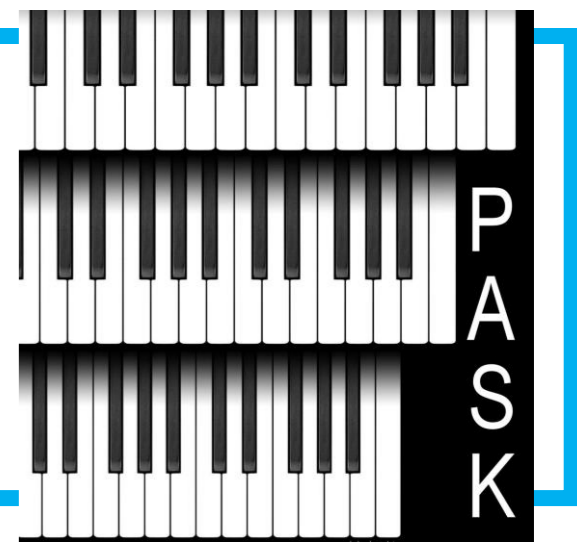


ONE KEYBOARD SIZE = WIDESPREAD DISCRIMINATION!



Piano keys in the 18th and 19th centuries were not all the same and were narrower than today. Men performed in public while women played in the home. Piano design changed in the 1880s to suit large concert venues and keys became wider. This key width was then 'locked in' with industrialisation.



More than a century later, males with large hands still dominate our concert halls!

But – there is evidence* that at least 70% of ADULT pianists wish for larger hands!

- The keys on today's conventional piano keyboard are TOO WIDE for the majority.
- Incredibly, **87%** of women and **24%** of men cannot fulfil their musical potential with this size.
- Children are forced to learn on a keyboard suited to large-handed men.
- Male hand spans are, on average, **one inch (2.5 cm) larger** than females.

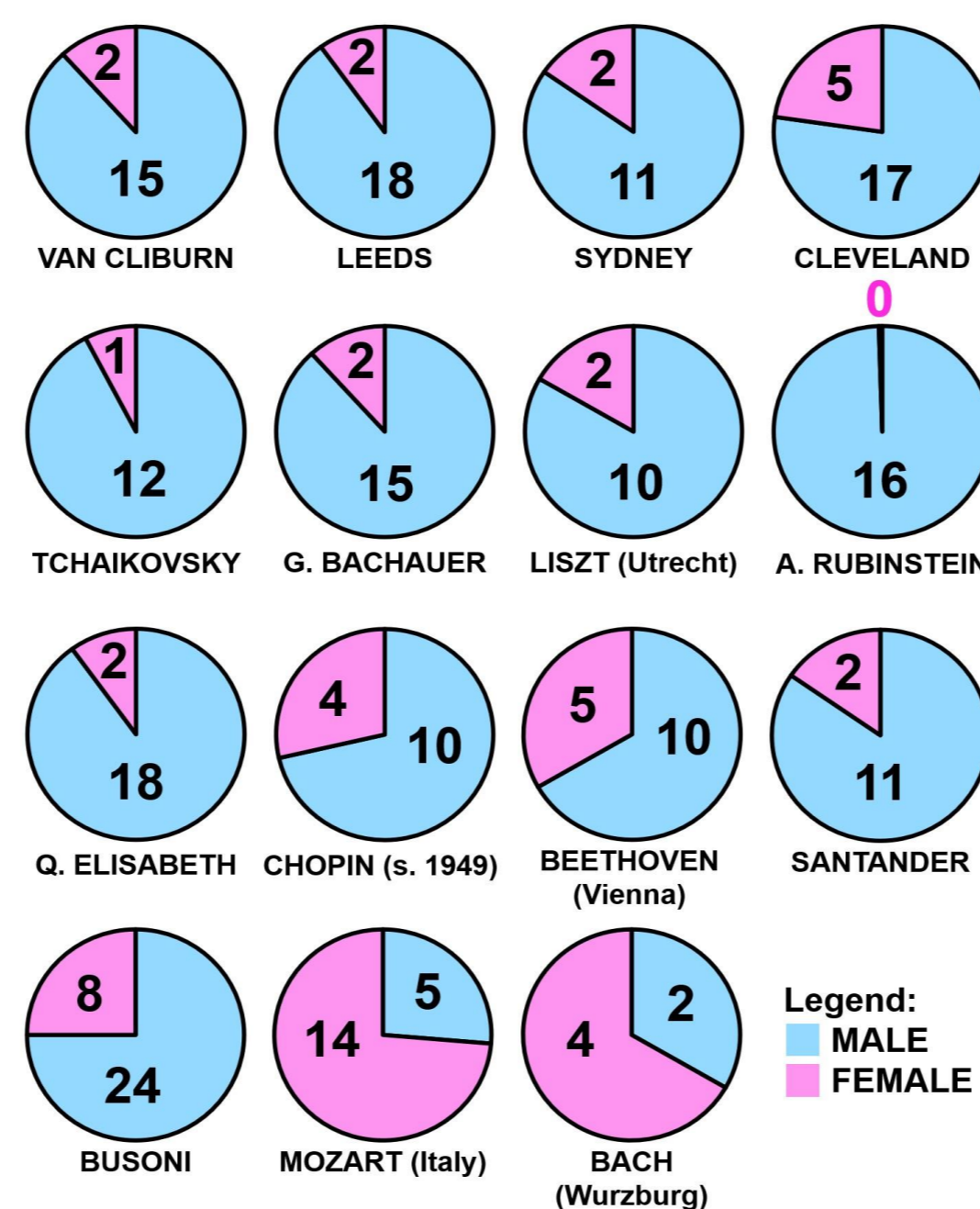
What this means!

