

Dmytro Onyshchenko →

Yamaha Visitors Centre staff ↓



Final Concert in GP Factory

Prior to performing a concert at Ryuyo Isada Hall of Iwata City in Shizuoka Prefecture, Ukrainian piano virtuoso Dmytro Onyshchenko paid a visit to Yamaha's Hamamatsu Grand Piano factory where he gave a farewell performance in the piano selection area, the day before we ended all tours of the facility.

Both the Visitors' Center, and factory tours are now closed as we move our grand piano production to a brand new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Kakegawa (two cities away). The move is part of Yamaha Piano's ambitious plant unification project, and it is the culmination of many years of meticulous planning.

Dmytro played on the piano used by Sviatoslav Richter towards the end of his career, and the audience was comprised of employees from various divisions of Yamaha, including the staff who have been guiding the immensely popular piano factory tours.

His concert was an outstanding 'sayonara' to the long walls lined with photos of hundreds of legendary pianists who have visited the facility over the past 45 years since it opened in 1964.

Though closing the facility, and this chapter in Yamaha history, is a little sad, it is also exciting as we move into a new era of Yamaha grand pianos.

The grand piano factory tours are planned to start again around September, 2010 at the Kakegawa plant.

Dmytro Onyshchenko was born in Lviv in Ukraine in 1983. He stunned the music world by winning the Fifth Prize at The International Tchaikovsky Competition at just age 19 in 2002. And later won the Top Prize at National Lyssenko Piano Competition in Kiev in 2007.

Dmytro was thrilled at the chance to play the same piano that Maestro Richter used on his final tour of Japan, and to be giving the swan song performance in a building where so many of the world's greatest pianists had also played.

For more information on the new home of Yamaha Grand Pianos, visit <http://www.yamaha.co.jp/english/product/piano/kakegawa/index.html>

We welcome your advice or comments. Contact us at roger_manners@gmx.yamaha.com