The show
Will asks Father Christmas for a spaceship - he gets a piano!
An adventure into the world of pianos - where they come from, how they evolved and why they make a pretty cool Christmas present. Featuring Bach’s cave piano, Beethoven’s bad moods and a jam with ‘Fats’ Waller.

Brief specifications
• 1 performer (Will Pickvance), 1 Stage Manager
• 55 minutes duration
• Piano, illustrated projections, stage lighting, lapel radio mic
• For ages 6 and over
• Venue technicians required for lighting set up and get in support

Performance Style
Will delivers the show as part storyteller, part nutty professor, underscoring his spoken word on the piano for most of the performance. The music brings dramatic effect to the narrative, but also demonstrates the mechanics of the instrument and the development of piano music genres. There are sections of more extended playing that bookend each section. Gentle audience participation punctuates the story, including shouting out musical terms in Italian.

Illustrations by Tim Vincent-Smith are projected on the screen over the piano. These illustrations clarify elements of the spoken show whilst adding another level of humorous engagement. They reveal the insides of the piano on one slide and demonstrate pianos swimming in their ancestral form in the sea in the next.

Staging
The seating configuration is ideally End On
The show requires an ideal minimum playing space of 3m x 3m.
The set consist of an upright piano that the venue provides and a screen projection hung above the piano.

Projection
Venue to provide a projector and screen. Projections run from power point from company laptop or venue laptop if preferable.
Sound
Venue provide:
  • upright acoustic piano, with access (4 inches minimum) between hammers and top of strings to allow for demonstration. Ideal model Yamaha U1 (see image below).
  • A radio mic may be required depending on the size of the venue.

There is no recorded sound used in the show.

Lighting
The company will provide a lighting plan.
Where possible we ask the venue to provide a smoke machine.

Wardrobe / Dressing Rooms
We will require one dressing rooms. Ideally Will would have access to a piano to warm up before the show.

Contact details
Will Pickvance
willpickvance@googlemail.com

Alice McGrath
alice@redbridgearts.co.uk
+44 7780 607665