



SHIGERU KAWAI

CONCERT
SERIES

DREAM

OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, IN A HUMBLE WORKSHOP IN JAPAN, KOICHI KAWAI EMBARKED UPON A JOURNEY – A SPIRITUAL QUEST TO DESIGN AND BUILD A PIANO THAT WOULD ONE DAY BE CALLED “THE FINEST”. A GENERATION LATER, THIS DREAM BURNED INTENSELY IN THE HEART OF SHIGERU KAWAI.

To Shigeru, the dream represented not just his origins, but his destiny – an unrelenting force that would launch a lifetime of devotion in the pursuit of perfection. In the Shigeru Kawai piano, you will see not just his labour and his love – but his life.



HONOUR

HONOUR IS SACRED TO EVERY CULTURE, AND CERTAINLY TO THE JAPANESE. IT IS A NOBLE COVENANT THAT BINDS AN INDIVIDUAL'S "WORDS AND DEEDS" INEXTRICABLY WITH THE VALUE AND SUBSTANCE OF HIS NAME. THERE IS NO GREATER DEMONSTRATION OF HONOUR, NO GREATER COMMITMENT, THAN TO PLACE ONE'S NAME UPON THE WORK OF ONE'S HANDS.

From initial design, to the selection of the finest materials, to the handcrafted assembly by Master Piano Artisans, each Shigeru piano is a work of uncompromising craftsmanship, a symbol of unending devotion – a profound expression of pride and honour.

For Shigeru Kawai, there could be no other way.



PASSION

THE PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE DWELLS DEEPLY WITHIN
THE HEART OF EVERY SHIGERU CRAFTSMAN.

Like members of a great orchestra, each craftsman brings forth
a seasoned wealth of skill and artistry that compels the whole
to surpass the sum of its parts. Day by day, the craftsman strives
to leave an indelible mark upon each creation – an inexpressible
emblem of intense desire and duty.

It is this symphony of passionate energies that has elevated the
Shigeru piano to the lofty strata shared by few and respected by all.



INSPIRATION

THE LOVE OF MUSIC-MAKING RUNS DEEP IN THOSE WHO PURSUE THE ESTEEMED RANK OF MASTER PIANO ARTISAN.

For many, it is a visceral sense of calling, born from their own passionate journey in the art form, that inspires this unique quest for mastery. The road is long and arduous. One must prove himself worthy in the world's most prestigious concert halls and international piano competitions – and few are chosen.

But, for those who attain it, the role of Master Piano Artisan provides the rare privilege of crafting the tools of endless possibility. Imbued with the artisan's own musical sensibilities, each Shigeru piano is a distinctive work of unbounded potential – ready to discover its true and lasting voice at the touch of the artist's hands.



MASTER PIANO ARTISANS

MANABU ARIMORI

NAOMI HAMAGUCHI

HIROYA ISHIKAWA

YUKI KAMADA

YASUHIRO KITAMURA

SHINJI KURISU

YOSHIAKI KUSAKABE

HIDEMI OKUBO

TAKESHI OKUBO

HITOSHI ONODERA

TAKANORI OTAKE

MASATO SUZUKI

NOBUMICHI SUZUKI

YUJI TAKAHASHI

MICHIO TAKAYAMA

MASAHIKO TAKEDA

ARIMUNE YAMAMOTO

NOBUAKI YAMAMOTO



KAZUO GOKA

Cellist and Senior Master Piano Artisan Kazuo Goka has over forty years of experience as both instrumental artist and piano craftsman.



ATSUSHI KOMIYAMA

An accomplished trombonist and Master Piano Artisan, Atsushi Komiyama is a distinguished graduate of Japan's renowned conservatory, Musashino Academia Musicae.



TATSUYA MURAKAMI

Tatsuya Murakami is an operatic tenor and Master Piano Artisan who performs professionally over twenty times each year in recitals and operas with full symphony orchestra.

SERENITY

TIME HAS LITTLE RELEVANCE IN THE CREATION OF A SHIGERU PIANO. THERE IS NO RUSH TO COMPLETION. NO PRESSURE TO PERFORM, NO DEMANDING DEADLINES.

Each artisan understands that the ultimate priority is perfection. This explains why every element of the crafting process is three to five times longer, and why the Shigeru workshop is a place of unruffled focus and serenity. If there is an underlying secret behind the resonant song of the Shigeru grand piano, it is this tranquil place of origin where heart, mind and spirit are given the time to breathe and the freedom to soar.



