

**KAWAI**

GX SERIES  
GRAND PIANOS





# T H E   G R A N D

– KAWAI GX –

The new standard of grand piano design is beyond imagination.

Combining state-of-the-art technology with traditional craftsmanship.

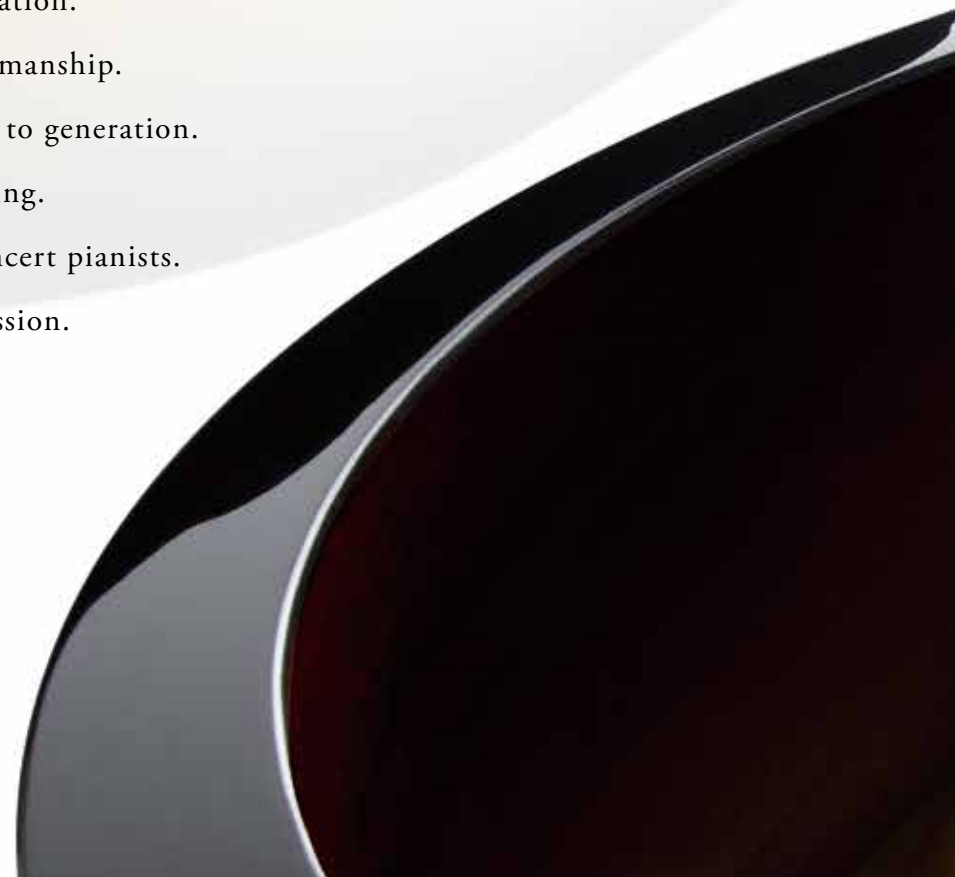
Applying knowledge and experience handed down from generation to generation.

