

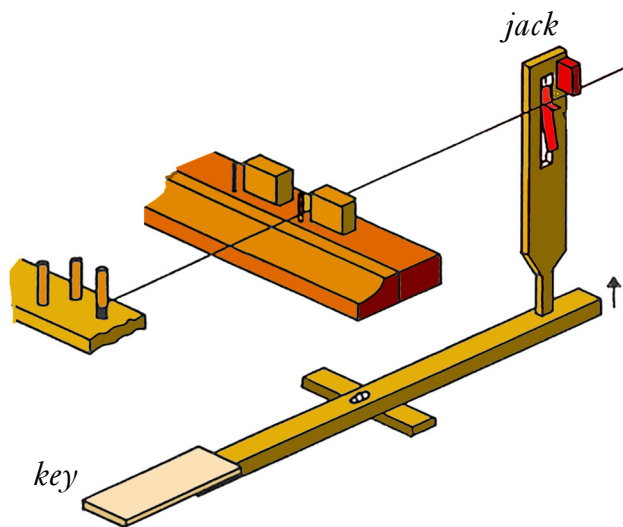
*“When I lived I was silent
Being dead I sing sweetly”*

A two-manual harpsichord after Andreas Ruckers, Antwerp, 1638, by Adlam Burnett, Goudhurst, 1982–3. Sold at auction on Invaluable, 2016 (see URL



Sonnet 128

- 1 How oft, when thou, my music, music play'st
 Upon that blessèd wood whose motion sounds
 With thy sweet fingers when thou gently sway'st
 The wiry concord that mine ear confounds,
- 5 Do I envy those jacks that nimble leap
 To kiss the tender inward of thy hand,
 Whilst my poor lips, which should that harvest reap,
 At the wood's boldness by thee blushing stand.
- To be so tickled they would change their state
- 10 And situation with those dancing chips,
 O'er whom thy fingers walk with gentle gait,
 Making dead wood more blest than living lips.
- Since saucy jacks so happy are in this,
- 14 Give them thy fingers, me thy lips to kiss.



interior diagram of the harpsichord;
for a bystander only the key would have been visible