INTUITION

THE ABILITY TO SELECT THE RIGHT WOOD, THE KIND THAT CAN SPEAK FLUENTLY IN EVERY DIALECT OF EMOTION FROM FIERY FERVOUR TO GENTLE WHISPERS OF TONE, IS AN ART IN ITSELF.

Whether it is select spruce for the soundboard, premium mahogany for the hammers, or choice maple for the bridge, the material chosen for every distinct part of a world-class piano must be perfect for the task. Shigeru craftsmen have spent decades refining this uncommon ability to discern between the satisfactory and the sublime. It is this venerable wisdom, this intuition, that one can hear and feel in every note of a Shigeru piano.



ADVANCEMENT

TRUE ARTISTRY CAN NEVER STOP STRIVING. BY ITS OWN NATURE, IT MUST CONTINUALLY ADVANCE AND EVOLVE. THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ITS PATH TO GREATNESS.

While our time-honoured methods of origin are diligently and reverently applied, Shigeru artisans embrace every modern method for perfecting the art of the piano. Our anechoic chamber enables the comprehensive analysis of pure tone. Advanced materials enhance stability and consistency of touch. Digital design tools optimise the construction and performance of every component part.

In the world of pianos, it is not enough to revel in the past. True to its own nature, the Shigeru piano is the epitome of progress and a vision of the future.

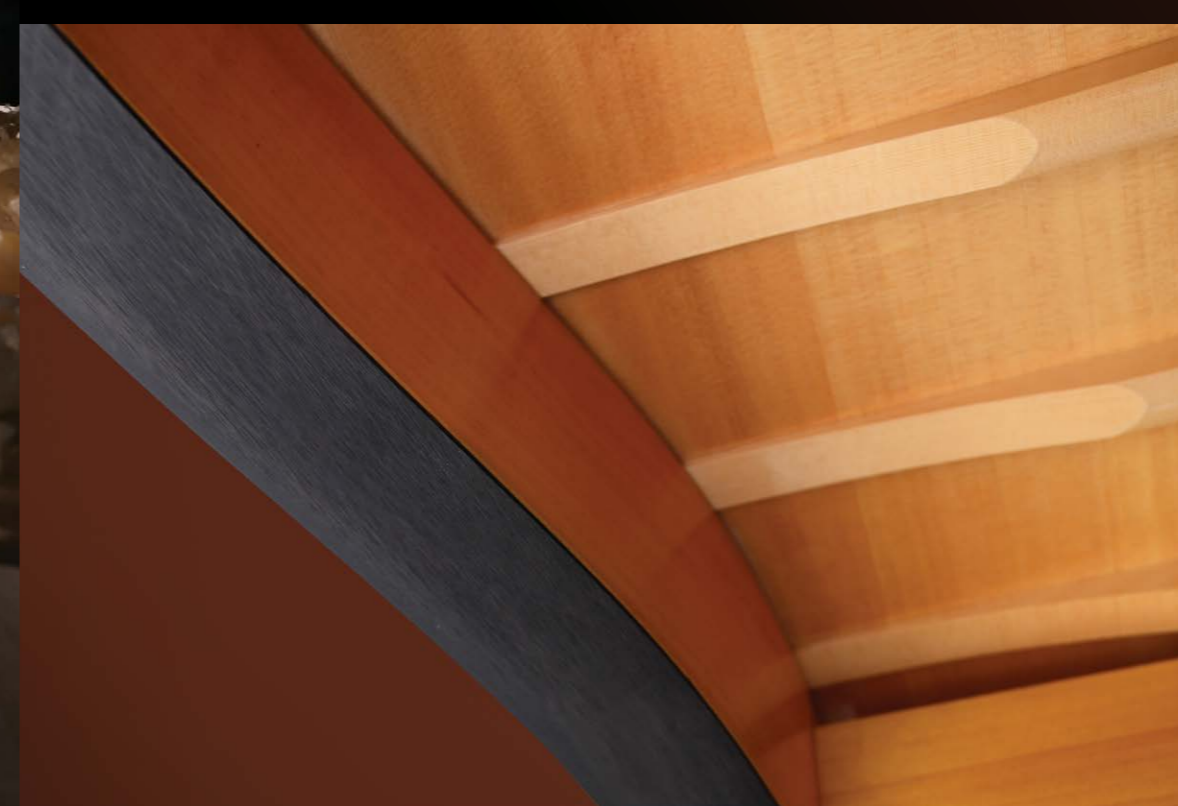


ATTRIBUTES

► KIGARASHI PREMIUM AGED SOUNDBOARDS

(kē-gah-rah'-shē)