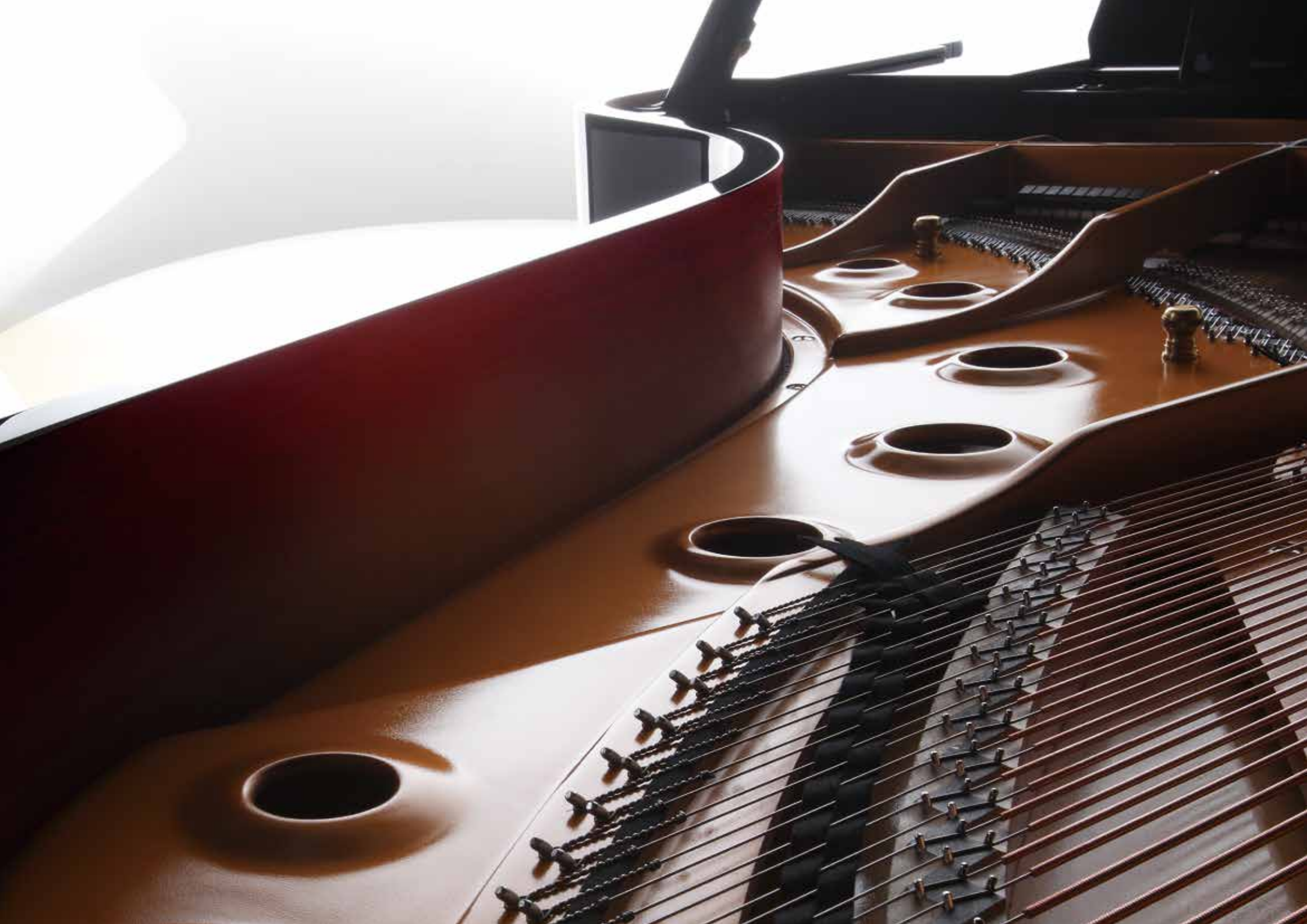
Defining the 'made in Japan' philosophy of piano building.

Lightness of touch usually experienced by only the very finest concert pianists.

Rich, vivid, expressive tone that inspires one's creative passion.

A new era of grand piano performance has arrived.







