



Kayserburg



Klassik im Original

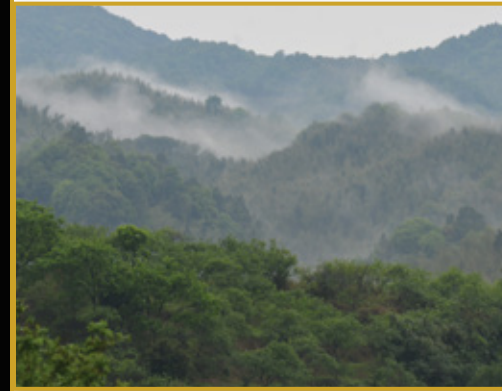
Klang der Welt



Kayserburg Artist Series, KA

The KA series pianos are the first of the Kayserburg Artist series pianos to be marketed internationally. These are a distinct line of superb pianos, designed to meet the standards of the most discriminating artist, yet be affordable to the family budget. To understand what makes Kayserburg Artist series pianos so special, one must dissect the components and materials used to craft these instruments.

Artists
Kayserburg



Introduction

Throughout history, mankind has revered craftsman from every culture who can craft artifacts from raw materials provided by Mother Nature. Virtually every culture has taken pride in its artisans that are trained in the hand-crafts of their forefathers. When it comes to intricate hand-craftsmanship, two legendary global stalwarts come to mind: the renowned Schwarzwald (Black Forest) of the Baden-Wurtenburg area (Rhine Valley) in Germany, and Guangzhou, China's Guangdong

Province capital city located along the Pearl River Delta.

Since at least 206 B.C.E, during the Western Han Dynasty, the craftsmen of Guangdong/Guangzhou have crafted intricate works of art. Artifacts from this region such as porcelain vases, statuettes, cabinets and stone pillows are amongst the many items highly prized by collectors, and featured across the globe in museums. This fierce dedication to craftsmanship is, perhaps, the reason why renowned manufacturers like Audi, Apple Computer and Siemens are amongst the international companies choosing to manufacture goods in the region today. It is with this same dedication to meticulous hand-craftsmanship and artisanal production that Kayserburg pianos are made.



History

Guangzhou Pearl River is a company that was originally established in the 1950's with the concept of building affordable pianos for export. In a short period of time, the name Pearl River became synonymous with the word value in pianos worldwide.

By 2002, Guangzhou Pearl River piano had already established itself as the world's largest piano manufacturer. Having built pianos under its own brands, and also under trade marks for some of the world's best known brands from Japan, the USA and Germany, Pearl River executives had established the company as a reliable source for excellent instruments of good value and performance reliability.

As with any product, the human trait of personal likes and dislikes makes building one piano for every taste virtually impossible. The Pearl River family of brands has become the world leader in building quality pianos to meet virtually every taste and budget while maintaining internationally recognized standards of quality.

A yearning to prove that, as their ancestors had done, the artistry of hand-crafting was in their genetic code left them with a nagging ambition to build a superior piano of distinction. In 2007, this desire caused Pearl River to embark on the building of a new brand, named Kayserburg. The goal was simple: Build the best pianos in the world.



The Team

To design a piano, like producing a fine wine, takes a master craftsman with years of experience who can virtually hear every note as he draws the scale and makes fine adjustments to measurements of the soundboard, bridges and plate. At Pearl River, famed Swiss piano designer Lothar Thomma and Swiss master production engineer Stephan Mohler were charged with designing and crafting the new line of pianos. Their years of experience in European manufacturing for the world's most prestigious piano brands gives Kayserburg a pedigree that is sure to be the envy of the piano world.



Factory Within A Factory



To produce their pianos, Thomma and Mohler decided to create a “factory within a factory.” They knew that this would not be a quick or short project, but went about the task in undaunted excitement at what they were creating.

They selected the most dedicated Pearl River craftsmen and undertook a rigorous training regimen that included dissection of renowned instruments from the most famous pianos in the world, and a program where select Pearl River craftsmen worked, side by side, with visiting European craftsmen. Once convinced that their team had the skills necessary to complete the task, Thomma and Mohler set upon building the first Kayserburg instruments.

Selecting individuals and placing them in “teams,” in the European guild system, Thomma and Mohler insisted that this stalwart procedure, of a team crafting each instrument from start to finish, be employed. Each member of each team must be capable of performing every function, and positions are often switched on a daily basis. This ensures the consistent quality of each instrument and a healthy respect for each day of toil. Within months, the Kayserburg Artist Series “factory” was consistently crafting at a pace and level of quality previously only seen from European factories.



Wood

A piano is simply wood and metal crafted into components employed in producing sound by craftsmen skilled in turning nature’s raw materials into a finished work of art. As a part of Nature, wood is as unpredictable as any living thing. A dry summer, or a cool one, a slight variation in the soil which embraces the roots, a favored sun filled spot on a hillside, or one not so favored on a high snow swept windy northern ridge – all these, and countless other factors make every tree unique unto itself.