The custom-tapered soundboard in a Shigeru piano is made exclusively from the finest spruce, aged by the traditional *kigarashi* process that uses only the forces of time and nature to allow the wood to attain a state of natural balance. It is this lengthy and painstaking process that gives Shigeru pianos their uniquely rich tonal quality.



◄ SHIKO SEION HAMMERS

(shkō say-own')

Shiko Seion hammers, which take their name from the Japanese words for “ultimate voicing”, are the exclusive province of our Master Piano Artisans who oversee their formation from beginning to end. Every hammer is meticulously hand-pressed without the application of heat and carefully voiced without artificial hardeners to ensure outstanding dynamic response and expression.

◄ KONSEI KATAGI RIM

(kōn'-say kah-tah'-gē)

The exclusive *Konsei Katagi* rim uses a blend of distinctive hardwoods to achieve an ideal balance of tone. For the inner rim, small-pored hardwoods that provide superior brightness and projection are interlaminated with dense, large-pored hardwoods offering warmth and fullness. This synergy of structurally divergent hardwoods produces a powerful, well-rounded richness of tone that is the hallmark of the Shigeru piano.

► **STRETCHER OVER-LAP INTEGRATED DESIGN**
(SOLID Construction)

Stretcher Over-Lap Integrated Design (SOLID) creates an exceptionally rigid foundation to support string tension. With SOLID construction, the pinblock is hand-fitted to the plate. The pinblock and over-lapping stretcher bar are then integrated into a single structure and solidly anchored to the rim. The resulting framework possesses outstanding strength and rigidity to ensure stable tuning and powerful tone.



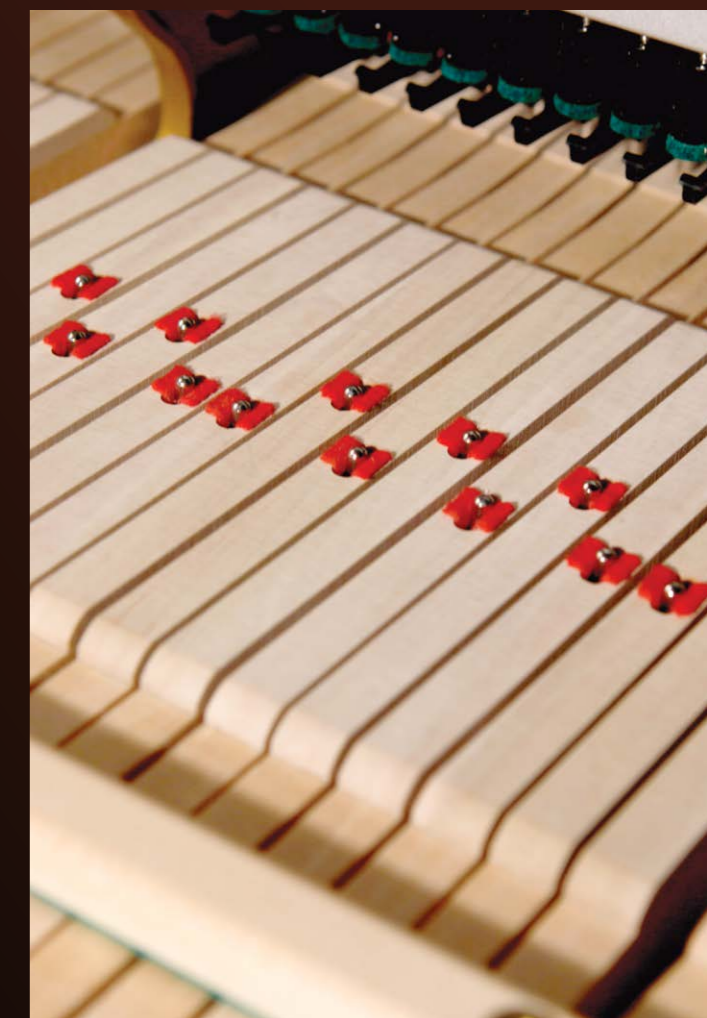
► **MILLENNIUM III ACTION**

Our acclaimed Millennium III Action uses state-of-the-art ABS Carbon components that are exceptionally light and rigid to provide faster repetition and more power with less effort. Microscopic surface textures on selected action parts provide superb response and control.