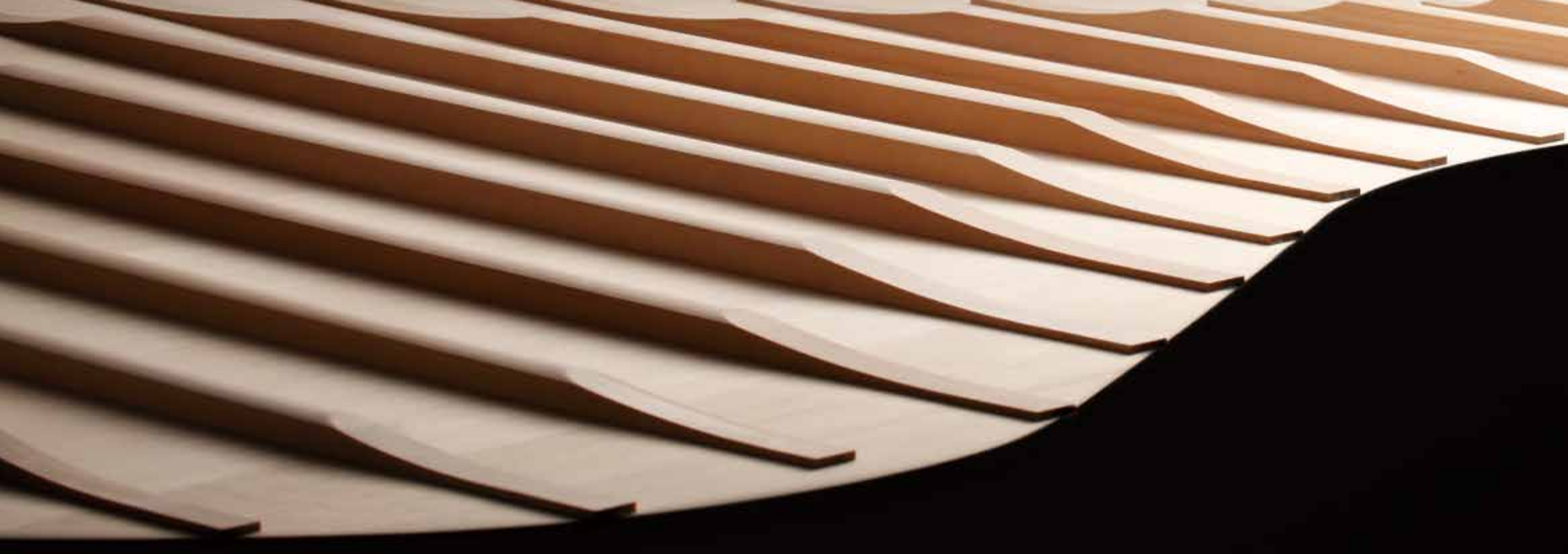
## JOYOUS TOUCH TO AWAKEN ONE'S IMAGINATION

The new GX Series grand pianos aim to reproduce the delicate control of a full concert grand piano, delivering a level of refinement that few pianists have the opportunity to experience.

In order to achieve this ambitious goal, the length of the keyboard has been extended significantly, increasing the fulcrum distance for each key. This extended key pivot length results in a more consistent touch weight when playing towards the back of the keyboard, affording the pianist greater expressive control, and allowing one's imagination to soar freely.



In addition, the GX Series' advanced Millennium III keyboard action incorporates the latest materials; combining ABS resin with carbon fibre to further improve one's playing experience. This ABS-Carbon compound is both highly rigid and extremely lightweight – characteristics that have seen the same material successfully employed throughout the aeronautics industry as a superior alternative to wood. By utilising action parts fashioned from ABS-Carbon, the GX Series' keyboard action is more durable and less prone to performance degradation over time, while also delivering improved responsiveness and control. This evolution in keyboard touch can be experienced by the pianist with every key stroke, from the first to the very last note played.



## PURITY OF TONE THAT FILLS THE ROOM

In order to produce Kawai's special tone, a broad range of woods are meticulously analysed for quality and character, before being selected as the finest materials for each specific purpose. The soundboard has arguably the most significant influence over a piano's individual tonal elements. Therefore, woods that conform to the most rigorous gravity and propagation velocity standards are carefully selected by experienced craftsmen in order to achieve rich, deep bass tones, and bright, colourful, sustaining treble tones. In addition to the soundboard, bridges, and ribs, optimum materials for the inner-rim are also carefully considered, combining the unique properties of different hardwoods to create a layered hybrid construction. This produces a broad range of sound, allowing even greater expressive power.



In order to produce a richer, more immersive sound, the overall rigidity of the GX instruments' body has also been improved. The thickness of the upper beam that attaches to the outer-rim is increased, allowing the pin blocks to support a tensile strength load of approximately 20 tons. As the tone of each note is improved, the sense of three-dimensional sound is also enhanced. Moreover, increasing the rigidity of the piano's carbon steel tuning pins further strengthens the instruments' tuning stability, to meet the rigorous demands of the finest pianists.





