



HISTORY OF THE MANUFACTURERS STEINGRAEBER & SÖHNE

1800	Birth of Gottlieb Steingraeber
1801	Birth of Christian Steingraeber
circa 1820	Foundation of piano workshop Arnshauck, Thuringia, by Gottlieb Steingraeber. Christian Steingraeber runs his own organ-workshop at Rudolstadt, Thuringia
20.08.1823	Birth of Eduard Steingraeber , Christian Steingraeber's son. Apprenticed by his uncle Gottlieb Steingraeber at Neustadt an der Orla
17.03.1852	Eduard Steingraeber passes his master craftman's examination
17.08.1852	Foundation of the pianoforte factory Steingraeber Bayreuth
19 th century	Rapid development to become the largest piano factory in Bavaria at the service of the bavarian royal house and the dukes of Saxe-Coburg.

National and international exhibitions featuring award-winning Steingraeber pianos:
 Paris 1867 - Hamburg 1869 - Eger (now Cheb), 1871 and 1881 - Vienna 1873 - Nuremberg 1882 and 1896

05.07.1875	Richard Wagner's first personal order to deliver a piano
1876	First Bayreuth Festival, Steingraeber supplies pianos for the Festival and the Wagner family
08.08.1881	Eduard Steingraeber is commissioned by Richard Wagner to make a special piano for the temple scenes in "Parsifal". (leitmotif of the bells of the Holy Grail) The instrument is made and used at the première performance and later intermittently at the Bayreuth Festival until 1974. (recording: «Parsifal», Philharmony of Viennese, Sir G. Solti, Decca 1973)
01.01.1892	Georg and Burkhard, sons of Eduard Steingraeber , join the company. Both dedicate themselves to the development of keyboard instrument making: harpsichords in the case of Georg – later in Berlin – upright and grand pianos in the case of Burkhard, who later takes over sole management of the factory.
07.05.1896	the first concert grand piano " Concertflügel 265 " is ready – exhibition in Nuremberg where it gets a golden award.
1898	Moving into the new workshops building
1900, Juli	Completion of opus Nr. 10 000 , a salon grand 200
01.12.1901	Imperial patent certificate to Burkhard Steingraeber for the invention of the "grand piano mechanism with new repetition springs"
20 th century	Steingraeber & Söhne continues as a family-run business, managed by Burkhard Steingraeber's son-in-law, Heinrich Herrmann who writes a doctoral thesis in 1928 on the subject: "The Regensburg piano makers Späth and Schmahl and their "tangent grand piano".
1932	Heinrich Schmidt-Steingraeber , nephew of Heinrich Herrmann, joins the company.
1944/45	at the end of war production of munitions crates
1948/49	production of casing for radios for Grundig, Fürth
1951	marriage of Heinrich und Magdalene Schmidt .
1960-62	Heinrich Schmidt modernizes the factory
1966, December	Completion of opus nr. 30 000 , a small upright piano model 107
1972	concentration of the family enterprise on two owners Heinrich and Magdalene Schmidt - new beginning of production of grand pianos

- 1980 **Udo Schmidt-Steingraeber**, Heinrich Schmidt-Steingraeber's, becomes manager of the Steingraeber which is still run as a family-enterprise.
- 1981-1993 Modernising of workshops under maintenance of the artisanal character of production.
- 1982 New construction-design, upright model 130, until today the big seller of Steingraeber.
- 1982 Foundation of the **STEINGRAEBER COURT THEATER** and the STEINGRAEBER GALERY for contemporary art
- 1983 New construction-design, grand model 205, a chamber concert grand piano.
- 1984 First fair in Asia, Singapore.
- 1985 New construction-design, grand model 162, with a new, unusual form of the soundboard.
- 1985 First fair in the USA – since then regular presentations in different states of the USA. 1999/2000 Chris Finger becomes two very important dealers: Chris Finger Pianos für Co,Wy,Ne,Ks,NM,Ut - Unique Pianos, Florida for all the other US states.
- 1986 New construction-design, **model 138**, the biggest concert upright piano
- 1986 Cooperation with Piano Magne Paris – due to Eve and Daniel Magne Steingraeber achieved an enourmous value in France. Since 1997 also Daniel Renaud for the French province.

awards* in the Paris piano contests 1988, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2004
Steingraeber & Söhne obtains the DIAPASON D'OR and several times the CHOC
of the juries of the magazines "Le monde de la musique" and "Diapason" for the following models (partly
several times): pianos 130 K, 130 PS, 138 and the grand pianos 168 and 205 * each within
top-class-manufacturers