► **EXTENDED KEYSTICKS**

The overall length of each keystick is extended to make playing easier and provide more even touch and response from the front to the back of the playing surface. Keysticks are also designed with a slightly taller profile for maximum rigidity to deliver greater power.



► **CONCERT-LENGTH KEY BUTTONS**

The use of hardwood maple key buttons adds stiffness to the keysticks for improved energy transfer. The redesigned key buttons on the Shigeru Concert Series instruments have been doubled in length to provide exceptional energy transfer and optimum power.

▶ CONCERT AGRAFFES

Identical to those used on our renowned EX Concert Grand Piano, Shigeru Kawai Concert Agraffes are individually machined from billet brass rods to assure maximum precision and strength. The result is clear, powerful and impressive tone.



▲ TEMAKI BASS STRINGS

In the Japanese language, the word *temaki* literally means "hand wound". In the unhurried *temaki* process, the artisan patiently directs the winding of each individual bass string by hand for absolute precision and tension to ensure rich character and superb depth of tone.



▲ ALL-SPRUCE BEAMS

Spruce is known for its outstanding ability to conduct and conserve sound energy. However, it is generally considered too precious for use as a structural material. For the Shigeru pianos, all of the underside beams are made entirely of the highest quality spruce.



◀ BOXWOOD BRIDGE CAPS

Boxwood is an extremely hard wood that is particularly effective in transferring higher tonal frequencies through the bridge to the soundboard. Boxwood bridge caps help to ensure treble projection that complements the more powerful bass sound of larger pianos.

Available on SK-5, SK-6 and SK-7 only.



◀ DUAL-PIVOT DAMPERS

Meticulous attention to the needs of professional performers is evident in every feature of the Shigeru piano. One example, originally developed for our Shigeru Kawai EX Concert Piano, is the unique dual-pivot damper design that allows smoother half-pedal control for delicate tonal expression.

A UNIQUE VISIT

IT WAS SHIGERU KAWAI'S WISH THAT HIS HONOUR WOULD BE UPHELD AMONG ALL WHO ENTER INTO HIS LEGACY.

For this reason, those who possess a Shigeru Kawai piano will receive an extraordinary visit from one of our elite Master Piano Artisans within the first year of ownership.* It will be our privilege to provide a complete concert-level regulation, voicing and tuning as our gift to those who have selected the Premier Piano of Japan.