## QUIET YET STRONG, LOUD YET DELICATE – UNPARALLELED TONAL EXPRESSION

In order to realise the pianist's infinite range of expression, the GX Series utilises premium grand piano hammers. These hammers are constructed from wood that possesses excellent acoustic properties, with hammer felt prepared from the finest quality long-haired New Zealand and Australian wool. These felted hammers have a soft, delicate exterior, yet are tight and rigid on the inside. When playing pianissimo passages, the strings are struck by the delicate exterior felt of the hammer to produce a soft and gentle tone, while fortissimo passages utilise the tighter, harder interior felt, thus producing a louder, more powerful sound. Moreover, all hammers are under-felted in order to further improve their resilience. These steps allow experienced piano technicians to perform the most subtle of voicing adjustments in order to maximise the instrument's exquisite sonic potential. Delivering a broad range of tonal colour from pianissimo to fortissimo, and a rich variety of musical expression.

The instrument's duplex scale system further enhances the harmonics of middle and upper-range tones, adding depth and breadth to the overall sound. And to ensure the ultimate touch at the keyboard surface – that magical point where the pianist and the piano become one – all GX instruments adopt premium Neotex coating for white and black keys. This unique material possesses moisture absorbent characteristics to enhance touch control and prevent mistakes, and inspires a sense of reassuring satisfaction within the pianist.





# A LIFETIME OF HAPPINESS, WRAPPED WITHIN A GRAND PIANO

Preserving the treasured design of a grand piano, while pursuing new details of elegance – this is the design concept of the GX Series. The instrument's exterior design, with its gentle curves and broad music rest, establishing the traditional characteristics and captivating form of a grand piano.

Expanding the instrument's upper-beam thickness not only reinforces the piano's overall structural rigidity, but also serves to further distinguish this exterior design, with Kawai's highly prized painting and finishing process affording the piano body its distinctive, luxurious ebony polish appearance.

However, the beauty of the GX Series truly shines upon opening the instrument's top-board. The mesmerising brilliance of the glowing golden frame, the delicate woodwork and abundant expression of quality displayed along the inner rim, the luxurious elegance of rich black felt, and the reassuring display of hand-made craftsmanship – verified by the Kawai frame mark. These are the characteristics that embody the spirit of 'THE GRAND'.

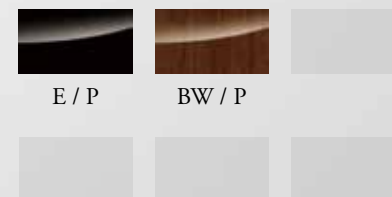
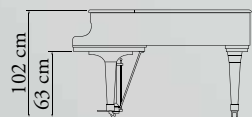
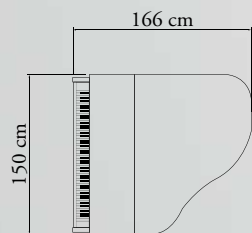


Finally, the GX Series instruments feature useful mechanisms such as multi-angle piano lid props, and Kawai's original 'Soft Fall' system, which closes the fallboard gently and slowly, protecting the player's hands from jarring lid accidents.

# GX-1

166 (L) x 150 (W) x 102 (H) cm · 314 kg

*The GX-1 offers a level of elegance and craftsmanship that is unsurpassed for a piano of its size.*



## SPECIFICATIONS

		EX	GX-7	GX-6	GX-5	GX-3	GX-2	GX-1
Size	Length	278 cm	229 cm	214 cm	200 cm	188 cm	180 cm	166 cm
	Width	158 cm	157 cm	154 cm	153 cm	152 cm	152 cm	150 cm
	Height	103 cm	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	314 kg
Soundboard	Material	Spruce	Spruce	Spruce	Spruce	Spruce	Spruce	Spruce
	Area	2.10 m <sup>2</sup>	1.70 m <sup>2</sup>	1.60 m <sup>2</sup>	1.41 m <sup>2</sup>	1.33 m <sup>2</sup>	1.23 m <sup>2</sup>	1.17 m <sup>2</sup>
No. of Beams		5	4	4	4	4	3	3
Millennium III Action		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hammers	Material	Mahogany	Mahogany	Mahogany	Mahogany	Mahogany	Mahogany	Mahogany
	Felting	Underfelted	Underfelted	Underfelted	Underfelted	Underfelted	Underfelted	Underfelted
Neotex Key Surfaces		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Extended Key Length		n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Duplex Scale		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agraffes		1" - 54 <sup>th</sup> key	1" - 54 <sup>th</sup> key	1" - 54 <sup>th</sup> key	1" - 54 <sup>th</sup> key	1" - 54 <sup>th</sup> key	1" - 54 <sup>th</sup> key	1" - 46 <sup>th</sup> key
'Soft Fall' Fallboard		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fallboard Lock		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lid Props		3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Caster Configuration		Large, Brass	Double, Brass	Double, Brass	Single, Brass	Single, Brass	Single, Brass	Single, Brass

