

World-class Musicians Play MP8 on Stage in Japan

Many world famous musicians over the world have signed endorsement contracts with Kawai for the MP8 stage piano, appreciating its superb sound, excellent touch and capability as a master keyboard. Now MP series is recognized as one of the best stage pianos in the world and played every day on the stage. This time, two world famous musicians among them appeared on the stage in Japan with MP8.

Don Airey (Deep Purple)

-Rapture of the deep tour in Japan- May 17th-22nd 2006

“Please keep manufacturing good pianos. There are many people who are waiting for Kawai pianos.”

On May 19th 2006, Mr. Don Airey from Deep Purple visited our Ryuyo piano factory during his busy schedule of their live tour in Japan. It was his first time to visit piano factory and he enjoyed the factory tour very much. He was very interested in each process of manufacturing and looked around with a smile.

At the R&D piano laboratory, he tried the Kawai concert grand piano SK-EX. He praised its touch and response very much. “I sensed the keyboards moved by themselves, fantastic!” he commented. This news was broadcasted on TVs and he played the piano solo for the masterpiece “Smoke on the water” and “Highway Star” at their requests.



Don Airey with SK-EX



Don Airey in the rehearsal with MP8

During the Japan tour, he played MP8 on the stage. He fascinated the audience with his outstanding performance, and excitement of the audience reached to the climax when he started to play “Smoke on the Water” on MP8.

Matthew Bellamy (MUSE)

-SUMMER SONIC 06'- at Chiba Marine Stadium Marine stage August 13th 2006

MUSE appeared on the stage at 18:00 for the semi final act. The stadium was filled up with over 50,000 people. The audiences were totally enchanted by their overwhelming sound and beautiful voices. When the 3rd song was started, Mr. Matthew(=Matt) Bellamy (Vo/G/Key) began to play MP8, which was covered with upright-shaped, white-polished cabinet case. The gold “KAWAI” logo on the upper panel of the piano was shown on the big screens with him, and it was very impressive.



*MP8 covered with white-polished cabinet case
specially made by Vale Pianos, our top dealer in the U.K.*



Matt plays MP8

After the concert, we Kawai had an interview with him, and he pleasantly answered to our questions. We could feel that Matt loves Kawai products very much in his words.

Q1. When did you start playing the piano?

A1. Around 4 or 5 years old. Piano is my first musical instrument and I am very attached to it. When I was 15 years old, I began to play the guitar in my rock band, but I have been playing piano for a long time until then. After I became a professional musician, I came back to the classical music like Chopin, Franz List, etc. and played them very much. Piano is my basic and now I feel I went up the musical spiral staircase and reached to the upper stage.

Q2. When did you know Kawai?

A2. When Kawai introduced MP9500. After the recording for our 2nd album “Origin Of Symmetry”(2001), I looked around the music stores and got the MP9500. Its 4 band equalizing system helped my sound making very much. The touch and tones were really beautiful, and it seemed as if I had played a grand piano. After MP8 replaced MP9500, it became the best instrument to express MUSE’s music with its 192 note polyphony. Today I could show my best performance to the audience with MP8. I think none of other makers can produce a stage piano like MP8 except Kawai.

Q3. Could you give Kawai people a message?

A3. Kawai is a brilliant piano maker. Please keep the excellent works.



Matt Bellamy (MUSE / Left) and Ryuta Sakamoto (Kawai Japan / Right)

**SUMMER SONIC: One of the biggest open air rock music festivals in Japan, which began in 2000. Many world-class musicians gather and have their live performances with over 50,000 of audience.*

** For your sales promotion, we are now printing the posters of some endorsed musicians like below. We believe you can utilize the posters and boost your sales of MP series stage pianos as well as other Kawai acoustic/digital pianos. Please ask your sales contact for the details.

