

Piano Woman

A concert pianist in northern Spain faces jail after her rehearsals drove her downstairs neighbour crazy. After a three-day criminal trial in the city of Girona, the public prosecutor asked the judges to jail 27-year-old Laia Martin for 16 months for violating noise ordinances. Martin's neighbour Sonia Bonsom claimed loss of sleep and panic attacks were caused by Martin's eight hours of practice a day. Bonsom told the court that Martin's practice schedule disrupted her sleep patterns and led her to develop serious anxiety issues. "This has caused me a great deal of stress," she told the court. "There was even a moment when I couldn't move my arm because of anxiety." The prosecutors asked to have Martin banned from any profession involving a piano for four years and for her to pay more than €20,000 in fines and damages. They also sought jail time for Martin's parents, who were named as accessories.

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