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

## FINISHES



E / P

Ebony Polish



BW / P

Brown Walnut Polish



BW / S

Brown Walnut Satin



WH / P

White Polish



SBM / P

Sapele Brown Mahogany Polish

Availability of cabinet finishes may vary depending on market area.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

In 1997, Kawai's Ryuyo Grand Piano Facility became the first manufacturing plant in the piano industry to receive ISO 14001, the world's foremost certification for excellence in environmental management.

In 1998, Kawai was privileged to receive a second ISO 14001 certification recognising exceptional achievement in re-forestation, energy conservation, waste reduction and natural resource preservation at our highly respected Maisaka Upright Piano Factory.

In 1999, Kawai made history for a third time when ISO 14001 certification was awarded to our Märchen Digital Piano Facility. This unceasing pursuit of environmental excellence is our way of saying that we care deeply about the planet.



*ISO 14001 Certification, the world's most prestigious environmental award, was established by the International Organisation for Standardisation the governing body for a worldwide federation of national standards organisations. To become a candidate, a company must demonstrate a history of innovative, self-governing environmental policies and initiatives designed to preserve valuable resources, reduce industrial wastes, protect or improve the environment, and meet all legislative regulations in the course of pursuing its social and economic goals.*

# EX FULL CONCERT GRAND PIANO: THE WINNER'S CHOICE

The international piano competition – a lofty stage where the most skilful and demanding concert pianists gather from all four corners of the globe to compete for their art form. For the piano maker, this is the ultimate test of quality – a place where their finest instruments are scrutinised under the most rigorous of performance conditions.

The EX concert grand piano made its spectacular debut on the world stage of the Chopin International Piano Competition in 1985. The reputation of the EX has continued to grow since this time, and today the instrument is frequently selected as one of the official concert grand pianos for a number of other prestigious international piano competitions. Many of the finest concert pianists have achieved competition success playing the EX concert grand piano.



## Tchaikovsky International Competition

Established in 1958 and held every four years in Moscow, Russia, the Tchaikovsky International is considered one of the world's most prestigious competitions. Musicians compete in a wide range of musical disciplines, including violin, cello, voice, and piano, with previous notable winning pianists including Van Cliburn and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

The EX concert grand piano first appeared at the Tchaikovsky in 1994, where it was selected by 2nd prize winner Nikolai Lugansky and 3rd prize winner Vadim Rudenko (a 1st prize was not awarded). Performances played using the EX received widespread acclaim.



## Dublin International Piano Competition

Despite its relatively short history, this competition – established in Dublin, Ireland, in 1988 – is highly regarded on the international stage, due to the strong support provided to competition winners for domestic and international performance tours.

The reputation of the EX concert grand at this competition continues to improve, in harmony with its success. At the first Dublin competition in 1988, 5th placed Jura Margulis selected the EX. At the second competition three years later, 1st placed Pavel Nersessian, 2nd placed Enrico Pace, and 3rd placed Edward Montero all selected the EX, as did all prize winners, up to 6th place.



## Chopin International Piano Competition

Held every five years in Warsaw, Poland, the birthplace of Chopin, this prestigious competition was established in 1927, and is widely considered to be one of the most influential in the world. In addition to being a gateway to success for prize-winning participants, the Chopin International is believed to be the most objective setting in which a piano can be judged. As a result, a number of piano builders make their finest instruments available for selection. In 1985, the EX received the honour of being chosen as the official piano for the competition. In the year 2000, Argentinian pianist Ingrid Fliter selected the EX throughout the competition and was eventually awarded the silver medal. Over the years, a number of other Chopin finalists have also selected the EX for their performances.



## Sydney International Piano Competition

Established in 1977, the Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia is held every four years, with the final round staged inside Sydney's iconic opera house. This highly regarded competition selects 36 pianists from around the world through a rigorous auditioning process.

