



CLIBURN IN THE CLASSROOM

DIZZY FINGERS

Ragtime's influence on American culture

CLASS ACTIVITY: Digital Piano Roll

Grade Level(s): 2-4

Subject Areas: Music, History

OBJECTIVE

This activity combines history and music for a snapshot in time of the development of the piano.

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Students will need a school-issued Chromebook or iPad, internet access, and headphones or earbuds.

Note: MusicLab will only work on Google Chrome as the web browser.

MUSIC TO EXPLORE

GRIEG *Butterfly*, op. 43, no. 1

SAINT-SAËNS *Rhapsodie d'Auvergne* in C Major, op. 73

ACTIVITY

1. Begin by viewing "Player Piano Rolls – How it's Made" on YouTube, either independently or together as a class: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL9NudhhSQE&t=42s>.
2. Allow students time to explore the Interlude website below, which details the history of the piano roll, with audio examples (listed above): <https://interlude.hk/connecting-the-dots-when-piano-rolls-were-the-rage/>
3. Lastly, a Music Lab Experiment! Visit the Chrome Music Lab, link below, and click on "Piano Roll." Students can use the pre-loaded pieces, or make their own digital piano roll out of any mp3 or recorded sounds using the microphone. Encourage them to experiment by changing the sounds, cut/pasting sections into other places, and scrubbing it back and forth to create their own unique piano roll: <https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/>.