

Artists Comments | CF Series prototypes evaluated by top artists in the world's musical centers.

Paris



"I love the tonal space with this piano, and I find it technically perfect. It's very rich and so sensitive; everything I need when I want to have an adventure with a piano! And what a fantastic sound... unbelievable!"

Jean-Marc Luisada



"It is a wonderful piano with a very long sustain and rich powerful bass. I love this piano! I don't know why, but it feels so expressive and responsive."

Cyprien Katsaris



"I'm completely satisfied with it. Great colours, plenty of power, very easy to control, it has everything... The entire piano rings. It inspires me a lot. I would use it for any performance, whether recital or concerto. It can do it all."

Alexander Kobrin

New York



"I like this piano a lot. I like the sound and it's very responsive, with a wide range from pianissimo to fortissimo. It has a great bass sound, colourful and rich, and feels solid to play. It's a great piano and a significant step forward for Yamaha."

Frederic Chiu



"Wow, it's so gorgeous! And it's really comfortable to play with amazing sound control and the bass sounds great! Everything responds well, and the dynamic range is astounding. The pianissimo really sings."

Olga Kern



"The ideal piano should have a brassy bass, beautiful mid range, and shimmering highs—and finally there is a piano which has all these qualities. It is sensitive to play but is also capable of a brilliant sound."

Abbey Simon

Tokyo



"It is capable of both profound bass, powerful fortissimo, but also delicate lyrical passages. Being able to control a subtle touch is important and with this piano I can create beautiful colours, but it also has exceptional power."

Maria João Pires

YAMAHA CORPORATION



 **YAMAHA**

THE CF SERIES

YAMAHA
PREMIUM
PIANOS

THE CF SERIES

CFX CF6 CF4

I am proud to introduce a completely new series of top-of-the-line concert grand pianos, The CF Series.

The concept behind the series is “Beauty & Power”. “Beauty” signifies the rich palette of tonal colours and musical voices the pianos can produce, while “Power” refers to their unprecedented tonal projection. The CF Series pianos offer outstanding expressiveness for truly musical performance coupled with enough tonal presence to be heard over the sound of a full symphony orchestra; and in the largest of concert halls.

They are the culmination of 19 years of research and development in partnership with some of the world’s greatest musicians, and we have been continually testing prototypes in concerts, festivals, and piano competitions around the world.

The inspiration, talent, and experience of many of the world’s greatest pianists guided our design team, and all who participated in the project were devoted to a single mutual goal; to develop a superior piano.

Using Yamaha’s international network of Artist Services facilities, The CF Series design was fine tuned in secret evaluation sessions in Paris, New York, Tokyo, and other musical capitals. In large concert halls, prototype pianos were compared with the best our competition had to offer. Not to imitate them, but rather to learn how to build a piano which goes beyond existing instruments, and offers musicians almost unimaginable artistic possibilities.

President and Representative Director
Mitsuru Umemura



The Development Story

In 1991, Yamaha embarked on its most ambitious piano project ever. The objective: to create a new generation of grand pianos for concert, conservatoire and studio performance.

They assembled a development team of more than 40 skilled and talented piano designers, technicians, craftsmen, pianists and other experienced staff who set about the task of deconstructing the concert grand piano, and rebuilding it from the ground up. Where traditional design was found to be the best way, they adhered to that tradition. Where improvements could be made, they were.

During this period every single aspect of piano design was evaluated, including manufacturing techniques, component combinations and soundboard performance. The best results were combined and multiple prototypes were tested during thousands of hours of performance evaluations some involving the worlds finest artists. Through their Global Artist Services Network, Yamaha was able to conduct tests in Paris, New York, Tokyo, London, Seoul, Beijing and Shanghai involving exhaustive comparisons between the CF Series prototypes and the finest instruments of other manufacturers.



The Pursuit of Perfection

Paris, August 2008.

As the CF development programme neared its conclusion a collection of the worlds leading concert pianists, professors of the piano, head technicians of the academies and 20 Yamaha staff assembled for three days of extensive testing and comparison at La Salle Gaveau. These experts in their own fields were invited for their objectivity and candid opinions. These were not Yamaha “converts”. At least not yet...