- 1989 New construction-design, **upright model 122**, with a new ,double'-soundboard system.
- 1990 New construction-design, **upright model 116 T**
- 1993 New construction-design, upright model 130 Profi Studio with sostenuto pedal new piano action - new repetition facility (patent) - ,grand-piano-touch'
- 1994 New construction-design, upright model 110
- 1994 7th Steingraeber generation, * **Alban** - son of Cordelia and Udo Schmidt-Steingraeber is born
- 1995 **175-year-anniversary**
- 1997 7th Steingraeber generation, * **Fanny** - daughter of Cordelia and Udo Schmidt-Steingraeber is born
- 1997 New grand piano model 168 as (extension of model 162).
- 1998 Conclusion of the substantial restauration of the 244-year-old Steingraeber House
- 1999 Conclusion (provisionally!) of the substantial restauration of the 100-years-old manufactory
- 1999 **Innovation-award** for the first ceramic covered keyboard on the market.
- 1997-2002 new construction design of a **concert grand piano E-272**
- 1985-2000 Development of special types of pianos: e.g. repetition facility, equipment for composers, glass fibre lighting for show pianos, pedals for disabled persons, ecological pianos,anti-allergy pianos
- 13.03.2002 presentation of the concert grand piano E-272 at Frankfurt music fair
- 13.03.2002 world premier of a revolution in piano technique: the rolling knuckles (patent J.Meingast in a Steingraeber 168)
- 20.07.2002 new play on the Steingraeber Courtyard Theatre: „**Der Walkürenritt**“ - by Uwe Hoppe, one actor and one piano and the comedy around.
- 24.07.2002 celebration of the 150th anniversary and opening of the exhibition "The world of the piano" with 400 guests. Concert at the Bayreuth Margrave Opera House with Cyprien Katsaris at the E-272 - messages and congratulation Daniel **Barenboim**, Alfred **Brendel**, Kurt **Masur**, federal president J. Rau and many more.

- 05.03.2003 The first piano made by 100% resonance-wood: presentation of the 117 SI in Frankfurt.
Steingraeber concert hall: Rokoko Saal, STEINGRAEBER HAUS,
Bayreuth theatre: STEINGRAEBER HOFTHEATER
since 1982, during the festival period, STEINGRAEBER GALERIE for contemporary art
- März 2004 E-272 III the first from a series is presented at the Frankfurt Music Fair - 34 Festivals-Competitions-Tours where supplied with the new spectacular concert grand within 2 ½ years in the US and Europe.
- 2004 **250th anniversary of the Steingraeber House:** Conclusion of the substantial restauration in the historical sites
- 2006 First manufacture of a "Phoenix grand piano" according to the patent of the English inventor Richard Dain (bridge agraffes and adjustable hitch pins), the una corda pedal has been completed with an additional pianissimo function (by reduced hammer blow distance)
- 2007 New construction: **semi concert grand D-232**
- 2007 **Rating 1A** in USA: the piano book specifies the ranking and limits the uppermost level to 5 manufacturers only (in alphabetical order: Blüthner, Bösendorfer, Fazioli, Steingraeber & Söhne, Steinway-Hamburg [-nyc: "1C"].
- 2007 Provisional completion of the renovation of the Steingraeber manufactory by installing a photo voltaic plant
- 2007 The historical Steingraeber manufactory located at the Steingraeber Passage is renovated: the new chamber music room is constructed including an apartment for the artists and a selection room for concert grands: each climate in the world can be adjusted; the acoustics can be adjusted from 0.9 up to 2.1 seconds.
- 2008 The novelties D-232 / 168 CF with **carbon fibre sound board** and **SFM action** for grand piano feeling in an upright piano are presented at the fairs Anaheim/Los Angeles, Frankfurt and Paris.
- 2008 **Bavarian state award** for the new energy conservation system "Phoenix"
Bavarian state award for **Blue Tooth controlled pedal for wheelchair user**
Design award "Seitensprünge" for the conception "multi functional grand piano house in the historical Steingraeber manufactory"
- 2009 Construction **chamber concert grand piano C-212**
- 2009 Further renovation in the Steingraeber manufactory – **perfection of the eco friendliness** (photovoltaics, environment-neutral filter system)
- 2009 The "Old Manufactory" at Steingraeber Passage 1' is reconstructed into the '**Grand Piano House**' with three selection halls incl. the new Chamber Music Hall with adjustable acoustics and the possibility to create any climate imaginable.
- 2009 **Renovation in the production halls** (cabinet making) in order to increase the capacity up to 90 grand pianos and up to 70 upright pianos.
- 2010 Start of the production works for a salon grand piano 6'3", **B-192**
- 2011 Celebration of the **Liszt Year 2011**; Liszt's last piano was a Steingraeber 200
- 2011 Important customers for new concert grands E-272 are: the Teatre Sucre in Quito, the Getty Hall in San Francisco and the new Concert Hall at Musikhochschule Karlsruhe
- 2012 For the first time, complete presentation of the whole new Steingraeber & Söhne piano line-up at Frankfurt music fair with the **grand pianos A-170, B-192, C-212, D-232, E-272** and the **upright pianos 122, 130, 138** together with the **new C-212 action** and together with a classical grand pianos with a climate resistant **carbon fibre sound board**.



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