

## Answers to listening task

*Extract 1 – Music Box; Extract 2 – Street Piano; Extract 3 – Penny-in-the-Slot; Extract 4 – Player Piano; Extract 5 – Phonograph*

### More Information about each invention

**Music Boxes** – have been around for many years but in the latter part of the nineteenth century they became very popular, were developed in their own right instead of being jewel cases etc and some even had additions like bells and castanets. The principle is a “comb” with a set of tuned teeth or pins which are made to vibrate by contact with other parts on a revolving cylinder (later a flat disc) driven by clockwork mechanism.

**Street Piano** – (also called a cylinder piano or barrel piano). Street pianos were larger and worked by the pinned barrel or cylinder causing hammers to strike strings and were operated by turning a handle (which can be heard on the audio extract)

**Penny-in-the-Slot** – (also called a penny piano). Popular in pubs and other places where people gathered socially

**Player Piano** (also called a pianola). Caused much amusement now with the pretend pianist impressing his audience by the impossible cascade of notes, but in fact only being able to control speed and volume. The music is on a moving roll of paper punched with holes. As the holes pass over a fixed plate also with holes, so air is channelled into activating the piano keys. The mechanism was all fixed inside the piano and the whole thing was driven by pneumatics, pedal power and later, electricity. Player pianos became popular towards the end of the Victorian age.

**Phonograph** – not strictly Victorian as invented in 1912 but included here for interest, this phonograph recording doesn't compare with the sound quality of today!