- Women and small-handed pianists are much more likely to suffer pain or serious injury.
- Many give up in frustration.
- Performing careers are curtailed or never start.
- Some pianists have even been encouraged to undergo hand surgery to increase their span!

The **gender imbalance in elite piano competition results** shows the significant disadvantage facing women due to their smaller hands ...unless it's Mozart or Bach! There has been no improvement in gender balance since the 1960s.

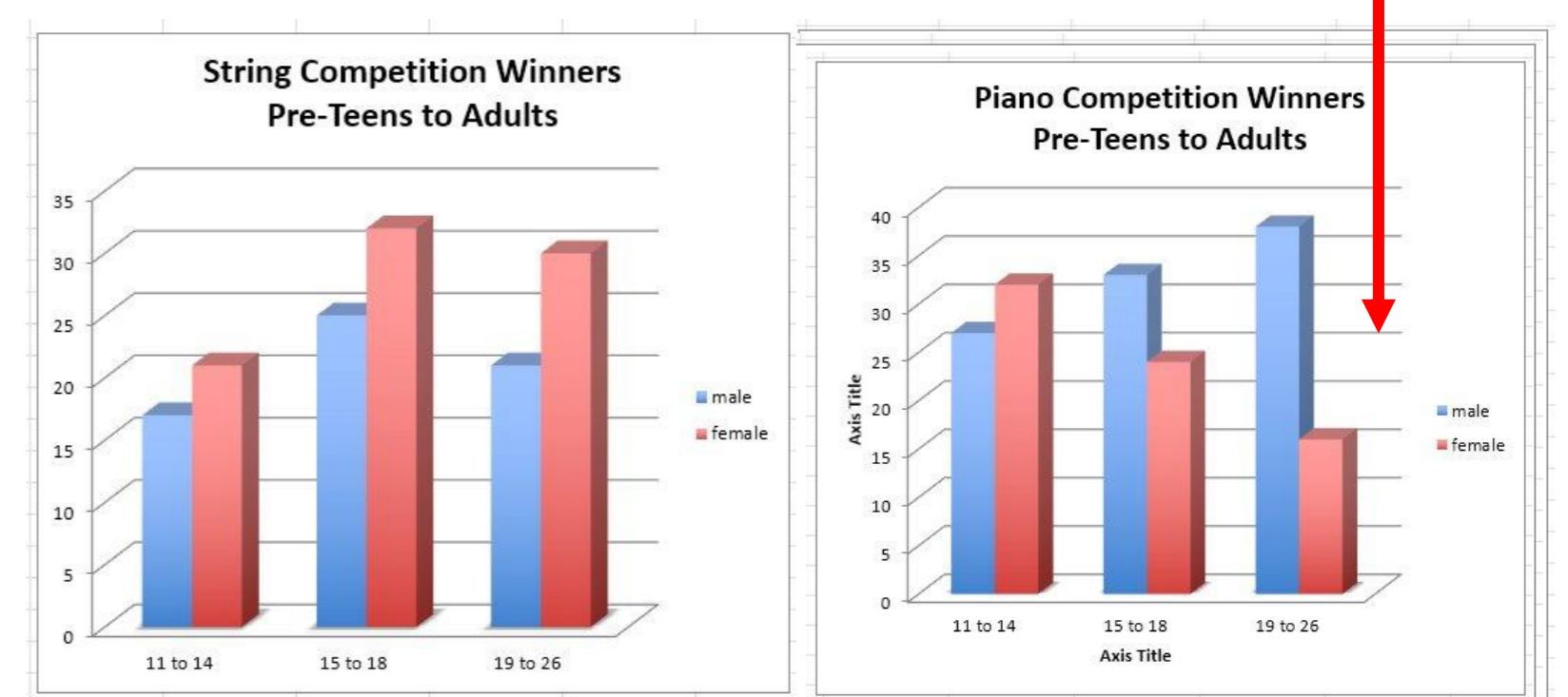


First prize winners in International Piano Competitions

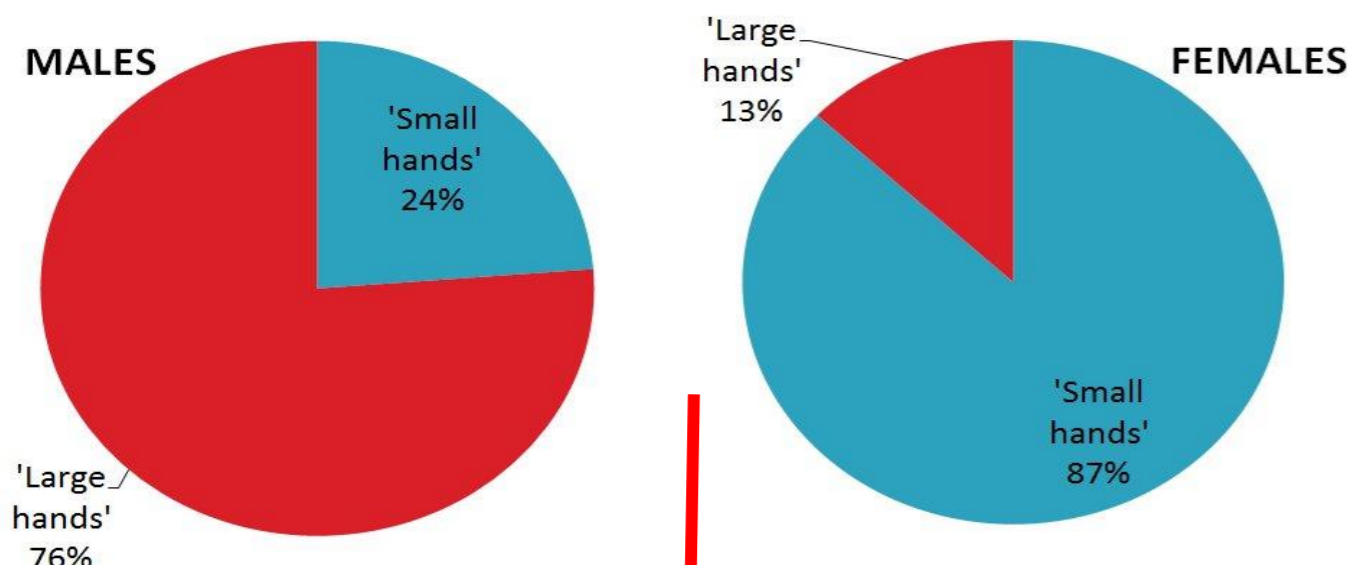


The MTNA national competition results since 1963 – compare piano and strings for different age groups!

