

FAZIOLI

The History

www.fazioli.com



1944-1977



The FAZIOLI family in 1947

Paolo Fazioli was born in Rome in 1944, into a family of furniture makers. From a very early age he demonstrated a gift for music and a keen interest in the piano.

He consequently started taking piano lessons and continued his piano studies thorough his high school and university years, during which he developed a keen interest in the piano construction technology, broadening his knowledge by visiting manufacturing and restoration workshops and reading the most authoritative literature on the subject.

In 1969, he graduated from the University of Rome with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and in 1971 he received a degree in piano performance from the G. Rossini Conservatory in Pesaro, under the guidance of Maestro Sergio Cafaro. At the same time, he earned a Master's degree in Music Composition at the St Cecilia Academy in Rome, where he studied under the composer Boris Porena.

In the meantime, his elder brothers took over the family business, manufacturing office furniture and exporting it throughout the world under the brand of MIM (Mobili Italiani Moderni).

The Turin factory specialised in the production of metal furniture, while the Sacile factory (in the province of Pordenone) manufactured wood furniture using rare and exotic woods such as teak, mahogany and rosewood.

1944-1977



1971, Paolo Fazioli's graduation concert at the Conservatory in Pesaro

Paolo Fazioli joined the company after graduation, honing his management skills as a production planning manager first in Rome and then at the Turin factory, while at the same time developing his expertise in wood processing.

However, he soon left the family business in order to pursue his dream of designing and building new pianos. He began by devoting himself to the in-depth study of contemporary grand piano production, analysing their structure and performance while consulting researchers and experts in the field.

His family, and particularly his eldest brother Virgilio, who was an expert in wood technology, were hugely supportive, providing him with the support needed to carry out research, development and production.

During this initial phase, Paolo Fazioli defined the basic features of the piano he wanted to build. He was convinced that, by introducing a number of design changes based on the latest research in acoustics and material development, he would be able to build an innovative and superior instrument.

1978-1981



Paolo Fazioli, Lino Tiveron, Pietro Righini (the first steps)

At the end of the 1970s, Paolo Fazioli's expertise in traditional piano manufacturing, coupled with his research, experience and creativity, finally brought about the establishment of a new business. The Fazioli Piano Factory was established within the Sacile furniture plant, about 40 miles north of Venice.

This choice of location fulfilled a number of organisational and production needs: materials were close to hand, as were research and analysis laboratories and, most importantly, specialised craftsmen.

In 1979, he started designing his first prototype for a baby grand piano. He was assisted by a small team consisting of Professor Pietro Righini, an expert in musical acoustics, and Professor Guglielmo Giordano, an eminent wood technologist, as well as Virgilio Fazioli and Lino Tiveron.

The prototype of the F183 model was completed in June 1980, followed at the end of the year by the prototypes of two other models, the F156 and the F278.

1978-1981



In January 1981, Fazioli Pianoforti srl was officially incorporated. The prototypes of the models F183, F156 and F278 were presented to the press and trade professionals. Participants to the press conference included the renowned musicologist Piero Rattalino, in addition to professors Giordano and Righini.

In February, the same pianos were exhibited at the Frankfurt Musikmesse, where the presence of an Italian piano-maker created something of a sensation.

In the second half of that year, work began on the prototype of the F228 model.

In the meantime, pianist Nikita Magalof accepted an invitation to visit the Sacile factory and successfully performed in concert on a F278 concert grand piano.



Above: Frankfurt, Germany, 1981, Musikmesse

Below: Sacile, 1981, Nikita Magaloff, concert on Fazioli piano

1982-1986



In February 1982 all four models - the F156, F183, F228 and F278 - were exhibited at the Frankfurt Musikmesse.

The production area within the MIM factory was expanded to reach 600 square metres, thus increasing production to 2 pianos a month.

In 1983, the company began collaborating with Zeltron (Zanussi Institute for Research) with the aim of studying and further improving tonal quality. The company started reaping the first artistic successes: in 1984 and 1985, when renowned pianists like Aldo Ciccolini, Alfred Brendel, Martha Argerich, Vladimir Aschkenazy, Lazar Berman, Nikita Magaloff, Michel Beroff, Annie Fischer, Louis Lortie and many others started to play on Fazioli pianos. A number of important concert halls purchased the F278 concert grand and the firm started exporting to major European countries and the United States.