Multiple Prototypes of the CFX, CF6 and CF4 were each compared to the existing Yamaha instruments as well as pianos from the other leading manufacturers. In order to conduct the truest evaluation each piano was placed in an environment they would naturally be used for; the CFX on the concert stage, the CF6 and CF4 in smaller locations similar to a professor's teaching room or recital hall. The results were both astonishing and conclusive with a clear majority favouring one particular prototype of each of the 3 models, the one that became known as “the C prototype”. The CF4, CF6 and CFX selected shared one thing in common - they had been constructed from the same combination of components and same high grade build quality, and it is that design that has become the New Yamaha flagship instrument. But still we were not satisfied...



Since the very beginning, Yamaha has kept in close touch with leading musicians from around the world. They wanted this new range of performance pianos to fulfil the hopes and dreams of today's and tomorrow's concert pianists. With a single-minded commitment to progress, the design team immersed themselves in further secret prototypes assessments in New York and Tokyo. This approach of careful study, brutal self-honesty and invaluable feedback from Artists and Professors led to further discoveries and additional adjustments - “The pursuit of perfection”.



As a final test of the CFX development, Yamaha offered its latest prototype out to the most demanding of stages - the ‘competition world’. Such competitions lay bare both pianists and instruments alike and now Yamaha was competing head on with other leading manufacturers. At the 2009 Hamamatsu International Piano Competition, 15-year old acclaimed Korean pianist Cho Seong-Jin selected a prototype of CFX for his performances. He was awarded first prize.

Shortly afterwards, Yamaha sent the very first production model CFX to take centre stage in the USA at the prestigious National Chopin Piano Competition in 2010. It was selected by many of the competitors throughout the final stages and proved as successful as Yamaha's traditional piano rivals. As the competition neared a tense conclusion, the CFX triumphed in the gifted hands of first prize winner Claire Huangci.

With the new CFX, Yamaha now moves centre of the stage.



Evolving Concepts

Every single component of the new CF Series instruments has been selected and crafted for performance. No compromises have been made. So, although the hammers used in earlier models, for example, set new standards, we still found room for improvement in felts and shanks. The soundboard with its new design, honed to perfection throughout the development programme, allows abundant vibrations whilst freeing it from stress. Likewise the ribs and rims, all re-worked, re-tested until the most critical ears were satisfied.



Defining Innovation Through Elegance

Whilst the majority of CF Series development concentrated on improvements within the instrument, our designers wanted to represent this milestone visually too. The unique design of the case side arm is a defining reference for the new range of pianos, and identifies the spirit of innovation with which the programme was undertaken.



The CFX concert grand is supplied with a satin matte finished lid and prop to eliminate reflections from stage lighting and distracting the orchestral musicians. The CF6 and CF4 are supplied with a high gloss finished lid.

CFX Dimensions (Length) 9' (275 cm)

The nine-foot CFX is a full sized concert grand piano characterized by a wide palette of tonal colours and the ability to create the most subtle expressive nuances. It can “sing” phrases with a depth of expressiveness rarely heard. The CFX has a powerful bass and all registers can project over the sound of a symphony orchestra, even in very large halls.



CF6 Dimensions (Length) 7' (212cm)

The seven foot long CF6 belies its modest dimensions with a rich, open sound almost like that of a full-length concert grand. Its action is quick and responsive and, like all the CF Series pianos, it is characterised by a wide spectrum of tonal possibilities and the ability to create the most expressive phrases. The CF6 is an outstanding choice for even large size recital halls.



CF4 Dimensions (Length) 6'3" (191 cm)

With its compact six foot three length, the CF4 will fit comfortably in a recital hall or teaching studio, but it has a surprisingly big sound. The CF4 displays the same tonal characteristics as the CFX, and it is handcrafted from the same materials by the same artisans. A very expressive instrument, the CF4 is an excellent choice for salon concerts in venues too small for a full-sized concert grand.

