



A Grand Campaign: Raising the Bar, Steinway Style

Why a grand piano? Why a Steinway?

September 2022

From Sarah Smongeski, Executive Director

Have you ever sat in a concert hall and heard the power of a pianist with orchestra? Or perhaps you've seen the musical conversation that takes place between instrumentalist and pianist on stage? **A good piano is the hub of music-making for every musician, student to professional.**

Growing up, I never liked the piano. I didn't like the sound of the studio uprights in school music rooms, nor the frequent dissonances which take hold as temperatures fluctuate or when routine tunings are neglected. A piano, for me, was something for hammering out tunes. I chose instead to play the flute.

When I entered college, I began to understand a little more about a piano's versatility, as both solo instrument and collaborative partner.

When I came to Pakachoag Music School, I heard the Steinway, owned by the church where the School resided, played over and over by students and teachers, in rehearsals and in performances. I began to hear things I'd not heard before.

I noticed over time that students were also hearing music in new ways when in the company of the Steinway. One day, Henry, aged 5, Suzuki violin student, stuck his head under the propped up lid as we tuned the violins to a Concert A. Henry declared, with his head still in the piano: "Hmm, I LOVE that note." I decided I loved Henry, a music student for the future.

Over the years, hearing our concert pianist faculty perform Beethoven, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff, on the Steinway, I finally understood





the full brilliance of the Steinway and the inspiration it lent our students, faculty, and audience.

With your help, we'd like to make the School's 40th Anniversary our opportunity to bring back a concert grand to Pakachoag Music School, here at our home in Worcester.

A concert grand piano raises the bar, for everyone. The students feel and hear the difference (a few immediately; most over time), as do we teachers.

Our commitment is to provide opportunities so that all who engage with Pakachoag, past and future, can experience the craftsmanship, science and artistry that has created this leader of instruments. Experiencing excellence in music learning, teaching and performance transfers to all areas of life: pursuit of excellence in school, out-of-school, and in the workplace, for life.

A Pakachoag concert grand is an investment in the future, for community, for school, for students and for music.

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Challenge Goal : \$240,000

The piano will be housed at our Worcester home, All Saints Church, in the second floor Vinton Hall. The hall is used for student rehearsals with accompanist, performance classes, many of our student recitals, and some faculty special events.

Funds raised will support the 40th Anniversary Gala and purchase of a Steinway, with additional funds targeted for annual instrument maintenance (humidity/heat control, tunings, and repairs); also facilities costs and enhancements connected with performances and teaching activities.