# 88 Keys: Unlocking the Secrets of Steinway Piano Making

#### A Journey into the Heart of Musical Excellence





### 88 Keys: The Making of a Steinway Piano by Miles Chapin

4.2 out of 5

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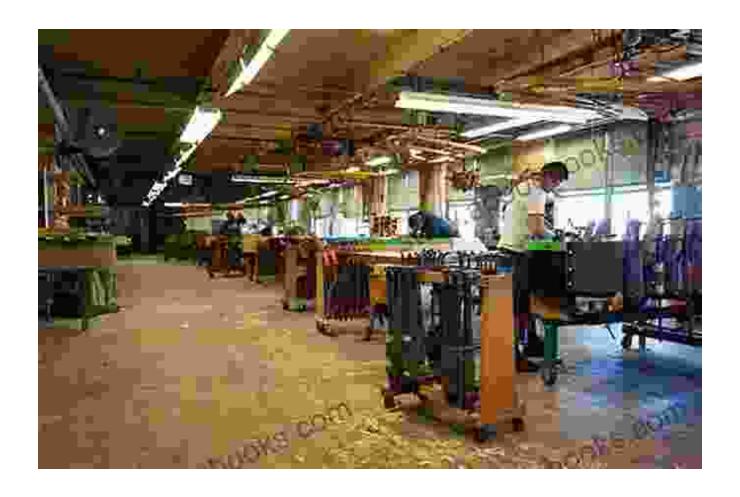
In the realm of musical instruments, Steinway pianos stand alone as beacons of excellence. Their exquisite sound, responsive touch, and timeless design have captivated the hearts and minds of musicians and audiences worldwide for over 160 years. In the captivating book "88 Keys: The Making of Steinway Piano," renowned author and music historian David Dubal takes readers on an immersive journey into the extraordinary world of Steinway piano making.

### **Unveiling the Secrets of Craftsmanship**

Through detailed accounts and vivid descriptions, Dubal reveals the intricate steps and meticulous attention to detail that go into crafting each Steinway piano. From the careful selection of the finest woods to the precise placement of every component, every aspect of the process is guided by a deep understanding of acoustics and a relentless pursuit of perfection.

Readers will be captivated by the stories of the skilled artisans who bring these musical masterpieces to life. From the seasoned craftsmen who shape the delicate soundboard to the master tuners who ensure the piano's perfect intonation, each member of the Steinway team contributes their expertise and dedication to creating instruments that are both beautiful and enduring.

#### A Tapestry of Innovation and History



"88 Keys" also delves into the rich history of Steinway & Sons, tracing the company's humble beginnings in the mid-19th century to its ascent to the pinnacle of piano making. Dubal recounts the pivotal role of the Steinway family, whose unwavering commitment to innovation and quality laid the foundation for the company's enduring legacy.

The book shines a light on the countless innovations that have shaped the Steinway piano over the years, from the patented action system that provides the pianist with unparalleled control to the of the sostenuto pedal that allows for selective sustain of notes. These advancements have cemented Steinway's position as the undisputed standard for concert halls and discerning musicians alike.

#### **Iconic Performers and Lasting Legacy**

Throughout its storied history, Steinway pianos have been the trusted companions of countless legendary musicians. From the virtuosic playing of Franz Liszt and Sergei Rachmaninoff to the modern-day brilliance of Lang Lang and Diana Krall, the unique sound and responsive touch of Steinway pianos have inspired generations of performers to reach the heights of their artistry.

"88 Keys" pays homage to these iconic performers, showcasing their extraordinary talents and the symbiotic relationship they have shared with Steinway pianos. Dubal explores how these musicians have pushed the boundaries of piano performance, leaving an indelible mark on the musical landscape.

#### The Enduring Allure of Steinway



In the concluding chapters of "88 Keys," Dubal examines the enduring allure of Steinway pianos, exploring the reasons why they continue to be the preferred choice of discerning pianists, composers, and music lovers.

Dubal argues that the combination of exceptional craftsmanship, innovative design, and the enduring legacy of Steinway creates an instrument that transcends the realm of mere musical functionality. Steinway pianos become extensions of the musician's own artistry, allowing them to express their musical ideas with unparalleled depth and nuance.

#### **A Masterpiece of Musical Literature**

"88 Keys: The Making of Steinway Piano" is not only a comprehensive and informative account of the world's finest piano, but it is also a captivating

read for anyone with an appreciation for music, craftsmanship, and history. David Dubal's engaging writing style and meticulous research bring to life the fascinating world of Steinway piano making, revealing the secrets behind these extraordinary instruments and their enduring legacy in the annals of music.

Whether you are a seasoned pianist, a music enthusiast, or simply someone who appreciates fine craftsmanship, "88 Keys" is an essential addition to your bookshelf. It is a masterpiece of musical literature that will transport you into the captivating world of Steinway pianos, leaving you with a newfound appreciation for the artistry, innovation, and enduring legacy that have made these instruments the epitome of musical excellence.



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