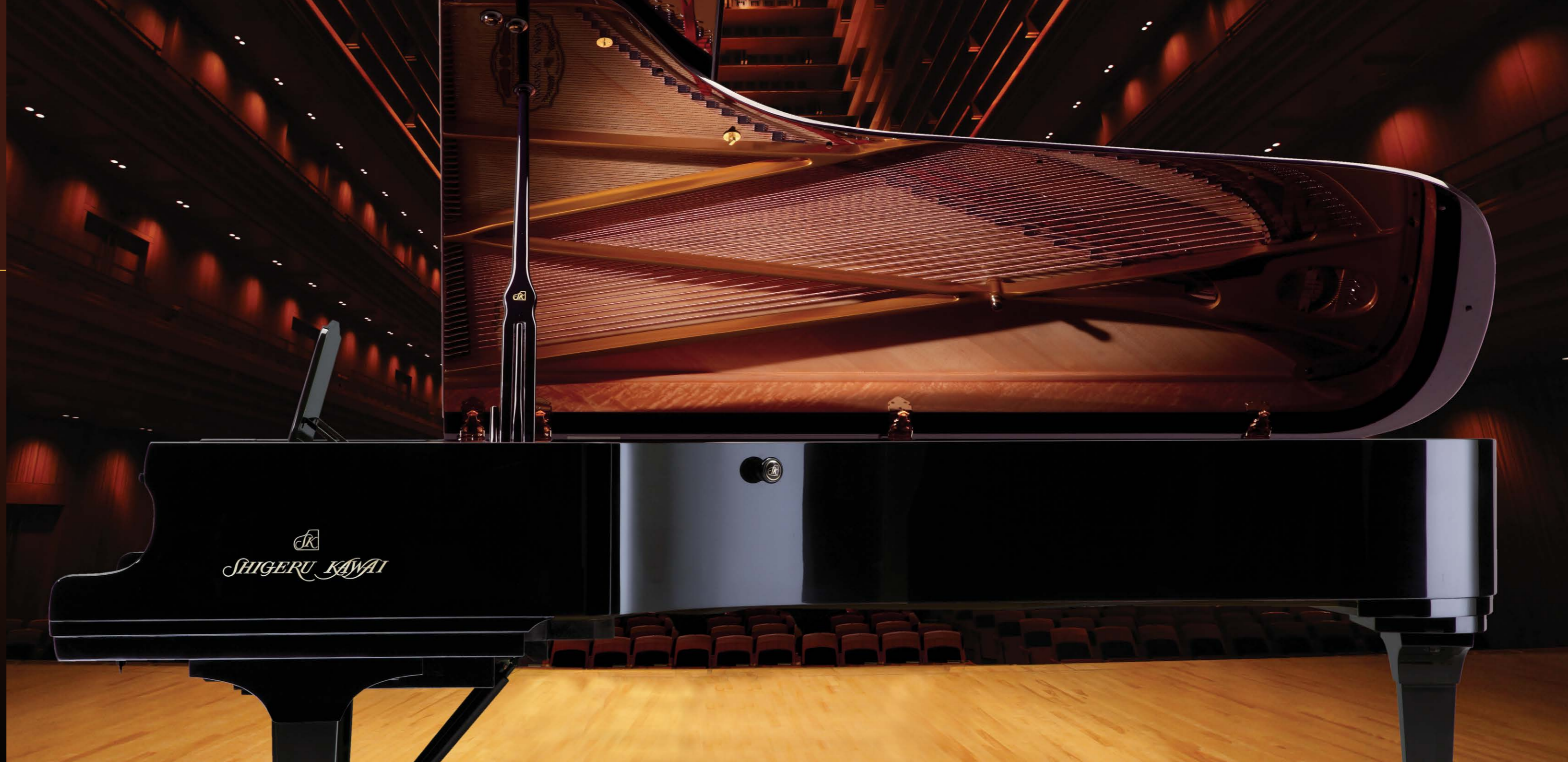
*Depending on market location.

SELECTION

CONCERT SERIES SK-EX CONCERT GRAND

Each Shigeru EX Concert Piano is conceived as a next step in the evolving art of the piano. Fewer than twenty are crafted each year for all the world. With its magnificent tone and wonderfully responsive touch, the EX is a rare treasure that can best be described with one word – incomparable.

Length: 9' 1" (278 cm)
Width: 5' 3" (158 cm)
Weight: 1111 lbs. (504 kg)
Finish: Ebony Polish



SK-7 SEMI-CONCERT GRAND

The SK-7 is a transcendent work of art that will communicate with remarkable passion, precision and poetry at the hands of the artist.

Length: 7' 6" (229 cm)
Width: 5' 2" (157 cm)
Weight: 882 lbs. (400 kg)
Finish: Ebony Polish



SK-6 ORCHESTRA GRAND

The SK-6 is an instrument of profound beauty and character that will captivate both the eyes and ears in any performance setting.

Length: 7' 0" (214 cm)
Width: 5' 1" (154 cm)
Weight: 842 lbs. (382 kg)
Finish: Ebony Polish



SK-5 CHAMBER GRAND

The SK-5 offers a gratifying mélange of power and presence that will grace a range of professional venues from studios to intimate recital spaces.

Length: 6' 7" (200 cm)
Width: 5' 1" (153 cm)
Weight: 774 lbs. (351 kg)
Finish: Ebony Polish



SK-3 CONSERVATORY GRAND

The SK-3 excels with an extraordinary blend of superb tone and touch that has been admired by professional pianists across the globe.

Length: 6' 2" (188 cm)
Width: 5' 1" (152 cm)
Weight: 736 lbs. (334 kg)
Finish: Ebony Polish



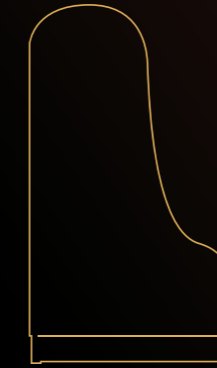
SK-2 CLASSIC SALON GRAND

The SK-2 offers the elegant profile of a classic grand with a richness of tone unmatched by other pianos in its class.

