.

PERCY F. COWING.

In presence of—
F. R. RICHARDS,
JOHN J. RANAGAN.