

SOUTH SURREY / *Italian maker visits residence with player-piano system*

Concert in Surrey welcomes Fazioli and his \$275K piano

Some musical-instrument royalty arrived in South Surrey for a special concert at a posh new home.

Tom **ZILLICH**
Staff Reporter

A “mini-concert” on Indian Fort Drive was arranged Monday evening to officially welcome a \$275,000 Fazioli piano to the residence, with Italian maker Paolo Fazioli in the house for the invite-only event.

Handmade, high-end Fazioli grand pianos are considered by many musicians to be best in the world.

“It’s so beautiful, such a treat playing an instrument like this – like driving an amazing Ferrari (car) on the freeway,” said Surrey-based musician Miles Black as he effortlessly fingered jazzy riffs.

“You can just get so much music out of it, and it will do anything you want it to, quiet or loud.”

For a few moments, Fazioli joined Black on the piano for a bluesy duet. Later



PAOLO FAZIOLI

in the evening, concert pianist Daniel Chow entertained guests, many of them Fazioli owners themselves.

“People say our pianos are the best in the world, and that makes me happy, makes me proud,” Fazioli told the *Now*. “It means we are doing good work.”

Owners of the home don’t play the instrument, so a computerized player-piano system was installed in recent weeks.

“It’s so amazing what they have here,” said Manuel Bernaschek, who manages Showcase Pianos, a Vancouver-based dealer of the instruments.

Some inner parts of the gloss-black instrument are gold-plated – which sounds a little over-the-top at first, but it’s done to



Paolo Fazioli (middle) describes the functions of one of his \$275,000 instruments to Richard Kurth (right), director of UBC School of Music, at a Surrey home Monday night, as Miles Black plays the piano.

PHOTO/Tom Zillich

prevent corrosion, common with pianos, Bernaschek said. Rare wood is also used.

The Fazioli company was founded three decades ago. Today, the factory in Italy produces 110 pianos yearly with the help of about 40 employees.

Founder of the business, Fazioli flew to Canada with his son, Luca, 22, for a few days of special events, including a suite-dedication in his honour at Vancouver’s Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel. There, a Fazioli worth close to \$225,000 sits in the lobby – where Black will perform with Dan Brubeck Quartet this weekend (Jan. 21 and 22).

Fazioli said he likes to visit places where his prized pianos end up, after they’ve left the factory.

“I like to hear them where they live now – in the concert hall or school, a home, wherever it lives,” he said. “It is a special occasion whenever I visit one of our pianos in another country, and it’s feedback for me.”

“It is important to understand the quality and perhaps make it better in the future – like this one here. This is a big room for the piano, a very nice house. It looks good.”

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