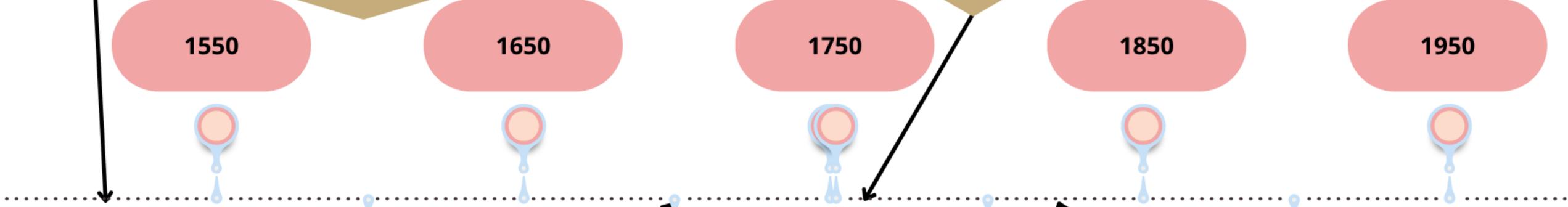


# A Brief History of Keyboard Instruments

**Harpsichord**  
The first harpsichords are from the early 16th Century (**1500s**) and are Italian. A plectrum plucks a metal string to create the sound. Within the harpsichord family are **spinets** (with a triangular case) and **virginals** (where strings run nearly parallel to the keys).

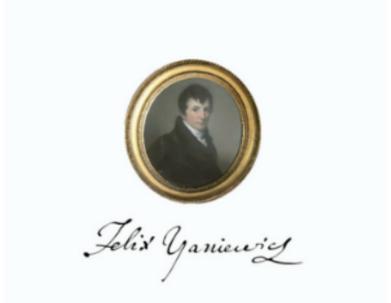
**Square Piano**  
Square Pianos first appear in the **1760s**, the piano's case is rectangular and the strings are parallel to the keyboard.



**Clavichord**  
Invented in the early 14th Century (**1300s**), the clavichord has a piece of metal, a tangent, that strikes the string.

**Pianoforte**  
Invented around **1700** by Cristafori, the piano has wooden hammers that strike the piano strings.

**Upright Piano**  
First designed by Robert Wornum in **1826**, the piano's strings and case are vertical rather than horizontal.



Inbetween these milestones, makers kept improving and changing instruments. Muzio Clementi's workshop is a good example of this.