



THE WEEKEND OF CHAMBER MUSIC, INC.

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AUTOGRAPHED PIANO TOURS TO FESTIVAL

JEFFERSONVILLE - The Tribeca Film Festival, the Martha Stewart Show and Aretha Franklin are pretty choice company for a fresh little toddler to keep. It's also odd for such a tot to be 'tattooed' with signatures of the likes of Nellie McKay, John Mayer, Alan Toussaint, Elvis Costello, Patty Griffin and Josh Ritter, but hey, they were just excited about playing with the yearling at the Tribeca.

But that's just all in a day's work for a touring instrument at Steinway & Sons, and then it's off to the next gig. In fact, that signature piano, a Steinway Model B Hamburg, hits the road next **Monday July 10** for its 2-week Jeffersonville gig. Arriving at the Eddie Adams Farm between noon and 3 pm, this unusual piano begins a stint at *Summer Festival 2006 – In the Company of Mozart*, where WCM artists Tannis Gibson and Kenneth Hamrick will test its keyboard. Arranged by Lynn Avedisian for the Weekend Of Chamber Music, the piano's appearance at the non-profit's festival is courtesy of Steinway & Sons of New York City.

"It is quite by accident that there are any signatures at all on the piano," says the Steinway rep and Walton resident, "as we do not solicit signatures. It had been sent to the Tribeca Film Festival, and everyone who played it signed it!"

All Steinway pianos are hand built in New York City or in Hamburg, Germany, and each one takes up to a year to complete, but wherever they are made, they are subject to exacting detail and specifications. This 'Hamburg,' just under 2 years old, has a high-polish ebonized finish, and its 6-foot 10-inch length is actually rather modest among concert grands, favored for smaller recital halls, auditoriums, and broadcasting, recording or professional studios. The Hamburg pianos have a slightly different sound because some parts are made with different materials, and there are some differences in the case, too.

"It still has the engineering and scale design of a classic Steinway," says Avedisian. "The reason why this particular piano is so popular has mainly to do with its personality...and this usually is just a matter of taste, and what may appeal to the individual artist."

Though it goes up for sale after the celebration for Mozart's 250th birthday ends on July 22, she says this piano "remains a very requested instrument, and is loved by the technicians who take care of it."

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