Therefore, a thorough understanding of wood comes from both intellect and the heart. It is not enough to know the mathematical components of good forestry; a true artisan must feel and understand the environment in which the wood flourished to understand what its true character as a component will be.

While high precision manufacturing techniques are a desirable, and even necessary, component of manufacturing technique in such areas as a piano’s action mechanism, a wholly different kind of skill is required in crafting a soundboard. Here, the selection for the most appropriate wooden materials, and their proper handling, are the most critical factors in producing just that “right” tone color to give the piano its distinctive character.



Wood is not only used in the tone producing part of a piano, but it is also predominant in the structural components. Naturally, wood specifications that are desirable for tone production may not be, and in fact often are not, appropriate materials in structural components. There are variances in strength based on grains and wood density. For the Kayserburg Artist pianos, Pearl River seeks out the finest of materials from their vast resources and, after strict initial selection, they are again evaluated by Kayserburg

experts and selected for use based on their desirability. Only twenty to thirty percent of the timber stock selected initially eventually makes its way into a Kayserburg Artisan piano.

After final selection, the wood is seasoned from six months to ten years and more, with alternate periods of natural and artificial kilning under the guidance of Pearl River master artisan-wood-workers. The artisan must judge the “living” aspects of the wood, for only the wood knows whether the seasoning method is appropriate or not. Sound is, of course, the critical element and the final results of woodworking are represented in the “voice” of the resultant instrument. Truly, all five senses are involved in the selection and working of the woods which go into Kayserburg Artisan pianos, together with the craftsman’s “sixth sense” which can only be sharpened on the whetstone of time.

When it comes to crafting a Kayserburg Artist Series piano, time is a Pearl River natural resource well spent in the pursuit of the ideal piano.

The following is an outline of wood parts used in the construction of Kayserburg Artist Series pianos, and a brief discussion of their function:

Rim and Beam Construction

Whether an Upright or Grand piano, manufacturers refer to the frame of the piano as its “back.” The back consists of the rims, inner and outer, the support beams and the cast iron plate.

There are two rims on a grand piano; the inner rim and the outer rim. The outer rim is purely cosmetic and arguably has no tonal function. The inner rim functions as the power base of the piano. It is the

inner rim that gives each piano its projection capability and which absorbs the tons of pressure put on the piano when strung and tuned. On an upright piano, the rim and cabinet are practically one and the same. This rim is usually constructed of either solid hardwood or layers of laminated wood then a layer of MDF and finished with a veneer over which a natural stain is applied and then finished with either lacquer or polyester.

The Kayserburg Artist Series uprights have a select inner rim of solid maple with an MDF outer-core. Whether in your living room, or seated in the last seat of a large auditorium, the sound projected by the Kayserburg Artist Series rim design will be warm, clean and distinct. The craftsmen at Kayserburg are dedicated to protecting the beauty lying far beneath the surface of each Kayserburg Artist series piano, in its rim, for generations to come.

The beams on all Kayserburg Artist Series pianos are crafted only of top quality solid European Spruce. Then, each beam is strategically located to provide maximum strength and stability, insuring great tuning stability and decades of musical pleasure. It would, perhaps, be easy to simply affix each beam to its rim with screws or other fastening methods, as some manufacturers do, but the craftsmen at Pearl River individually mortise and dowel each beam to the rim. A time consuming and demanding job, this will insure the structural integrity of a Kayserburg Artist Series piano throughout the decades.

Pinblock

The pinblock, or wrestplank, has the responsibility to hold the tensions of tuning pins (screw-like posts of threaded steel) when a string is added. Although some manufacturers choose to construct this plank of thin layers of veneer-thick plywood, time has shown that thicker, quarter sawn laminated planks have far better holding strength than their thinner, less expensive, counter parts. Kayserburg Artist Series pianos have a pin block constructed only of select quarter sawn hard-rock maple which is cross laminated to ensure maximum resistance on the tuning pin threads. Tuning pins are nickel plated to resist rust and insure string integrity.



Keys, Key Covers and Keybed - Introducing Ivolan

The keys on all Kayserburg Artists Series pianos are made of solid, straight grained, spruce. This allows for a very light key of great strength. At the point where the center pins meet the key (which is how a key pivots) the Kayserburg Artists Series keys have a solid hardwood keybutton and solid hard-rock maple inserts for the capstan and backcheck posts. The use of high grade spruce in the key more readily allows for an accurate transfer of the pianists intentions to the hammer which greatly affects the resultant sound. The hardwood inserts ensure stability of the key even under the most stressful

blow to the key. Each key is individually weighted so that an even touch is accomplished from Bass to Treble. On an upright piano, the keybed supports the entire action (playing mechanism) and must be extremely strong. Most important, for a piano to last throughout the generations, the keybed must resist warpage or movement of any kind, especially movement caused by changes in humidity. Therefore, every Kayserburg piano has a keybed of solid European spruce in “butcher block” construction and each plank is mortised (finger joint type).