The demand for an instrument having even greater power and richness of tone, to be used in large concert halls, inspired the concept of the F308 model, which is still the longest piano available on the market. Alongside this project, work began on a new model to complement the existing line, the medium-size F212 with a length of 212 cm.

Above: Frankfurt, Germany, 1982, Musikmesse

Below: Milan, Teatro alla Scala 1985, Aldo Ciccolini

1987-1993



The prototype of the first F308 received its first public performance in 1987, at the Teatro Comunale in Monfalcone, with French pianist François Joël Thioller performing both Tchaikovsky piano concertos.

Later that year, Lazar Berman used the F308 piano at Carnegie Hall to perform Liszt's Second Concerto. Murray Perahia also requested the same model for his concert at the Teatro Goldoni in Venice.

Toward the end of the year, Alfred Brendel chose the Fazioli pianos for his Italian tour.

The cooperation with the Zanussi R&D Centre led to the optimisation of the entire product line: the six improved models (F156, F183, F212, F228, F278, F308), which today still represent the entire Fazioli range, were showcased at the 1988 edition of the Frankfurt Musikmesse.

Following the expansion of the production area inside the MIM factory, as well as the introduction of modern technology, output hit 6 units per month in this period.



Above: 1987, new model F308 prototype

Below: 1987, Alfred Brendel on the F308 for his tour

1994-1996



In 1994, Fazioli Pianoforti exhibited at the NAMM show in Anaheim, California for the first time, thus consolidating its position in the North American market.

In the same year, the company displayed at MUSIC CHINA in Shanghai, thus opening the way to success in the Far East.

A concert grand piano was installed in the Sydney Town Hall in Australia and its debut performance featured a concert attended by Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating. Fazioli pianos were also chosen for the Gina Bachauer Piano Competition in Salt Lake City, USA.

In 1995, the F308 model was unveiled at the NAMM Show and subsequently used for concerts in Los Angeles and Salt Lake City. In June, the F308 model was presented in China, leading to the purchase of one of these instruments by the Beijing Conservatory.

In 1996, a Fazioli was chosen for concerts in the Wiener Musikvereinshalle by Ingeborg Baldaszi, Markus Schirmer, Jasminka Stancul and Elisabeth Leonskaya.

The unique Brunei concert grand was built to order for the Sultan of Brunei, featuring inlays of precious stones, mother of pearl and exotic woods. In addition to standard black instruments, the company developed a series of special art case models to cater to its most exacting customers.



Above: Anaheim, Los Angeles, 1994, NAMM Show

Below: Shanghai, Music China

1997-2000



In 1997, Fazioli pianos were used for the first time at Umbria Jazz, one of the world's most renowned jazz festivals, both for the summer edition in Perugia and the winter companion festival in Orvieto. Through Umbria Jazz, a number of eminent jazz artists have since become admirers of Fazioli pianos, including Herbie Hancock, Martial Solal, Brad Mehldau, Chucho Valdez, Michel Camilo, Uri Caine, Kenny Barron, Stefano Bollani, Enrico Pieranunzi, Danilo Rea etc.

In 1998, the company purchased an area of approximately 14,000 m² next to the existing factory, leading to the construction of a new plant capable of producing approximately 150 instruments per year. The new facility includes a laboratory for acoustic research and a concert hall where new instruments can be tested.



Above: Umbria Jazz, 1997

Below: Sacile, 1999, the Fazioli staff and works for the new factory

2001-2003



In 2001, the new factory was finally opened. Production edged closer to the target of 100 pianos per year.

The company's relationship with pianist Angela Hewitt became even more productive in 2003, when the artist began requesting Fazioli pianos for her world concert tours.

In May, Louis Lortie used a Fazioli grand piano to perform a recital in place of Maurizio Pollini at the Carnegie Hall in New York, earning glowing reviews.

In the same year, The Economist reported that "some artists believe that Fazioli now makes the best pianos in the world".

