



**PASK: PIANISTS FOR ALTERNATIVELY SIZED KEYBOARDS**  
An international movement committed to choice in piano keyboard size

## *INDUSTRY SUMMARY*

### **The 'one-size-fits-all' piano keyboard is too big for the majority of pianists.**

Piano keyboards before 1880 generally had narrower keys. Today's keyboard suits large-handed men! Virtually all other musical instruments come in varying sizes, allowing for individual human differences. Why not the piano?

Those with smaller hand spans are at greater risk of pain and injury, or give up in frustration due to unfulfilled musical potential. Narrower keys effectively give a pianist larger hands – something that most pianists dream of!

**PASK encourages manufacturers to produce piano keyboards in three sizes – 5.5 inch and 6.0 inch octaves and conventional 6.5 inch octave keyboard.**

### **Market potential**

The two additional keyboard sizes should be 'standards' on an equal footing with today's keyboard. Narrower keys do not just represent a niche market – they represent a paradigm shift in the piano world!

The current global piano market would expand with:

- Older adults who are losing flexibility and reach.
- Adults of all ages taking up the piano again when they realise that they can enjoy their playing far more.
- Young pianists (especially girls) not giving up as they reach advanced levels so continue to buy pianos.
- Piano teachers adding pianos to their studios – affordable good quality digitals are critical.
- Pianists who have given up due to pain or injury.
- Gig pianists – good quality portable digital keyboards.
- Bulk orders in schools and universities.
- Interchangeable acoustic keyboards for top quality grand pianos in performance venues.
- Parents of young girls who choose other instruments given the handicap of their small hand spans.

### **Benefits of piano keyboards with narrower keys**

- Faster learning with less pain or injury
- Access to more repertoire
- Improved performance quality - tone control, extra power and speed where needed
- Greater enjoyment!

**87% of adult females, 24% of adult males, and nearly all children have hands too small for today's keyboard!**

A growing number of pianists around the world are experiencing narrower keys – mainly via Steinbuhler keyboards. The solid evidence base for their need is supported by many in the academic community.

Length of time to adapt - no more than an hour initially. Pianists then can swap keyboards sizes easily as needed - just as string and woodwind players do.

PASK is a global network of pianists, teachers, academics and health professionals. We have built up a large following so can pave the way for manufacturers and support new ventures! Our resources include: email list of several hundred supporters, access to suitable speakers, strong social media following including access into piano teachers' groups, plus access to over 1000 petition signees. PASK activists are familiar with 'cultural baggage' issues and can provide valuable advice to manufacturers.

### **Further information**

[www.paskpiano.org](http://www.paskpiano.org), [www.youtube.com/channel/UCdiQ0iwCWFsGjZ1QI41KSBg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdiQ0iwCWFsGjZ1QI41KSBg) [PASK YouTube channel]  
[www.smallpianokeyboards.org](http://www.smallpianokeyboards.org), [www.dsstandardfoundation.org](http://www.dsstandardfoundation.org) For further assistance, contact: [info@paskpiano.org](mailto:info@paskpiano.org)