A LITTLE PIECE



★ P is an abbreviation of the Italian word <u>piano</u> which means "soft". f means <u>forte</u>, or "loud". At one time keyboard instruments could play only one volume. Then, in 1711, Cristofori developed a hammer mechanism which enabled the instrument to produce both soft and loud tones, depending on how hard the key was struck. This remarkable new instrument was immediately called the "pianoforte" (meaning soft and loud). In time this HE 366 was shortened to "piano", the name we use today.