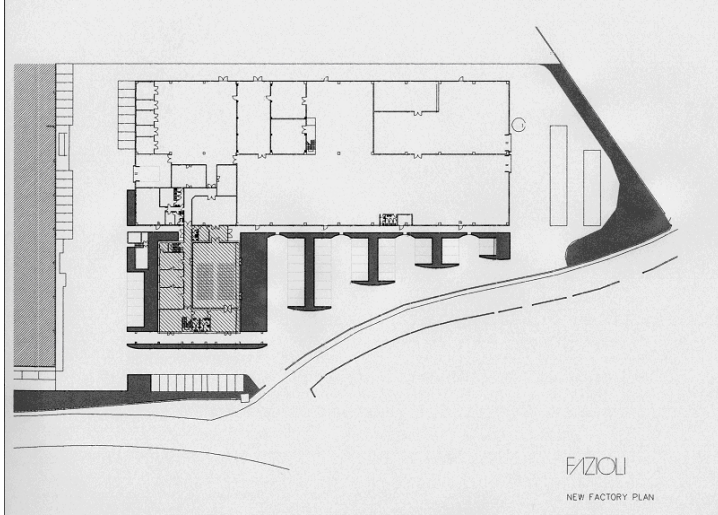


In September 2003, on the occasion of a memorial ceremony for the victims of the September 11 attacks in New York, 21 Fazioli pianos were used for the world premiere of "Sinfonia per 21 Pianoforti" by the Italian composer and pianist Daniele Lombardi.

Above: Angela Hewitt

Below: New York, Ground Zero, 2003, concert for 21 pianos Fazioli in memory of the 9/11's victims

2004-2006



In 2004, large orders were placed and production finally exceeded the 100 units. That same year, the company moved to its new offices and the Fazioli Concert Hall was completed.

Equipped with variable acoustic devices, the hall is ideal for instrument testing, concerts and recordings.

The Fazioli Concert Hall first Concert Season was opened by Aldo Ciccolini, playing the instrument still standing in the hall to this day: the F278 concert grand piano, nicknamed "Wizard Merlin".

In November 2006, the company celebrated its 25th year in business with a ceremony attended by dealers, staff and a number of the most devoted pianists.



Above: 2004, Map of the factory at that time

Below: Opening of the Fazioli Concert Hall

2007-2010



The cooperation with prestigious universities on research and development projects is testament to the company's continuous commitment to quality and the improvement of its products.

The famous Juilliard School, New York - among the most important institutions in the world for high level musical training - broke the monopoly that had been bonding the institution with another historic brand for more than 80 years by purchasing a Fazioli concert grand.

In October 2010, FAZIOLI was on stage for the very first time at the Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. Daniil Trifonov played the FAZIOLI piano in all rounds and was awarded the 3rd prize.



Above: Juilliard School: Sujatri Reisinger (fazioli collaborator in NYC), Veda Kaplinsky (piano teacher at Juilliard School), Paolo Fazioli

Below: Warsaw, Chopin Competition, Daniil Trifonov

2011-2016



Since 2011, FAZIOLI has been taking part in the Artur Rubinstein Piano Competition in Tel Aviv: at the 2011 edition, 5 out of 6 finalists preferred the Italian instrument over the two piano brands at their disposal.

At the Liszt Competition in Utrecht, feat. 3 different piano brands, 4 out of 23 contestants chose FAZIOLI. Among them, second-prize winner Peter Klimo and finalist Manjie Han, who switched to the FAZIOLI F308 for the final concerto, getting the third prize and the audience prize. FAZIOLI pianos also gathered great success at the Chopin National Competition for USA, in Miami, Florida.

The Fazioli piano is now present at the most prestigious piano competitions, including the Honens in Calgary and the Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia where, in July 2016, the Fazioli concert grand received unanimous praise.

Expansion works were completed in 2016 with the aim of doubling the surface of the existing FAZIOLI manufacturing facilities, and will go on to include a showroom and a new area devoted to cultural activities. It is estimated that the company will reach the production of 150-170 pianos a year, but always pursuing an artisanal approach to the manufacturing process and aiming at uncompromised quality.



Above: Tel Aviv, Arthur Rubinstein Competition, Antonii Baryshevskiy

Below: Sydney, SIPCA, Jianing Kong

2017



In May 2017, it was with great pride that the company saw all three finalists of the Artur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv, who chose to perform every round on FAZIOLI, being awarded a number of prizes. Indeed, the first prize went to 21-year-old Polish pianist Szymon Nehring and 25-year-old Rumanian pianist Daniel Ciobanu was awarded the second prize, while 28-year-old finalist Yevgeny Yontov received the Best Israeli Pianist and Best Chamber Music Performance Prizes.

