Steinway piano added to USU Eastern Music Department

11/20/2018

David Dickey of Lee’s Music plays the newest piano on campus: a Steinway, one of the top musical instruments in the world.

One of the world’s greatest musical instruments was delivered to Utah State University Eastern’s music department Nov. 15.

A 2018 Steinway grand piano measuring, 9 feet by 6 feet, will permanently be housed in the Geary Events Center to be used in choir concerts and by professional touring pianists plus cultural and classical groups. It is housed in a piano garage complete with padding and vents to keep its temperature moderated.

One of the first musicians to use the piano from Logan will be Craig Jessop, Ph.D., professor of music and founding dean for the Caine College of the Arts at USU. He will conduct a joint community/university concert Jan. 26 showcasing the piano. Jessop is also the former director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

“Steinway pianos are the crown jewels of pianos,” Larry Martin, USUE music department chair, said. “They are still meticulously hand crafted, much as they did hundreds of years ago.” They carry a six-figure price tag because the Steinway piano-making process is done by hand and take up to 11 months to make. Nothing is compromised when constructing a Steinway.

Over 90 percent of professional pianists only play on Steinways which is a good endorsement of the brand, Martin said.

As a note of reference, for those who prefer listening to pianos in rock ‘n’ roll music, Billy Joel and Lady Gaga play on Steinway’s in their concerts. The quality and sound do not get much better than a Steinway.

Martin organized a music association with community members that will reap benefits for both the university and community. He sees the piano as investing in the cultural side of music for those who live in Southeastern Utah.

The USU Eastern holiday concert on Dec. 4 will be the first concert Martin unveils the Steinway at in the Geary Theatre at 7:30 p.m.