Kawai has supported the Sydney International since the competition's inception, providing concert grand pianos for official selection. In 2004, New Zealand pianist John Chen selected Kawai at each stage of the event, clinching 1st prize to become the competition's youngest winner at just 17 years old.



## Rubinstein International Piano Competition

Named after the legendary 20th century pianist Artur Rubinstein, this piano competition is held every three years in Tel Aviv, Israel. With strong influence internationally, this competition attracts a considerable amount of interest from the classical music community, and has witnessed a number of excellent pianists compete and perform.

First established in 1974, notable winners have included Emanuel Ax (1974) and Gerhard Oppitz (1977). The EX was selected as the official competition piano in 1989, and continues to grow in stature and reputation.

## International music halls and institutions with Kawai pianos installed

Conservatoire Nationale Supérieur de Paris

Konservatorium der Stadt Wien

Chopin's birthplace

Apollo Theatre

Opera de Paris

Wiener Sängerknaben

Ostrogski Castle

The Australian Ballet

Académie Royale de Monte Carlo

Hochschule für Musik, Mozarteum

National Philharmonic Hall, Warsaw

Roy Thomson Hall

Conservatoire Nationale de Bordeaux

Bayreuther Festspiele

Teatro alla Scala, Milano

Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre

Wiener Philharmoniker

Hochschule für Musik, Frankfurt

Konservatorium, Genève

The Harmony Hall

Wiener Symphoniker

Staatliche Hochschule für Musik, München

Real Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid

China Conservatory of Music





# SPIRIT OF INNOVATION WITHIN EACH PIANO

## THE HISTORY OF KAWAI

Kawai Musical Instruments was founded in 1927 by Koichi Kawai, a gifted individual affectionately known as “Koichi the inventor” among his friends and family. Koichi was the first engineer in Japan to design and build a complete piano action, with his many technical achievements contributing to the company’s early growth.

Today, Kawai has established a strong position within the global music industry, and has earned the trust of prestigious pianists and musical academics worldwide.

## THE PASSIONATE QUEST BEGINS

In 1927, musical instrument legend and our company’s founder, Koichi Kawai, established Kawai Musical Research Laboratory with a dream in his heart: “With these hands, I wish to create the world’s finest pianos”. Koichi’s dream resonated with several of his colleagues, as they worked together in a small, cramped warehouse. Resources were limited, but they shared a unified desire to craft excellent pianos. That year, they produced the ‘Showa-gata’ (Showa type) upright piano, then in the following year of 1928, the first of Koichi’s original grand pianos, ‘Hiradai Ichi-gou’ (Flat type no.1) was created. The company continued uncompromisingly, producing grand pianos one by one, following the traditional philosophy of craftsmanship with passion. And so began the story of Kawai.





## FROM PASSION TO INNOVATION

The laboratory was expanded in order to meet growing demand, and in 1929 renamed to Kawai Musical Instruments Manufacturing. With the first Japan produced piano action proving to be a success, Koichi's engineering talents blossomed, as he developed more and more techniques. A patent for a groundbreaking, innovative new system called 'Freely Action', which allowed the key to strike the string independently, was granted. Similar patents, including a new form of soundboard, were also acquired, with Koichi's inventions becoming the driving force for creating excellent pianos. Even throughout the pre-war and post-war chaos, Koichi's ideal of "creating the world's finest pianos" remained unchanged. Kawai's craftsmanship was passed onto the next generation of engineers, with various new innovations continuing the pursuit of the ideal piano.

## GRAND PIANO CREATION UTOPIA: 'THE WORKSHOP IN THE WOODS'

Inheriting the dream established by Koichi Kawai, the company's second president, Shigeru Kawai, invested heavily in expansion, and in 1980 opened the Ryuyo Grand Piano factory – the world's largest grand piano facility. With over 15,000 new trees planted around the facility, the Ryuyo factory was affectionately termed 'the workshop in the woods', and maintained the same spirit of "crafting pianos individually, one at a time" upon which Kawai was founded. A 'gold standard of piano creation' was established

to ensure that traditional techniques were preserved for posterity, and handed down to future generations. Here, pianos are built by hand, one at a time, using the finest materials selected by master craftsman. Meanwhile, engineers at the Shigeru Kawai Research & Development Laboratory perform extensive scientific analysis utilising cutting-edge examination equipment, constantly pursuing advancements that improve quality. "It is my goal to have the best pianos in the world constructed at this Ryuyo factory" – these words, spoken by Shigeru Kawai, are written on the Ryuyo Grand Piano factory monument, and occupy the hearts and minds of all the piano craftsmen that work there.