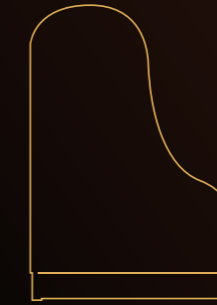
Length: 5' 11" (180 cm)
 Width: 5' 1" (152 cm)
 Weight: 714 lbs. (324 kg)
 Finish: Ebony Polish



SPECIFICATIONS



SK-EX



SK-7



SK-6



SK-5



SK-3



SK-2

Length	278 cm	229 cm	214 cm	200 cm	188 cm	180 cm
Width	158 cm	157 cm	154 cm	153 cm	152 cm	152 cm
Height	102 cm	102 cm	102 cm	102 cm	102 cm	102 cm
Weight	504 kg	400 kg	382 kg	351 kg	334 kg	324 kg
Soundboard area	2.10 m ²	1.70 m ²	1.60 m ²	1.41 m ²	1.33 m ²	1.23 m ²
No. of beams	5	4	4	4	4	3
Millennium III action	●	●	●	●	●	●
Neotex key surfaces	●	●	●	●	●	●
Centre lid prop	Wood	Brass	Brass	Wood	Wood	Wood
Caster configuration	Large, Brass	Double, Brass	Double, Brass	Double, Brass	Double, Brass	Double, Brass

RESPONSIBILITY

CARING FOR THE PLANET COMES NATURALLY TO THOSE WHO CREATE THE SHIGERU KAWAI PIANOS. AFTER ALL, NATURE ITSELF PROVIDES THE MATERIALS FROM WHICH THESE MAGNIFICENT INSTRUMENTS ARE CRAFTED.

In 1997, our Ryuyo Grand Piano Factory became the first in the piano industry to receive ISO14001, the world's most prestigious certification for excellence in environmental management. Work groups continuously monitor and improve emissions and waste control, green procurement, and a host of other energy conservation and environmental protection measures. The Kawai Forest Project has already planted over 400,000 seedlings.

These vital efforts will continue to be a part of every piano we build. That is our promise to you – and to our world.

SOUL

A SHIGERU PIANO IS MUCH MORE THAN THE INTELLIGENT APPLICATION OF MATERIAL, LABOUR AND DESIGN. IT IS AN ART FORM BORN NOT FROM THE HEAD, BUT FROM THE HEART.

Thus, the craftsman does far more than simply “build” it – he brings it to life. The sensitive nurturing of every part, every joint, every subtle nuance vests each piano with an intangible quality – a soul – that lives on from generation to generation.

And those who own a Shigeru piano know that they possess not merely an instrument, but a partner in the musical pursuit of dreams.



ACCLAIM

MANY OF THE WORLD'S MOST TALENTED ARTISTS, EDUCATORS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAVE APPLAUDED THE SHIGERU KAWAI PIANO FOR ITS OUTSTANDING TOUCH, TONE AND PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE.



"The Shigeru Kawai Concert Grand at Chapman Conservatory is a beautifully-crafted, elite piano. Many artists have been awed by its design innovation and superb power and projection."

Dr. Grace Fong
Director of Keyboard Studies
Chapman University Conservatory



"The Shigeru piano features superior tonal response across all registers, and a superbly engineered action that allows me to do anything I could imagine on the instrument. In recordings, recitals, and in the teaching studio, the Shigeru piano offers all that a pianist could ask for."

Dr. David Korevaar
Weil Professor of Piano
University of Colorado, Boulder



"It truly fires the creative imagination of the performer – a miracle of an instrument!"

Mark Nixon
Concert Pianist,
Head of Keyboard at King's College School, London



"The Shigeru Kawai piano is unsurpassed in its craftsmanship and beauty of tone."

Earl Wild
Legendary Pianist



"It has the broadest dynamic spectrum of any piano I know. I wish there was a Shigeru Kawai piano everywhere I play."

John Chen
Winner 2004 Sydney International Piano Competition



"It is a real pleasure to play on a Shigeru. The instrument's dynamics and expression are truly unparalleled. Whenever I come to a concert hall and find a Shigeru grand on stage, I'm simply happy."

