Red Piano
(An Aelindrome-Sonnet)

Anthony Etherin
To still a red piano, via rules,
jilt silence, but hatch ether, as a muse.
A note to red creation stained not all—a
cry's return is leaving in the ruse.
Late reveries of melody I draw
on ailed urns, to be harmonised with red.
Unfurnished, my low form no icy score,
a mercy's core, I'm now forlorn. I shed
my red, unfused, with harmonies to burn.
Nailed raw, of melody, I die so late;
reverse the ruins: Leaving, I return.
A crystal-lined notation, stored, creates
a muse; another ache that silence built
rules, jovial, a red piano's tilt....
"Red Piano" is a Shakespearean sonnet in iambic pentameter that is also aelindromic in the decimal expansion of the twelfth root of 2 ($\sqrt[12]{2}$, which is the ratio of the frequencies of any two consecutive piano keys). Thus, the sonnet is a palindrome whose letters are parsed according to the sequence, 10594630943592952645618252949463417007792043174.

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White Piano

(A Concrete Aelindrome)

Anthony Etherin
“White Piano” takes the opening two bars of Alexander Scriabin’s Piano Sonata no. 7 (“White Mass”) and creates visual poetry from them, using the decimal expansion of the twelfth root of 2 ($\sqrt[12]{2}$, which is the ratio of the frequencies of any two consecutive piano keys). Initially, the staves are presented 1 degree from the horizontal (since the first digit in the sequence is 1). They are then replicated at 6 degrees (a further 5 degrees up, since the second digit is 5), and so on, until the 90-degree mark is crossed (as the expansion reaches 20 digits: 10594630943592952645). After 90 degrees, the sequence is aelindromically reversed (4625929534903649501), and each digit sequentially added to the angle. The result is then reproduced in white, at 2/3 size, and pasted over the larger structure, with the entire work, in a restatement of symmetry, reflected in the vertical.

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Black Piano

(A Musical Aelindrome)

Anthony Etherin
“Black Piano” presents a musical aelindrome in the decimal expansion of the twelfth root of 2 ($\sqrt[12]{2}$, which is the ratio of the frequencies of any two consecutive piano keys). Intended for piano, this miniature features a total of 93 beats. Beats 1 to 16 present a simple melody. Beats 17 to 42 take this melody and create from it a “palindrome-by-beat” (that is, beats 17 to 29 reflect backwards in beats 30 to 42, such that the contents of beats 17 and 42 are the same, as are the contents of beats 18 and 41, 19 and 40, and so on). The miniature then concludes, such that the 93 beats, in total, form an aelindrome-by-beat in the sequence 105946309435. (The first beat of the composition is the last; beats 2 to 6 are beats 88 to 92, etc.)

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