

## MUSIC BOXES WAITING TO BE OPENED



Daniel Griesemer | The Jambar

▲ Truck shipments of Steinway upright pianos rolled on to campus Monday, filling the stage of Ford Theater in Bliss Hall with instruments. The 68 pianos, valued at approximately \$837,000, will be dispersed among classrooms, practice rooms and faculty studios at the Dana School of Music.

# YSU joins “All-Steinway” elite

*Youngstown is the first public university in Ohio to exclusively use the world-famous piano brand*

DANIEL GRIESEMER | *The Jambar*

The room was silent as Gloria Oltmanns, piano professor, sat down at one of Youngstown State University’s new Steinway grand pianos in the lobby of Bliss Hall. A slight smile crossed her lips as her fingers glanced across the top of the keys, and then, with the nod of her head, the room was filled with the opening notes of Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata.

The performance capped off the celebration of the delivery of 68 new Steinway pianos to the Dana School of Music, making YSU the first Ohio public university to be designated as an “All-Steinway School,” and adding the university to the ranks of only 40 music schools worldwide who hold this distinction.

“Pianos are at the very foundation of music making,” Michael Crist, chair of the Dana School of Music, noted. “A Steinway is the best made piano in the world. Our students will

be playing the best pianos money can buy when they play a Steinway.”

With a total price tag of approximately \$837,000, the instruments will be placed in classrooms, practice rooms and faculty studios throughout the Dana School of Music to be utilized by the department’s 310 students and 41 faculty members. The final cost of the lease-purchase agreement to the university, after deductions from piano trade-ins, will be approximately \$685,000. The tab will be paid for primarily through student fees, as well as \$50,000 in private donations.

George McCloud, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, said that the purchasing of the pianos was not only an investment into the future of the college, but also signifies a long term commitment by the university to maintaining a level of quality in the education of its students.

Dana faculty and administrators also said that they believe the pianos  
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▲ Gloria Oltmanns, a piano professor in the Dana School of Music, played an excerpt from Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata during Monday’s press conference to demonstrate the piano’s capabilities.

# YSU one of only 40 “All-Steinway” schools

## PIANOS

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will serve as an important tool in recruiting new students to the school of music and will reaffirm the status of the program as one of the top music programs in the nation.

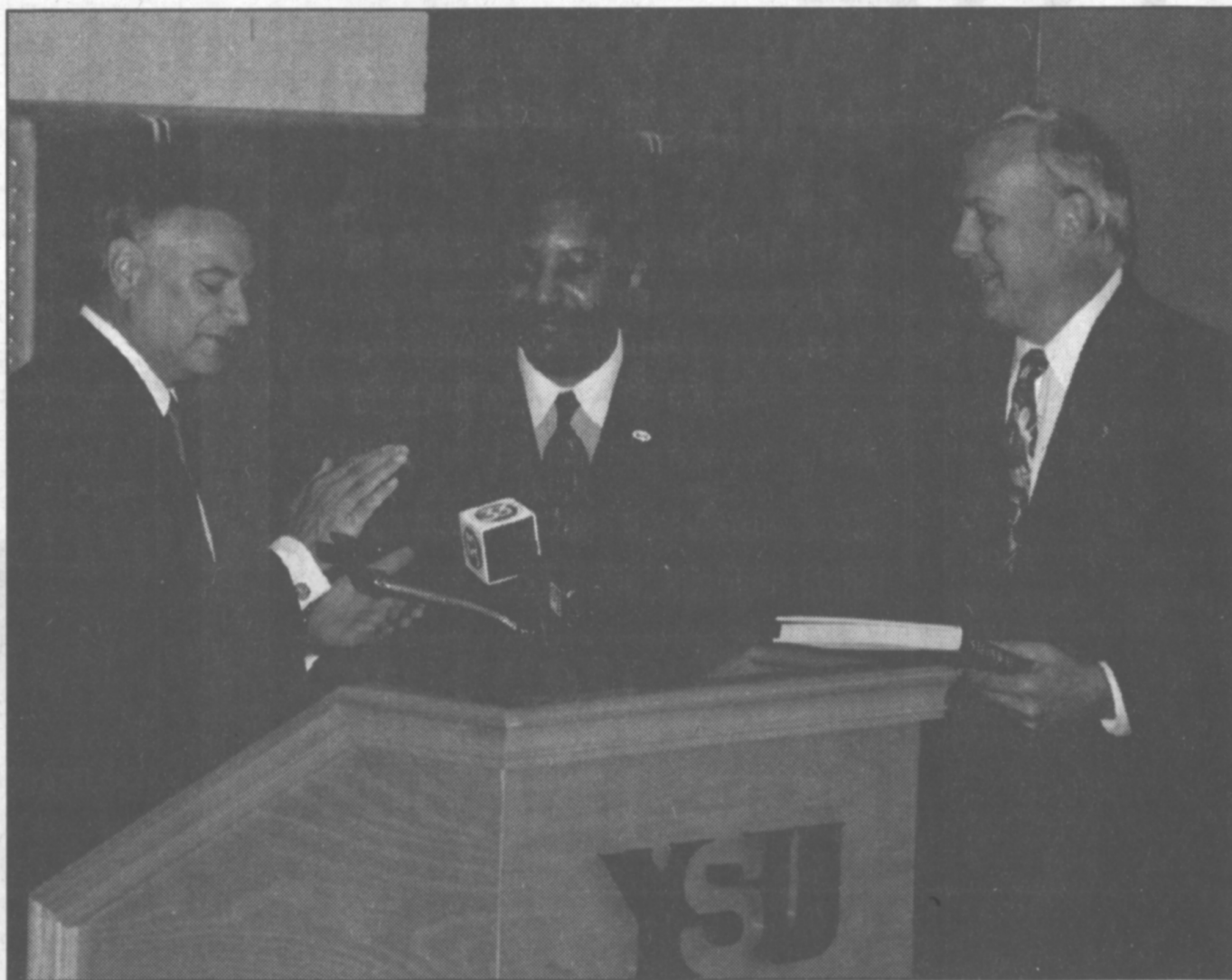
Along with the 68 new pianos, ten Steinways currently owned by the college will be refurbished. The pianos will replace the 92 instruments currently used by the school, which are about 35 years old on average. Some of the instruments not being traded in will be made available for purchase to the public.

McCloud also praised Oltmanns for her dedication to the project, and stated that the delivery of the pianos marks the realization of a goal that she conceptualized three years ago.

Oltmanns said that the name “Steinway” carries with it a unique distinction in the music industry, and signifies an unprecedented level of quality, reliability and international class. She also stated her hopes that both the old and new Steinways will enhance the education of Dana School students.

“Steinways provide an infinite array of options to a musician,” said Oltmanns. “The difference is comparable to taking a student who has a paint set with only 10 colors in it, then sending him into a paint store and telling them ‘Take all the colors you want. Take whatever suits you. Take them all.’ There are just so many different tonal qualities you can produce on a Steinway.”

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▲ University Provost Tony Atwater (center) and Dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts George McCloud (right) received commemorative books during Monday’s reception from Raymond Rotunda (left), senior district manager for Steinway and Sons. The books showcase Steinway instruments and document the history of the 150-year-old company.