

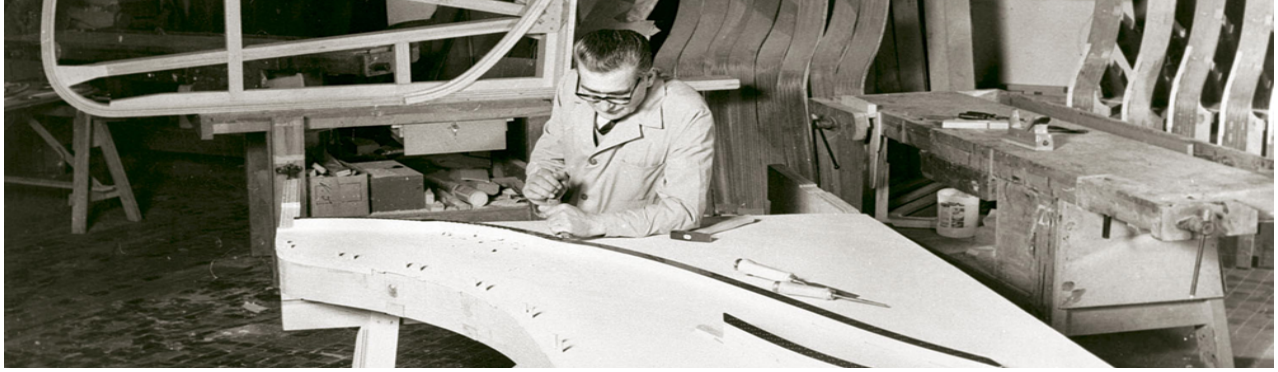


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In 1978, a man by the name of Paolo Fazioli began making pianos that took the world by surprise. The instruments coming from his workshop surpassed any other manufacturer in quality, technological advancement, and material selection. As a trained concert pianist and engineer, Fazioli was tired of pianos being made at the time and with the backing of his family's well established, top of the line furniture making company, he set out to make a piano that would hold up to his demanding scrutiny. He refused any industrial approach to the creation of his pianos, of which he only makes grands, to return to the time when piano quality was more important than quantity and sales profits. He assembled a team of highly educated

and skilled individuals to focus on the absolutely best materials and methods for piano production.

His first workspace was at one end of his family's furniture manufacturing facility and later in 2001, expanded to a new, modern building in Sacile, Italy. In 2005, an adjoining concert hall with a stage large enough for a chamber orchestra was added. Popular musicians and living legends, such as Herbie Hancock, perform at the hall regularly and rave about the supplied piano for their use. The factory employs a staff of fifty people and it produces about 140 pianos per year. Their concert grand is 10 feet 2 inches long and is currently one of the largest piano designs in the world.



The rims, which follow the classic piano shape, are made of maple. The pinblocks or wrest planks are made by Bolduc from Canada, a high quality company and nice people as well. The actions are made by Renner, a top of the line German piano action manufacturer, and the keyboards are made by Kluge, a German piano keyboard manufacturer which has had close ties with Steinway for many decades. Wood for the soundboards come from the Norway Spruce tree (*Picea abies*). This wood is specifically chosen for its resonant qualities and was also sought after by the great violin maker Strativari(us) from the same location, Val di Fiemme. The highest quality Fazioli pianos also employ a fourth pedal that raises the hammers closer to the strings similar to an upright piano, greatly expanding the options for tonal color. The detail that goes into creating these not pianos but works of art is unprecedented. And with modern scientific understanding and technology they surpass any of the works-of-art pianos from the 1800s and early 1900s.

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I was lucky enough to be in the presence of a Fazioli concert grand a few years back. I even had the privilege to tune it! It had the most beautiful case I had seen for a generic gloss ebony finish and an especially clear tone. The sound was bright and a bit thin like most European made pianos. The action was smooth and responsive even though it needed fine regulation as it had been well loved by its previous owner, a doctor who played it enough to wear valleys into the keytops. I met a member of the Fazioli family and sales team once at a Piano Technicians Guild convention. A great, upstanding guy who knew a lot about his product. I guess quality people make quality products.

In my opinion, Fazioli pianos are the new “World’s Greatest Piano” and are the future of quality piano manufacturing.

*All photos from Fazioli.com