Dieter Falk
Pianist, Composer and Producer



"The Shigeru piano always gives me inspiration to create music at a very high level. I love its honest and transparent sound."

Junko Ueno Garrett
Concert Pianist



"I want to congratulate you all: in my opinion Kawai makes today the best piano in the world!"

Mikhail Pletnev
Pianist, Composer and Conductor



"When I first played a Shigeru Kawai EX, I felt that it was like my old friend – this was the instrument I was looking for."

Moye Chen
Concert Pianist



"The best companion a pianist can ask for in the adventure to explore and share the world's greatest music. This is the Shigeru Kawai EX piano for me."

Florian Mitrea
Concert Pianist



"The Shigeru Kawai Series are unquestionably beautiful instruments and belong to the elite class of piano."

Warren Mailley-Smith
Concert Pianist



"Superlative touch, power and extremes of colour and dynamic expression."

Michael Kieran Harvey
Concert Pianist

"I selected a Shigeru Kawai piano because of its sound qualities and flexible action. It is always a pleasure to play on a piano of such excellent quality."

Stanislav Bunin
Concert Pianist

"Some of the best-sounding pianos yet to come from Japan."

Larry Fine
The Piano Book

"If you are looking for a truly elite, innovative and without question world-class concert quality instrument, the Shigeru Kawai is a piano that should be seriously considered."

George Kolasis
Renowned Canadian Piano Technician

"The soul of the Shigeru Kawai lies in its brilliance, endless colours and the technical perfection. I am enchanted by his unsurpassed sound."

Laetitia Hahn
Concert Pianist

ARTISTRY

AT INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITIONS AROUND THE GLOBE, THE WORLD'S FINEST PIANISTS HAVE MADE THE EX CONCERT PIANO THEIR INSTRUMENT OF CHOICE.



Alexander Gadjević
Hamamatsu Competition

© Hamamatsu International Piano Competition



Irina Zahharenkova
Casagrande Competition



Fátima Dzusova
Jose Iturbi Competition

INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITIONS



Esther Budiardjo
William Kapell Competition



John Chen
Sydney Competition



Anna Malikova
ARD Competition



Simone Pedroni
Van Cliburn Competition



Alexei Nabiulin
Dublin Competition

The 9th Van Cliburn International Competition (*USA*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 10th Tchaikovsky International Competition (*Russia*)
Top two prize winners selected EX

The 8th Sydney International Competition (*Australia*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 2nd Dublin International Competition (*Ireland*)
Top six prize winners selected EX

The 5th Dublin International Competition (*Ireland*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 2nd Rachmaninoff International Competition (*Russia*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 11th Santander International Competition (*Spain*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 45th Ferruccio Busoni International Competition (*Italy*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 23rd William Kapell International Competition (*USA*)
Top three prize winners selected EX

The 42nd ARD International Competition (*Germany*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 13th Iturbi International Competition (*Spain*)
First and second prize winners selected EX

The 14th Iturbi International Competition (*Spain*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 20th Iturbi International Competition (*Spain*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 12th Vianna da Motta International Competition (*Macao*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 8th Premio Dino Ciani International Competition (*Italy*)
Top three prize winners selected EX

The 2nd Hamamatsu International Competition (*Japan*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 9th Hamamatsu International Competition (*Japan*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 22nd Casagrande International Competition (*Italy*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 25th Casagrande International Competition (*Italy*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 27th Casagrande International Competition (*Italy*)
First prize winner selected EX

The 30th Casagrande International Competition (*Italy*)
First and second prize winners selected EX

RARITY

THE RIGOROUS DEGREE OF HANDWORK AND USE OF SPECIALLY CHOSEN MATERIALS KEEPS THESE INSTRUMENTS RARE IN BOTH CHARACTER AND QUANTITY.

Each Shigeru piano is a Limited Edition treasure, born to fulfil the lifelong dreams of the artist.



ACQUISITIONS

HAVING ACHIEVED PROMINENCE AMONG EDUCATORS AND PRESTIGIOUS VENUES AROUND THE GLOBE, SHIGERU PIANOS HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY MANY OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST INSTITUTIONS.