In September 2017, the Fazioli piano was chosen by all finalists of the Scottish International Piano Competition in Glasgow - Can Cakmur, Florian Mitrea and Luka Okros - for the final concerto performance, the only round of the competition where contestants were asked to select the instrument.



Also the final of the International Piano Competition "Halina-Czerny Stefańska" in memoriam, which took place in September 2017 in Poznań, registered a new success for FAZIOLI. During the three rounds of the competition, contestants were asked to select their instrument among four piano brands. Eight were the candidates admitted to the final, three of which had chosen to perform on Fazioli since the first round of the competition. Among them, the first and third prizewinners Krzysztof Książek and Michał Dzewior.

Above: Tel Aviv, Arthur Rubinstein Competition, Szymon Nehring

Below: Glasgow, Scottish International Piano Competition, Can Cakmur

2018-2019



At the Honens International Piano Competition, 7 out of 10 semifinalists chose to play Fazioli in at least 1 of the 4 rounds of the competition. 2 out of 3 finalists (Han Chen and Llewellyn Sanchez Werner) performed their piano concerto with orchestra on the F278.

Composer and pianist Daniil Trifonov played an extraordinary Chopin-inspired programme at the prestigious Verbier Festival (Switzerland). His recital was live streamed on "Medici TV" and followed by a huge number of fans from all over the world.

In Verbier, an audience of 2000 people acclaimed this outstanding Artist, who requested to perform his two most anticipated concerts at the Festival on a Fazioli concert grand, as well as his chamber music performance including the world premiere of his new Quintetto Concertante for piano and strings.



A Fazioli F183 is featured in the new short film by Deutsche Grammophon where Trifonov plays a 19th-century "stowaway" who steals aboard a deserted train and dreams of playing the opening movement of Rachmaninov's Fourth Piano Concerto on a real piano as the train makes its way through the breathtaking landscapes of the Colorado Rockies.

Above: Daniil Trifonov in Verbier, 29-30 July 2018

Below: A picture from the set of the short Film «Rachmaninov Departure»

2020



In March-April 2020, thanks to the modern wide and healthy spaces of the FAZIOLI factory, the Company managed to undergo only a 3-weeks long lockdown during the covid-19 emergency first phase, with all collaborators and managers always in perfect health. It's now time to face the big challenge of restarting. FAZIOLI have always meant to handcraft pianos individually, in the name of quality, in limited quantity, respecting the environment and all the resources involved in the process. This crisis shows us that we need to go back to "human" rhythms, respecting values and implementing ethical behaviors.

With all the concert activities suspended worldwide due to the pandemic, the most beautiful and passionate part of the Company mission - putting pianos at Artists' service - has been reduced. Therefore, FAZIOLI meant to do its part by providing a "virtual box" able to gather the video contributions that come from the international community of Fazioli customers. Twice a week, the FAZIOLI social media channels have been sharing the "Fazioli@Home" contributions generously sent by our friends worldwide, either professional or amateur pianists. They are now collected in a special playlist within the Fazioli official YouTube channel.



Above: Wooden department within the Fazioli factory

Below: Cover of Angela Hewitt's video for Fazioli @ Home

2021



The uncertainties of the ongoing global pandemic into 2021 and the mandatory safety restrictions on public gatherings, travel and international borders have all made it impossible to proceed with planning live competitions. Still, the most important organizations have been putting all their efforts to continue in their mission in favour of Culture and Art.

Consequently, FAZIOLI has given its technical partnership in particular to Competitions, like the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master and the Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia, also by providing pianos and venues for the video recordings in order to match the new online formats and rules.

The new book by Rizzoli dedicated to the FAZIOLI history has been released. The international edition in English will be available starting from October 2021. The book, with texts by music critic Sandro Cappelletto, reconstructs the story of Paolo Fazioli who, moved by unwavering passion and determination, realized his dream of building pianos. The fascinating journey, interwoven with anecdotes and stories, encounters and precious memories, is accompanied by countless images and enriched by the vivid contributions of artist friends.



Above: Video recording in New York for The Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master

Below: Cover of DAL SOGNO AL SUONO, the new book about FAZIOLI (Rizzoli)

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