

Piano Models  
Classic Pianos, Bellevue  
John Slavic  
2/21/2011

Classic Pianos, in Bellevue, carries several brands of pianos: Bosenbdorfer, Schimmel, Glutner, Petrof, some Young Chang & Samick, plus more, both high-end and low-end. The Chinese piano is pretty much the **entry level** piano. Japanese pianos and Charles Walter pianos are more difficult to sell. People want black and shiny. Digital pianos are popular, but they are a different instrument; they have a two-year trade-in. As the piano player advances, pianos can be traded off for better brands.

Misinformation propagates negative propaganda. Yamaha is always evolving. Cable Nelson is built in **China** and is less money because it has a laminated soundboard. Cable Nelson sells for around \$3800. Bigger is not always better in the piano industry. Some of the Chinese pianos have loose pins, buzzes, hammers that are not square, etc. A Chinese piano is not bad; however, Yamaha does not contract other companies to make their piano. Even Schimmel has parts made by someone else. In comparison to the inconsistent finishes of American made pianos, the Japanese pianos are consistent and higher quality. Now all Yamaha pianos are made in Japan. If someone's budget is around \$4000-\$5000, the T21 or 22 is a good piano to start with.

The Steinway D is not very loud. Yamaha has developed the **CFX** that has the sound people are looking for. Yamaha's S4 (6'4") and S6 (6'6", equivalent to Steinway D) are very pricy. The next "X" series is staying in the line, so that people can get a Steinway sound in a smaller Yamaha. People are not allowed in this area of the factory to see how they are making these. If any of these pianos make it here to Bellevue, we will be told.

The **Avant** piano is a hybrid and needs to be worked on by both a piano technician and a digital technician. There are 400+ pages in the instruction manual. Fortunately Yamaha builds good actions that don't usually need any maintenance, but if they do the parts are available. It takes about four hours to remove the Avant action. The hammer on the end of the shank looks like a plunger with a double tip on it. It does send a vibration through the key so you can feel the keys vibrating. This vibration can be turned on or off. At a glance the piano looks real, but upon hearing it people can tell the difference. The upright is around \$11,000 and the grand is \$30,000 or \$40,000. These pianos are good for good piano players who live in condos and need headsets so as not to bother the neighbors. Charles Mackentyre repairs digital pianos but doesn't work on piano mechanics.

The GB1 and the Cable Nelson (151 and 161) are made in **Indonesia**. All the other models are made in Japan. The GB1K had a slow fallboard and is 1" bigger. The GC1M has a slow fall fallboard and a sostenuto pedal. The GC2 is 5'8". The Cable Nelson upright is made in China.

The **C series** is better, with higher grade soundboards, felts and case parts. The G series is more affordable because it includes fewer fancy accessories. There is a substantial difference between the G and C models; when compared side-by-side, the same size pianos make the G models sound wimpy in contrast to the C models.

The **Disclavier** Mark IV has all kinds of fancy features and is very expensive. The Sharp controller is \$1500 our cost. The middle model has no floppy drive. Anything older without a CD ROM or the MX with the drive in the piano can upgrade to the DCK50 model for about \$1500. The new E3 model doesn't have floppy; floppies are the standard technology for mid-range players. It's like having a CD burner. You record yourself playing a song and then take it to your computer and change the music around. Not everyone knows how to use a thumb drive. The new DC3 is simple, clean, has CD ROM and an ether port for \$20/month for connection to the internet. If you have a problem with Disclavier, it's usually a software problem. Call the company and they'll send you what you need. Whenever you remove and replace the action, you're supposed to recalibrate the computer. There is a service button on the computer for repairs. Disclavier is trouble free, unlike Piano Disc that has discs frying.

Yamaha owns **Bosendorfer**. They say they are not going to change anything. Yamaha is going to offer the E3 on Bosendorfer. Yamaha probably saved Bosendorfer from bankruptcy. Even Schimmel got out of bankruptcy. All the higher end piano companies are struggling. They are not selling if they are too expensive.

**Schimmel** holds a tune better than other pianos. The pitch barely fluctuates. The store now has a Steinway Hamburg D.

The cast iron plate in the T19 is the same as in the U1. They cut a hole in the bottom of the piano and drop the plate down an inch. The P22 piano sells for about \$5000 with double rubber wheels 46" studio and is a workhorse; these pianos are everywhere. Ever since the cheaper pianos started being made in China they got better.