Academy of Arts *(Serbia)*
American Academy of Dramatic Arts *(USA)*
Anglo-Chinese Junior College *(Singapore)*
Anton Bruckner Konservatorium *(Austria)*
Australian Music Examination Board *(QLD, NSW @ WA, Australia)*
Bielsko-Biala Music School *(Poland)*
Brigham Young University *(USA)*
Carrollwood Cultural Center *(USA)*
Central Conservatory of Music *(China)*
Chapman University *(USA)*
China Conservatory of Music *(China)*
Clayton State University *(USA)*
Colburn Conservatory of Music *(USA)*
Columbia College, Chicago *(USA)*
Conservatoire de musique du Québec à Montréal *(Canada)*
Conservatoire de musique du Québec à Gatineau *(Canada)*
Conservatoire de musique du Québec à Rimouski *(Canada)*
Conservatoire de musique du Québec à Saguenay *(Canada)*
Conservatoire de musique du Québec à Val-d'Or *(Canada)*
Conservatoire de Guyancourt *(France)*
Conservatoire de Limoges *(France)*
Conservatoire de Poitiers *(France)*
Conservatoire de Thouars *(France)*
Conservatoire de St. Brieuc *(France)*
Conservatorio Arrigo Pedrollo *(Italy)*
Conservatorio Jacopo Tomadini *(Italy)*
Conservatorio Profesional de Música de Cullera *(Spain)*
Conservatorio Profesional de Música de Llíria *(Spain)*
Conservatorio Profesional de Música de Valencia *(Spain)*
Conservatorio Superior de Música de Alicante *(Spain)*
Conservatorio Superior de Música de Castellón *(Spain)*

Conservatori Superior de Música de les Illes Balears *(Spain)*
Ecole de Musique du Bocage Bressuirais *(France)*
Egå Gymnasium *(Denmark)*
Etta and Joseph Miller Performing Arts Center *(USA)*
Glazbeno učilište Elly Bašić *(Croatia)*
Heisei College of Music *(Japan)*
Istituto Superiore Rinaldo Franci *(Italy)*
Interlochen Center for the Arts *(USA)*
Jacksonville University *(USA)*
Jazz & Rock Schulen, Freiburg *(Germany)*
Kyoto City University of Arts *(Japan)*
LaGrange College *(USA)*
Laugalækjarskóli *(Iceland)*
Leopold-Mozart-Zentrum *(Germany)*
Mississippi University for Women *(USA)*
Mogilev State Art College *(Belarus)*
Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory *(Russia)*
Music Academy Mlinaric Vladimir *(Slovenia)*
Music School Nova Gorica *(Slovenia)*
Music School Slovenske Konjice *(Slovenia)*
Music School Trebnje *(Slovenia)*
Nagoya University of Arts and Sciences *(Japan)*
National Center for the Performing Arts *(China)*
National Taichung University of Education *(Taiwan)*
National Taipei University of Education *(Taiwan)*
National University of Ireland, Maynooth *(Ireland)*
New England Regional Conservatorium *(Australia)*
Newington College *(Australia)*
Nordiska Musikgymnasiet *(Sweden)*
Norges Musikkhøgskole *(Norway)*
Osaka College of Music *(Japan)*

Pacific Union College *(USA)*
Popakemie Baden-Württemberg *(Germany)*
Pučko otvoreno učilište Poreč *(Croatia)*
Queensland Conservatorium of Music *(Australia)*
Raffles Institution *(Singapore)*
Reinhardt University *(USA)*
School of the Arts *(Singapore)*
Scotch College, Melbourne *(Australia)*
Scotch College, Perth *(Australia)*
Seitoku University *(Japan)*
Shanghai Conservatory of Music *(China)*
Shorter University *(USA)*
Showa Academia Musicae *(Japan)*
Sichuan Conservatory Of Music *(China)*
Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra *(Poland)*
Staatliche Hochschule für Musik Freiburg *(Germany)*
Tallinna Muusikakeskkool *(Estonia)*
The Savoy Hotel *(London)*
Tokyo College of Music *(Japan)*
Tokyo Gakugei University *(Japan)*
Tougaloo College *(USA)*
University of Houston *(USA)*
University of Nevada, Las Vegas *(USA)*
University of Western Australia *(Australia)*
University of West Georgia *(USA)*
Waseda University *(Japan)*
Wheaton College *(USA)*
Wuhan Conservatory of Music *(China)*
Xi'an Conservatory of Music *(China)*
Xinghai Conservatory of Music *(China)*
Zamosc Music School *(Poland)*