## EX: BUILDING THE CRAFTSMAN'S DREAM

One year after the Ryuyo Grand Piano factory had become operational, the EX full concert grand piano – the realisation of the craftsman's dream – was created. Since its debut at the Chopin International Piano Competition in 1985, the EX has received high praise from pianists throughout the world for its depth of tone and powers of musical expression, and has been selected as the official performance piano by a number of well-known international piano competitions. At the 14th Chopin International Piano Competition in 2000, Ingrid Fliter of Argentina selected the EX throughout, and was awarded 2nd prize for her magnificent performance. At many of the world's foremost international piano competitions, the enthusiastic performances of leading pianists playing the EX receive considerable admiration and applause.



## THE MUSICIANSHIP OF THE EX IN ALL KAWAI GRAND PIANOS

Following the philosophy of the EX, Kawai continued to apply the knowhow and expertise, striving to improve the quality of all Kawai grand pianos. This resulted in the RX-A, launched in 1983, which inherited the EX's ideology of high quality materials and superior sound, and further expanded Kawai's reputation for excellence around the world. Then, in the autumn of 1999, the Shigeru Kawai range of luxury grand pianos was unveiled, offering many of the rare, unique characteristics of the EX. The Shigeru Kawai series encapsulated the progress in piano creation that had occurred during Shigeru's half-century of leadership, including Kawai's independently developed, ground-breaking Ultra Responsive action, and the careful combination of the finest materials and expertise. From the moment of its release, the reaction to the Shigeru Kawai series from pianists and music critics was highly positive. As a result, the prestigious Shigeru Kawai series has established a strong reputation as some of the finest instruments in the world.



### THE REDESIGNED SHIGERU: COMMEMORATING 85 YEARS OF PROGRESS

In 2012, the Shigeru Kawai series underwent the first full model redesign since the instruments' initial launch. The new series adopted the bold decision to extend the length of each key, allowing greater power of expression inherent in full concert grand pianos, and providing a further source of inspiration to the pianist. Since the company's inception, 85 years of progress have been engrained into history. The dreams of our ancestors have come to fruition as many beautiful tones. The passion and sincerity of craftsmanship applied to the creation of the piano, combined with the insatiable pursuit of technological development continues to be handed down. Through a series of meticulous improvement, the sensational Ultra Responsive action has evolved into the Millennium III action.

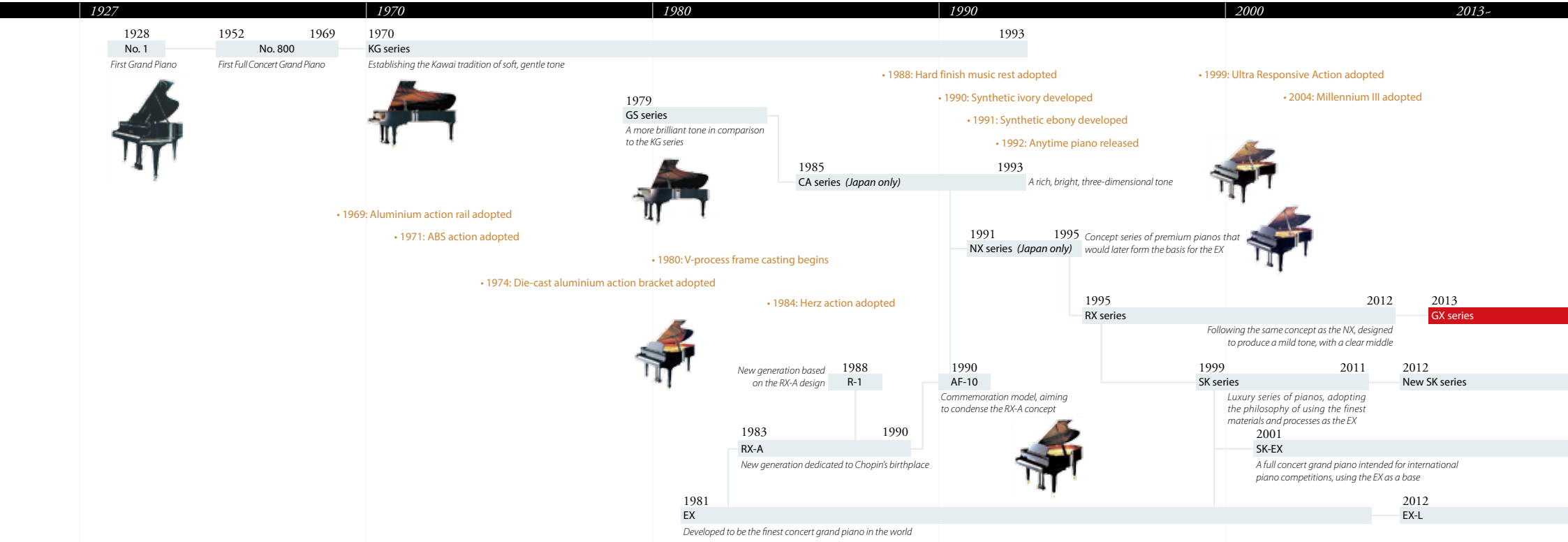
### PURSUING NEW CHALLENGES: THE INNOVATION GENE