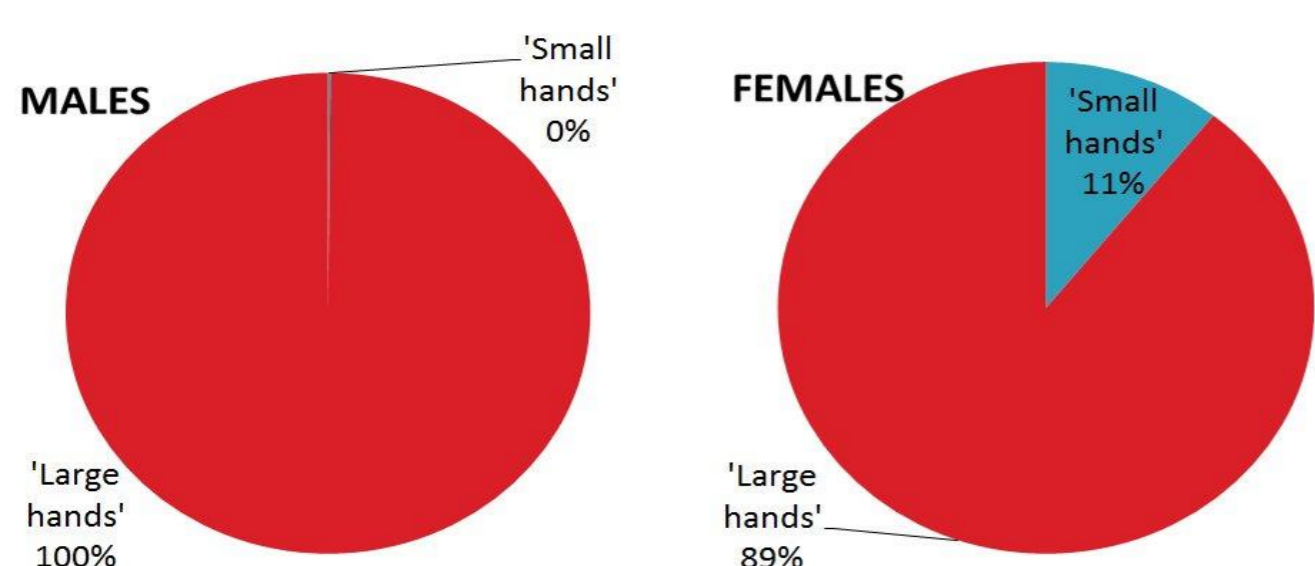
Where are the missing girls at the top level of piano?



TODAY - the widespread curse of 'small hands'



TOMORROW - the 'small hands' problem almost disappears with three standard keyboard sizes!



From three Stretto Festival performers...



Professor Carol Leone

'I often witness pianists place their hands for the first time on a keyboard that better suits their hand span. How often the pianist spontaneously bursts into tears. A lifetime of struggling with a seemingly insurmountable problem vanishes in the moment they realise, "It's not me that is the problem; it is the instrument!"'



Linda Gould

'I couldn't ever get a Chopin Etude to performance level. Now I can!'



Anna Arazi

After playing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 1 in the Dallas International Piano Competition in 2015 after just a few hours of practice on the DS6.0 size, Anna says: 'My pain was gone...I never felt so good!' (She ended up winning third prize.)

*From a study of piano students at the University of North Texas