



**Steingraeber & Söhne**

KLAVIERMANUFAKTUR IN BAYREUTH SEIT 1852

## 190 YEARS OF STEINGRAEBER PIANO HISTORY

- approx. **1820** Foundation of piano workshop Arnshauck, Thuringia, by Gottlieb Steingraeber. Christian Steingraeber runs his own organ-workshop at Rudolstadt, Thuringia
- 1830er** **Eduard Steingraeber** (\*1823), Son of Christian, apprenticed by his uncle Gottlieb at Neustadt
- 1846** Eduard Steingraeber works in the famous piano workshop of **Nannette Streicher in Vienna** and has his first contact to **Franz Liszt** becoming responsible for his concert service
- 1852** Eduard Steingraeber passes his master craftman's examination. Foundation of the pianoforte factory in Bayreuth
- 19<sup>th</sup> century** Rapid development to become the largest piano factory in Bavaria at the service of the Royal House of Bavaria and the Dukes of Saxe-Coburg
- 1875** **Richard Wagner's** first personal order to deliver a piano
- 1876** First Bayreuth Festival, Steingraeber supplies pianos for the Festival and builds a Parsifal Bells Piano in 1881
- 1886** a "Pianino VI No.4477" is delivered to Lisbon: first documented "long-distance sale"
- 1886** delivery of a grand piano 200 (today C-212) No. 4328 to **Franz Liszt** - his last Steingraeber
- 1892** **George** (\*1858) **and Burkhard** (\*1866), **sons of Eduard Steingraeber**, join the company
- 1893** innovation of a new piano pedal function for Engelbert **Humperdinck's Steingraeber 200**. This ‚half-blow-pedal‘ is still offered today
- 1896** first concert grand piano "**Concertflügel 265**" (today the E-272) – exhibition in Nuremberg where it gets a golden award
- 1900** Completion and deliver to the USA of **Opus n° 10.000**, a salon grand model 200 richly decorated with porcelain of Meissen
- 1901** **Imperial patent certificate** to Burkhard Steingraeber for the invention "grand piano mechanism with new repetition springs"
- 1919** Completion of **Opus n° 20.000**, a concert piano model VI
- 1920** Steingraeber & Söhne continues as a family-run business, managed by Burkhard Steingraeber's daughter **Lilly Steingraeber** (\*1898) and her husband **Dr. Heinrich Herrmann**
- 1932** **Heinrich Schmidt** (\*1911), nephew of Heinrich Herrmann, joins the company
- 1948/49** Production goes down to 3–8 pieces per year in the years until 1948! Mr Schmidt guarantees the survival of the company by production of radio casing for Grundig, Fürth



1951 Marriage of Heinrich Schmidt and Magdalena Thiem; as co-owner **Magdalene Schmidt** organizes the „Künstlerhaus (artist's house) Steingraeber“ (photo below in 2014, 97<sup>th</sup> birthday)

1966 Completion of **Opus n° 30.000**, a small upright model 107

1968 **Lothar Thomma** enters the construction team as only external

1972 Concentration of the family enterprise on two owners **Heinrich and Magdalene Schmidt** - new beginning of grand piano production that was interrupted since 1940

1980 Their son, **Udo Schmidt-Steingraeber**, becomes manager of the Steingraeber Company after his father's death

from 1981 on **New constructions** refer to models of Eduard and George Steingraeber - new ideas to alternative musical mechanisms complete the otherwise strictly classical way

1988 first „Diapason d'Or“ in Paris and more **awards** like „Best“ or „One of the Best“

1993 **Cordelia Schmidt-Steingraeber**, maiden name Prella, and Udo Schmidt-Steingraeber get married; they have two children, their son **Alban (\*1994)** and their daughter **Fanny (\*1997)** representing the 7th generation

1994 Completion of **Opus 40 000**, an Concert Piano 130 Profi Studio

1995 **175 year anniversary** since foundation in Neustadt/Orla

1999 **Innovation award** for the first ceramic covered keyboard on the market, today advanced to mineral key tops

2002 Celebration of the **150th anniversary** with 400 guests and a concert at the Bayreuth Margrave Opera House with Cyprien Katsaris at the E-272 - congratulators: Daniel **Barenboim**, Alfred **Brendel**, Kurt **Masur**, Federal President **Johannes Rau** and many more

from 2003 on **New constructions of grand pianos completed:** E-272 (2002/2003), D-232 (2008), C-212 (2009), B-192 (2011) und A-170 (2009)

from 2007 on The **Steingraeber „Flügelhaus“** (house for grand pianos) develops to a global house for artists and is awarded the **design prize „Seitensprünge“**

2008 World novelties **carbon fibre sound board** and **SFM action**

2008 **Two Bavarian state awards** for the new energy conservation system „Phoenix“ in March and for **Bluetooth controlled pedal for wheelchair users** in September

2012 **New Steingraeber-Renner aluminium action**

2013 Jura Margulis presents the new **Sordino function** at the master classes in Freiburg

2014 presentation of the **Mozart Rail** at Musikmesse trade fair, Frankfurt, for continuous adjustment 8–10 mm touch depth

2015 more and more festivals trust in Steingraeber pianos, e.g. Oberstdorfer Musiksommer, Festival Alpenklassik, and Vilnius Piano Festival