The keys are then fitted onto the keybed. Besides housing the entire action unit, one of the keybed’s functions is to absorb the shock of the pianists blow and must therefore be strong, but in order to minimize action noise, it must also be somewhat absorbent of sound. The Kayserburg Artist Series has a keybed of solid spruce. All pins are of solid brass and are driven into solid beech wood inserts which are inlaid into the keyframe. This construction provides the greatest stability and noise-free sound production.

Ivolan: Many pianists wax romantic about the days of natural key covers made of Ivory on a piano, yet ecology demands that we use our intellect and nature’s bounty to produce desirable products that don’t interrupt our vital eco-system. Kayserburg Artists Series designers searched the globe for a key cover that mimics the desirable traits of Ivory, but meets today’s standards of “earth first” responsibility in manufacturing. Such is IVOLAN. Made in Germany, completely of mineral and synthetic materials, Ivolan mimics Ivory’s color and breathability, while providing the pianist with a gently gripping surface not previously available in plastic key tops.

All Kayserburg Artists Series pianos have sharps made of genuine natural Ebony wood.



Soundboard, Ribs, and Bridges



Perhaps no other aspect of piano crafting is as important as the construction of the soundboard unit (soundboard, ribs and bridges) which is truly the heart of the piano. All Kayserburg Artist Series pianos have soundboards crafted entirely of tight grained European quarter sawn solid spruce.

As already discussed, each piece of spruce, depending upon the climate in its growth area, will produce a slightly different sound. It is the Craftsman's experienced eye which can instantly recognize the special characteristic of the "first amongst equals" which will produce a sound that sets it apart from others. These special boards are used only in the Kayserburg Artist Series

instruments and come from remote regions as varied as the wilds of Siberia to the mountains of Central Europe.

No stone is left unturned in finding just the right combination of natural factors that produce a soundboard of unequalled sensitivity. Each board is then given years of special seasoning, and then, as the vintner who carefully chooses which wine to uncork, the Kayserburg Artist Series craftsmen individually select the boards from which to craft a complete soundboard. Each soundboard is handcrafted to ensure precise crown (natural bowing).

The RIBS, which are graduated in width and thickness and feathered for flexibility and frequency response, are also made of select quarter sawn spruce. They are glued and hand doweled to the soundboard and then mortised into the rim.

The responsibility of the bridge is to transmit the vibration of each string to the soundboard. It must be extremely strong and rigid but yet resonant.

Historical analysis has proven that all stringed instruments, whether a violin, cello or piano, using a bridge of maple, produces the richest resultant tone. Kayserburg Artist Series pianos use a hard rock maple bridge, vertically laminated, with a layer of Rosewood for increased rigidity, and a solid Beech cap. Specifically designed for each Kayserburg Artist Series instrument, each bridge (one treble and one bass) is then strategically placed on the sound board to produce maximum frequency response. The Kayserburg craftsmen have the awesome responsibility to see that the bridges are glued, dowelled and screwed to the soundboard and then they must individually notch each bridge using only a chisel, hands and experienced eyes.



Metal - The Embodiment of the Piano

Most people are unaware that the introduction of the metal plate and associated parts into the construction of the forte-piano and harpsichord is not only what gave us the modern day piano, but was also greatly responsible for the success of the industrial revolution, especially in the United States, at the turn of the 20th century. The piano industry consumed over 80% of the metal produced by foundries in the early 1900's with its over 200 manufacturers of home and concert instruments.

Although less glorified than its wooden counterparts, the metal parts of a piano are integral to making the sound of the instrument and the craftsman at Pearl River have great respect and regard for the metal parts used in building the Kayserburg Artist Series pianos.

Plate, Agraffes and Aliquot

In the Kayserburg Artist Series pianos, function takes precedence over form. Of course, Pearl River is proud that their pianos look as good as they sound, but it is clear that at Pearl River, superfluous frills which add nothing other than expense are ignored.



A force of from 16 to 18 tons is applied to a plate when it is strung and tuned. The plate must have sufficient structural strength to withstand this pressure and deliver acoustical response as well. Kayserburg Artist Series pianos have plates which are designed by craftsmen whose engineering excellence incorporates, in each plate, the ability to achieve maximum tolerances while delivering distinct acoustical responses. Each Kayserburg receives a plate which has

been designed specifically for its scale. The traditional sand cast plate, rather than the currently popular but less desirable V-Pro (vacuum process) plate, receives meticulous hand finishing in bronze which enhances their beauty and integrity.