Crafting the world's finest pianos is a never ending quest, constantly aiming for higher levels, and never being satisfied. It is no exaggeration to say that 'the innovation gene' is one of the underlying properties of a Kawai piano. This explains why Kawai is tirelessly striving to attain higher standards, with highly skilled craftsmen and technicians studying and interacting with wood and other natural and man-made materials on a daily basis.

This is the lineage of all Kawai grand pianos. Unquestionably, a history of challenges that have helped to guide the company, while pushing it forward, developing into the future.

# KAWAI GRAND PIANO HISTORY

Koichi Kawai created the first Kawai piano, the 'Showa-gata', in 1927. Since this time, hundreds of thousands of Kawai pianos have been produced, bringing musical enjoyment to piano lovers around the world. The timeline below summarises the significant achievements of Kawai grand piano history.



1927 Kawai Musical Instrument Institute established.

1928 No. 1 grand piano ("Flatbed No.1") launched.

1934 Commemoration model marking the birth of Emperor Akihito.

1939 Piano produced for the 1940 Paris Expo.

1952 No. 800 grand piano (first Kawai full concert grand piano) launched.



1971 Transparent grand piano developed.

1979 GS-30 launched.



1980 Ryuyo Grand Piano facility opened.

1981 EX, the world's finest concert grand piano, launched, marking Ryuyo's 1st anniversary.

1984 Total piano production reaches 1.5 million.

1985 EX full concert grand selected as official piano for the 11th Chopin International Piano Competition.

1986 EX full concert grand selected as official piano for the Rubinstein International Piano Competition and Japan International Piano Competition.



1990 Total piano production reaches 2.0 million, AF-10 commemoration model launched.

1993 Pianists selecting EX full concert grand piano win prizes in all competitions entered.

1994 Nikolai Lugansky wins silver medal playing EX at 10th Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition.

Viktor Lyadov wins 2nd Hamamatsu International Piano Competition playing EX.

Shigeru Kawai awarded the "Blue Ribbon Medal" from the Emperor of Japan.

1995 New generation of RX series professional grand pianos launched.

1997 Ryuyo becomes the first piano manufacturing facility in the world to receive ISO14001 environmental accreditation.

1999 Shigeru Kawai range of premium grand pianos launched.

2000 Ingrid Fliter wins 2nd prize at 14th Chopin International Piano Competition playing EX.

2001 SK-EX concert grand piano launched, becomes flagship Kawai model.

2003 75 years of grand piano production.

2004 Updated RX-G series of grand pianos launched.

2006 Flagship Kawai showroom opened in Tokyo's prestigious Omotesando shopping area.

2007 80 year anniversary of Kawai establishment.

2009 10th anniversary of Shigeru Kawai premium grand piano series.

2012 Shigeru Kawai grand piano series, full model change, introducing extended keys.



