

Engaging an audience: Storytelling Resource - Objects







- 6YZcfY'hY']bj Ybł]cb'cZfYWcfX]b['HYWbc'c[nž'a YWUb]WU' instruments made musical performance possible without the need for a musician. Anyone could play pre-set tunes on a barrel organ simply by turning a handle. Cranking the handle sets in motion a bellows which pumps air into the pipes and a wooden barrel into which thousands of metallic pins and staples are set
- Organ grinders would crank out the organ's tunes, often accompanied by a monkey to add to the entertainment, in return for a few pennies. Although, contemporary reports suggest that they were sometimes paid to keep quiet rather than to keep playing, with the barrel organ described as an instrument of torture by some.
- Benjamin Flight was an English organ builder famous for constructing an 'apollonicon' which took 5 years to make. It was an automatic playing machine with about 1,900 pipes, 45 organ stops and 5 keyboards meaning it could be played by multiple players at any time. They claimed it could reproduce the sounds of an entire orchestra.
- This portrait of Benjamin Flight is quite unusual. In the musical world, it was common for composers and a i g]WJUbg hc `\Uj Y Zcfa U``dcfhfU]hg dU]bHYXž Vi hdcfhfU]hg cZ a i g]WJ``]bghi a Ybha U_Yfg UfY j YfmfUfY"