

Yamaha Chosen for the Pope



Pope Benedict XVI

According to reports in the Australian news media, Pope Benedict XVI relaxed after a long trip to Sydney Australia by playing a Yamaha baby grand piano, purchased for his visit by his hosts, the Opus Dei organization.

The 81 year old Pope undertook the strenuous 20 flight form Vatican City to Sydney Australia to participate in the World Youth Day activities organized by the Catholic church. An estimated 200,000 young pilgrims from around the globe gathered in Sydney to celebrate their religion together in mass marches and other events.

Sydney isn't the only place the Pontif plays on a Yamaha. According to USA Today, the Embassy of the Vatican keeps a Yamaha baby grand piano in one of their reception rooms for use by the Pope when he visits Washington DC.

The Pope is the leader of the Roman Catholic Church and the current (265th) pope is the German Benedict XVI. In addition to his spiritual role, the pope is Head of State of the independent sovereign state of the Vatican City, and before 1870, the pope's authority extended over a large area of central Italy. For over a thousand years, popes played powerful political roles in Western Europe, but modern popes have come to focus almost exclusively on spiritual matters. (source: Wikipedia)

Throughout history, Popes have been known for very different hobbies and interests. Pope Leo XIII for instance was said to shoot pigeons from the windows of the Vatican—a strange hobby for God's envoy on earth!

Benedict though, has a passion for classical music and is an accomplished pianist. The Pontiff's favorite composer is Mozart: "His music is by no means just entertainment; it contains the whole tragedy of human existence". Benedict also stated that Mozart's music affected him greatly as a young man and "deeply penetrated his soul".

<http://www.vatican.va/>