

## **Kundalini Piano Mirroring Platform** Pitch Notes

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Hello. My name is Benjamin Pritchard, and I created and run a small software company called **Kundalini Software**. I have been in business – and even a little bit profitable! – since 2012, very blessed to be working on projects that I am passionate about.

I am here today to tell you about one of my inventions. It is called the **Kundalini Piano Mirror**, and is a little embedded system that I created for plugging into a digital piano, which can help students work on becoming more ambidextrous.

Ambidexterity means to be able to use both hands equally well, and is a subject that I am very passionate about.

I say that because I am an amateur pianist and an aspiring author, and I am currently writing a book called “**Ambidexterity as a Path Towards Self-Actualization.**” My book reflects my life-long interest in ambidexterity, a subject that was kindled in by my father who he introduced me to Leonardo de Vinci’s notebooks as a kid. (Because Leonardo was left handed, he wrote from right to left in mirror image, so that he wouldn’t have to drag his hand across wet ink on the page. Writing in mirror image like that became a hobby of mine in school; it was fun for me, but it drove my teachers crazy!!)

The premise of my book is that **ambidexterity-training** should be part of the educational curriculum in our schools. I believe this is true because developing one’s non-dominant hand is a good way of developing one’s non-dominant brain hemisphere, which leads to more balanced brain development. And in particular what I try to show in my book is that enhanced right-brain function leads to increased creativity, and out of the box thinking.

As I said, my piano mirror is a device for plugging into a digital keyboard that once activated, remaps all the keys on the keyboard so that the entire piano keyboard becomes a mirror image of itself!

When I first tell somebody that, the first question I always get is: “*so why the heck would you want to do that???*”

The short answer: because it makes your brain work!

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Because both the piano keyboard itself, as well as our hands, are symmetrical, it is possible to play everything on a piano in exactly mirror image: everything originally for your left hand you play in mirror image in your right hand, and vice versa.

Practicing in mirror image like this is called **symmetrical inversion**. Symmetrical inversion is a practice technique used by concert pianists throughout history, especially in the Russian Imperial Music schools. However, for the most part, symmetrical inversion isn’t practical for most students. This is

because playing the piano in that way – while very good for one’s brain and technique – leads to completely non-musical (i.e. weird) sounding notes.

My piano mirror changes that, and by remapping the keyboard, makes symmetrically-inverted playing sound exactly the same as it would on a normal piano! This means that it becomes practical to introduce the mirror image playing technique to beginner music students right off the bat.

And in fact, I have done so with my own daughter, with very good results.

So the next question becomes: how do we make this technique more wide-spread?

To answer that question, let me first just briefly bring up the Microsoft TEALS program, which I am very proud to say I am a part of. TEALS – which stands for **Technology Education and Literacy in Schools** – is a privately-funded program run by Microsoft that puts established computer programmers (like me!) into the public schools, along side regular, licensed teachers. We’re there for several days a week, to help establish a computer science curriculum.

Obviously most people now would agree that the ability to write computer programs is a foundational skill needed to compete in today’s high tech society. So that is why I am so honored to be part of Microsoft’s initiative to bring programming directly into our schools.

I bring up TEALS because I think it serves as a model for how to affect change in this world: **just go out and do it yourself!**

As I mentioned at the start of this pitch, I am very passionate about sharing my love of ambidexterity with others, and I am in particular interested to teach it to children.

I think this is so important because, as everybody knows, our children are our future... and now more than ever, what we need is to cultivate creative and out-of-the-box thinking in them, so that they can come up with novel solutions to the challenges facing our world that we all so desperately need.

Therefore, what I am working on doing now is to just get out there and try to do it myself. I have already started introducing my **Kundalini Piano Mirroring Platform** into the music schools in this area, and I am very happy to report that I now have one school on-board.

Additionally, now that I will have the opportunity to interact with school teachers, administrators and of course students through my involvement with the Microsoft TEALS program, I will obviously continue to share my belief that ambidexterity is an important skill to develop whenever the opportunity presents itself.

In conclusion, I believe ambidexterity training is a powerful way to encourage full-brain development in students, and I believe my **Kundalini Piano Mirror** is a specific and powerful tool for helping to achieve it.

Thank you for your time

(As an aside, TEALS is a nation-wide program, which has recently come to the Cleveland area through a joint initiative between Microsoft and the Cleveland Foundation. TEALS is looking for volunteers,

and I am especially interested in seeing the program brought to the Akron area in the future. If anybody would like more information on how to get involved, please speak to me.)