

Point and Shoot



Bob wasn't much of a musician, but he did have a talent for making notes sound on the piano just by pointed at them. He discovered it one day when he was engaged in a heated discussion with a friend of his. To emphasize a point, he pointed his finger at her. Once he realized how impolite the gesture was, he lowered his hand. The moment his index finger lined up with a black key on the piano, a D flat sounded (mezzo forte). Another time Bob was idly scratching his head and discovered a nest of earwigs under his cowlick. While brushing them away, he accidentally aimed his thumb at the A440 on a nearby Yamaha. "Bonk!" it responded, as if a piano trio were trying to tune. Bob's prowess for ghost notes was limited to a single note at a time, so demand for his talent was understandably skimpy. Even Guinness World Records declined to note (ha) his accomplishment. Nonetheless, Bob continued to "point and shoot" as he called it, whenever he saw a piano, and that urge once led to a lawsuit. He was attending a recital by renowned concert pianist Ernst von Dinklaker when ... oh, but that, naturally, is another story.