All Kayserburg pianos employ agraffes in the bass and tenor sections and all agraffes are of solid brass. Pressure bars are nickel plated and precisely positioned for optimum tonal production. These entities provide strict tolerances for string termination and speaking length. One need only play a Kayserburg to discover the impeccable balance between all these interrelated components.

Tuning Pins

Tuning pins, which can best be described as screw-like posts with multiple thin threads, are driven into the pinblock of every piano. Strings are then attached to these pins and the pins are rotated to adjust the tension (and pitch) of the string. All Kayserburg pianos have tuning pins made of tempered steel which is then nickel plated. This special plating is important to the string life of the piano as it is especially rust resistant.



Strings

Kayserburg pianos are strung with the highest grade of solid steel musical wire from Rosslau, Germany. Bass strings have a solid steel wire core around which solid copper is meticulously hand wound.



Hardware

The case hardware on all Kayserburg pianos is of solid brass. Carefully fitted into case parts, the gleaming brass hardware coupled with the incredible sound quality of the piano satisfies the aesthetic as well as the aural senses.



Other Components

We have already discussed two primary components in piano construction. Additionally, there are fiber, leather and other materials which are combined with wood and metal to harmoniously function in Kayserburg instruments. For example, felt is an important component of the mechanism, and only genuine Laoureux felt from France is used in the Kayserburg Artist Series instruments. The following is a brief discussion of other components crafted by combining these materials.

Action

The action, or playing mechanism, of the piano virtually has not changed in over a century. The Erard-type, Herz “butterfly” repetition spring in grand pianos, and Schwander type upright repetition spring in uprights, has been employed by quality piano artisans for generations. This spring is responsible for the response of the key and hammer to the artist’s touch.

Kayserburg Artists Series piano actions, as designed by Mr. Thomma, have set this spring in parts constructed of hard rock maple and affix the entire piece to a rail of sturdy hardwood construction. By using this method the Kayserburg has superior strength, durability and stability. Only top quality pins, felts and buckskin are used to ensure precision and noise reduction throughout the action. All action felt is crafted of 100 percent wool of the highest quality which has been treated to be moth-resistant.



Hammers

The hammers on the Kayserburg Artist Series are specially designed by the world renowned Renner company of Stuttgart, Germany to produce warm, clear legato tone. The hammers are crafted only of top grade felt which has been formed over select hardwood cores and then fastened to the cores with t-shaped steel wires for the maximum resilience and structural integrity. Only when coupled with the superb Thomma scale design, and cabinet of a Kayserburg, can the resultant sound of the supreme Kayserburg Artist Series hammer be faithfully duplicated.

The hammers are then affixed to stems, or hammer shanks and fit into the hammer butt. Kayserburg Artist Series craftsmen individually “tune” each hammer shank to ensure that the sound produced from one end of the piano to the other is consistent and sure to bring generations of enjoyment.



Finishing Touches

Precision, in pianos, equals beauty. The precise crafting of each component of a Kayserburg results in a Piano of unparalleled aesthetic and performance beauty. The final installation of all of these components where every detailed part must function with all the others perfectly is as important as any other procedure in building the Kayserburg Artist Series. Skill and delicacy are required in the installation of a pianos action. Action adjustment, or regulation, is no less painstaking as the tolerance for error is zero. Cabinet parts are hand finished and polished to a mirror like finish which is tough, lustrous and beautiful. To build a Kayserburg is not to simply assemble a piano. The Pearl River - Kayserburg team perfects every step of manufacturing from selection of raw materials to the finished piano.

It is the tuner’s hands and ears alone, however, which determine the final “rightness” of the Kayserburg Artist Series. It can be truly said that in purchasing a Kayserburg, you are buying a piece of the craftsmen who perfect the instrument. Just as each fingerprint bears the mark of its owner, each Kayserburg bears the character of its craftsman.



The Dealer

While it is true that you may be able to find many piano dealers in today’s marketplace, the Kayserburg Artist Series dealer must be uniquely qualified to represent the Kayserburg Artist series. Each dealer has undergone Pearl River’s meticulous scrutiny and each reflects Kayserburg devotion to quality products and service. Naturally, it is the dealer who must perform the final inspection of the Kayserburg Artist Series piano before it is delivered. By selecting only those dealers who are qualified to perform this service we guarantee that your Kayserburg is delivered to your home in optimum performance condition. Your Kayserburg dealer will gladly provide details of the services the dealer is required to perform.

*Guangzhou Pearl River invites you to play and enjoy
the sound of a Kayserburg Artist Series Piano
at the showroom nearest you.*

*Only then will you truly appreciate the rapidly
new paradigm that Kayserburg has set
for superb quality and value in piano craftsmanship.*



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