



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

***Columbus Philharmonic Receives Shigeru Kawai Grand Piano from Enkei America***

**February 2, 2016 (Columbus, Ind.)** – The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is the recipient of a new handcrafted Shigeru Kawai EX Concert Series Grand Piano gifted by Enkei America Inc., the international aluminum wheel manufacturer locally sited south of Columbus.



Photo Credit: Chris Crawl

L-R: Executive Director Margaret Powers, Board President Peter King,  
Music Director Dr. David Bowden, Enkei America President Makoto  
Miura, Enkei America COO Rick Merkel

“This piano is a gift to the people of Columbus that will provide an opportunity for wonderful music through the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic for generations to come. Having a piano of this caliber offers both professional and student pianists the opportunity to experience the joy of performing on a world-class instrument,” says Junichi Suzuki, Chief Executive Officer of Enkei Group. Mr. Suzuki is thoroughly impressed with the arts-focused and musically-inclined community embodied within the city of Columbus.

“This is a breathtaking gift – simply astonishing in its generosity,” says Dr. David Bowden, Music Director and Conductor of Columbus Indiana Philharmonic. “The Shigeru Kawai is a piano of exquisite craftsmanship, with an enormous tonal

color palette, great power, sensitive touch, and sheer beauty. It is an instrument that will last decades, centuries, serving the Columbus community and all the great artists who will play it when they come to town. It will also be a shared instrument accessible within this wonderful arts-loving community.”

The piano will be made available to the community for appropriate musical events under the guidance and direction of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic.

“While the Philharmonic continues to explore possible locations that would allow it to be readily accessible to those interested in using the piano for performance and educational opportunities, The Commons seems most suitable at this time,” says Executive Director Margaret Powers.

“This is an extraordinary gift that will answer the immediate needs of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, as well as provide the community with a treasure that can be utilized for years to come. The Board of Directors of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic are very grateful for the generosity of Mr. Suzuki and Enkei America for this wonderful example of responsible corporate citizenship which underscores the importance of the public/private partnership that has provided this community with excellence in its quality of life. We thank the leadership team of Enkei America, as well as all of its associates, for contributing such a unique and special gift to our community,” said Peter King, President of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Board of Directors.

After thorough voicing and tuning and a complete concert-level regulation is performed by a team of elite Master Piano Artisans, the piano will be delivered to Columbus at a time yet to be determined.

The grand piano is polished ebony, weighs 1,111 pounds and is 9 feet 1 inch long by 5 feet 3 inches wide. It is the largest of the series in which fewer than 20 are crafted each year. The instrument contains a custom-tapered soundboard made exclusively from the finest spruce giving the piano its uniquely rich tonal quality, premium mahogany for the hammers, choice maple for the bridge, hand-fitted pinblocks, rigid foundation to support string tension, extended keysticks with taller profiles, hand wound bass strings, and dual-pivot dampers that allow smoother half-pedal control.

For photos, interviews, additional information, please contact Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Marketing Director [Katelyn Phillips](#).

#### **ABOUT ENKEI AMERICA, INC.**

Since its formation in 1950, Enkei's history has been one of continuous challenge and innovation to deliver the most innovative and highest quality cast aluminum parts to auto makers and enthusiasts throughout the world. Enkei was one of the first Japanese companies to build a manufacturing plant in Columbus, Indiana thanks to the work led by former Mayor Robert Stewart. Today, Enkei has grown to be the number one aluminum wheel manufacturer in the world supplying auto and light truck wheels to the global OEM market. Enkei America is celebrating 30 years of manufacturing in Columbus, making this gift a way to give back and pay forward to Columbus and the surrounding communities where its employees and families live.

#### **ABOUT COLUMBUS INDIANA PHILHARMONIC**

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic thrives on a partnership with the best musicians from Columbus and the surrounding region and talented students from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. The Philharmonic Orchestra and David Bowden have received local, state, national and international recognition, winning five ASCAP awards and consistently receiving rave reviews for their performances. With a full complement of concerts and music education programs, the Philharmonic is proud to be one of the arts organizations that contribute to the rich quality of life enjoyed by residents of Columbus and surrounding communities.

*The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is a public, not-for-profit corporation supported by private donations, the Columbus Area Arts Council, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

*“The Shigeru Kawai piano is unsurpassed in its craftsmanship and beauty of tone.”*

Earl Wild  
Legendary Pianist

-XXXX-