



STEINWAY & SONS

St. Joseph, Michigan Public Schools Named Steinway Select School District

ASTORIA, NY (March 1, 2024) – Steinway & Sons is proud to announce it has recognized St. Joseph Public Schools in St. Joseph, Michigan, as a Steinway Select School District.

The Steinway Select School District designation is an elite category of districts that have committed to ensuring that at least 90% of the pianos in their schools are Steinway or Steinway-Designed. St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation has replaced 100% of the pianos in the district with Steinway and Steinway-Designed pianos, including Model D and Model M grands and twelve Boston pianos. Achieving the Steinway Select School District designation is a pledge to audiences and the community that the experiences offered by St. Joseph Public Schools (SJPS) will never be compromised. This designation is an elevation of the overall performance standard throughout the district's programs.

Steinway pianos, built by hand using time-honored practices in the company's historic New York factory, are the gold standard of musical instruments, representing more than 171 years of craftsmanship and experience. Designed by Steinway & Sons and employing the unique patents and expertise that have made the name Steinway synonymous with excellence, the Boston line of grand and upright pianos represents a singular achievement in instrument building: a superior playing experience at a price level never before thought possible.

The journey toward attaining SJPS's Steinway Select School District designation began following a memorial service for a beloved member of the SJPS community. Dennis L. Bowen was the district's director of choral activities, musicals, and variety shows from 1960 to 1987. A talented composer, he also proudly served as SJPS Foundation Board Secretary, and as a member of the first class of the SJPS Performing Arts Hall of Fame.

Inspired by the outpouring of love from Bowen's former students and their desire to commemorate his extraordinary life, the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation embarked last February on a mission to find an appropriate memorial project. After numerous brainstorming sessions the group landed on the perfect project — a new Steinway concert grand piano for the beautiful John and Dede Howard Auditorium at the Performing Arts Center at St. Joseph High School. As momentum for the project grew, the Foundation committed to replacing the entire aging inventory of pianos district wide. Steinway delivered the magnificent pianos late last year, placing them throughout the district's five schools.

"The St. Joseph Public Schools District is honored to receive the Steinway Select School District designation," said SJPS Superintendent Dr. Jenny Fee. "This distinction is a true testament to our district's commitment to provide our students academic and artistic opportunities that are of the highest quality. We are so grateful to the many individuals who contributed to the Steinway Project. Their generosity ensures our current and future students will be able to experience the arts at a level beyond expectations. Clearly, the Steinway Project is a perfect example of how the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation raises, stewards, and distributes resources to enrich the education of the students at St. Joseph Public Schools."

Bob Ehrenberg, SJHS Class of 1971, and a SJPS Foundation Board Member commented, I'm particularly pleased with the alumni who donated in memory of our teacher, director, mentor and friend.

A dedication concert to showcase the new pianos will be held on Wednesday, March 13 at 7:00 pm at the St. Joseph High School Performing Arts Center. The concert is free, and the public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Foundation Executive Director Sue Riemland at 269-926-3252 or visit www.sjpsfoundation.org.

About Steinway & Sons

Since 1853, Steinway pianos have set an uncompromising standard for sound, touch, beauty, and value. Because of a dedication to continuous improvement, today's Steinway remains the choice of 9 out of 10 concert artists, and it is the preferred piano of countless musicians, professional and amateur, throughout the world. For more information, visit www.steinway.com.

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