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## Steinway piano grand acquisition

Instrument key to instruction and performance at Powell River Academy of Music

by Paul Galinski | [reporter@prpeak.com](mailto:reporter@prpeak.com)

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**AUDIO** Powell River Academy of Music's newest instrument will strike a responsive chord with music lovers.

The academy has purchased a nine-foot Steinway grand piano. Don James, music director, said it is an outstanding instrument.

"It is an artist's piano," he said. "It is given to a distributor and Steinway artists are allowed to play them. In Vancouver, in the Orpheum, or the Chan Centre for Performing Arts, this is the instrument they had. When they replace it with another one and give it to the distributor, these things go only by word of mouth.

James said he had been after the distributor, Tom Lee Music in Vancouver, for two years. "I just happened to phone at the moment they were allotted the next one and so I was able to secure it for the academy," he said. "It's incredibly exceptional. It's a really good find for the academy."

The deal came together quickly in February. James was actually looking at Fazioli pianos, the new hot instrument out of Italy. "I happened to be going to meet Mr. Fazioli in Vancouver, but I had also been talking to Tom Lee," James said. "They only had new ones in, which were way out of our price range.

"I extended my stay one day after I met Mr. Fazioli. I got word about the Steinway so I went down to Tom Lee Music immediately. I couldn't see it because it was in the prep room, but I put a deposit on it and we went down a couple of weeks later. By the middle of February we had pretty much closed the deal."

James said this is the instrument the academy has been seeking for years.

In preparing it for the move to Powell River, the Steinway technician performed some prep work and put in new hammers, shanks and flanges, the mechanism that touches the strings.

"It was voiced by the Steinway technician for our hall," James said.

The academy is still fundraising for the piano because it is short of the overall purchase price. James said fundraising has been going on for years.

"We are within \$20,000 of meeting the actual price," he said. "There will be a couple of fundraising concerts in the near future."

The academy invites the community to listen to the Steinway grand being played by faculty and students at a free concert at 7:30 pm on Friday, March 6 at the Academy Hall.

"It will be wonderful for the community to hear," James said.

Besides being a performance instrument, the academy's students will also be able to play the piano, giving them hands-on experience with an artist-grade instrument, the likes of which are frequently found in concert halls around the world.

James said next year, the academy is going to bring in some "really fine" pianists to put the instrument through its paces.

**AUDIO** Enjoy the grand sound of the Steinway piano...

Olga Tereshchenko playing Romance by Dmitri Shostakovich:

Walter Martella playing Spain by Chick Corea:

Walter Martella playing Body and Soul by composers Edward Heyman, Robert Sour, Frank Eyton and Johnny Green:



TICKLING THE IVORIES: Don James, music director of the Powell River Academy of Music, is at the keyboard of the academy's new Steinway grand piano. The newly delivered piano will be previewed at an open house on Friday, March 6. (paul galinski photo)

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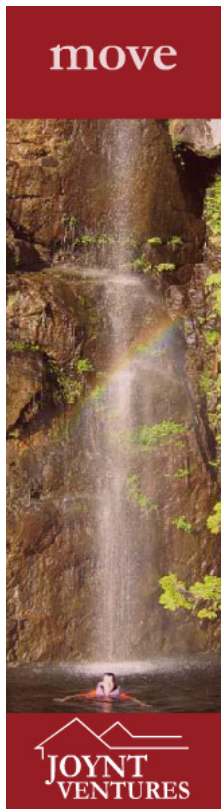
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