

# Steinway Pianos and Jan Zander Pens Make Beautiful Music

On June 24, piano makers Steinway & Sons announced the Masterpiece 8x8 collection, an homage to Earth's most precious woods. Steinway & Sons was founded in Hamburg, Germany in 1853, and since then, the company has set the standard for concert-level pianos.

The Steinway & Sons Masterpiece 8x8 collection comprises eight grand and eight upright pianos in eight different precious woods: American walnut, eucalyptus, figured macore, figured sycamore, Macassar ebony, oak, olive, and Santos rosewood. Each piano is hand-crafted in Steinway's Hamburg facility and features the company's trademark hand veneering. Each piano is finished with a precious pearl.

Steinway & Sons Europe President Guido Zimmermann says, "Each piano has a unique sound and rich quality. By using the world's most precious woods for this limited collection, we bring the personality of the wood type to life in a precious and subtle way that honors this natural material."

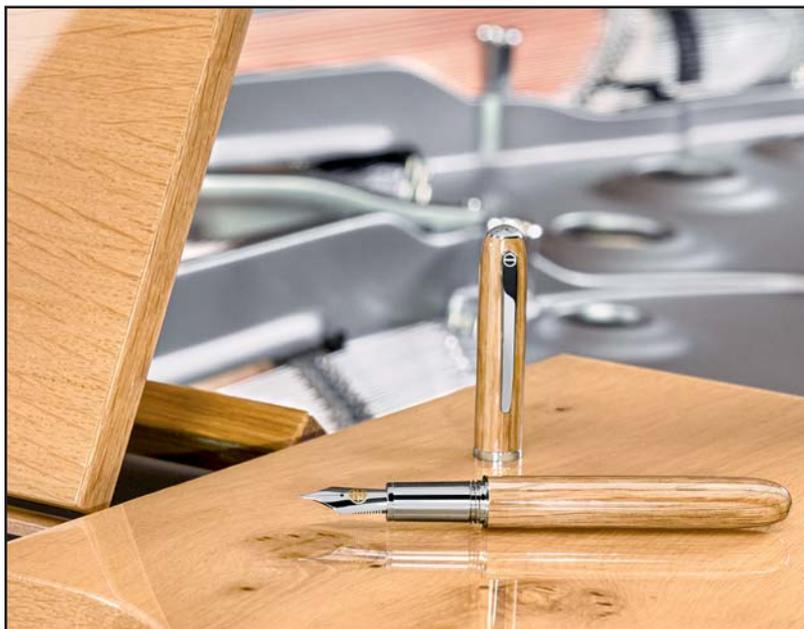
As a bonus, each purchaser of one of these limited edition pianos also receives a hand-made writing instrument by Hamburg native and Montblanc former lead pen designer Jan Zander, who now produces writing instruments under his own brand, the Jan Zander Design Studio.

Zander met Zimmermann personally through his prior work with Montblanc. When Zimmermann read of Zander's embarkation into self-employment in a newspaper article, he contacted the pen maker about crafting these exclusive pens.

"A piano and a writing instrument have more in common than you might think. Playing and writing stimulate creative processes, feelings, and precision that have a lot to do with yourself," Zander says. "The model for the design was of course the piano itself. The body should be strong and round at the same time."

Each fountain pen or rollerball is made from the same precious wood as the corresponding piano and in a matching veneer. The rounded bodies are matched to chrome-plated accents including a pen clip that is a subtle tribute to the screw clamp used in Steinway-patented wood-bending machines that create the iconic shape of Steinway grand piano rims.

Zander says, "I am very proud of this joint project with Steinway. The value of a Steinway piano comes from the highest quality in manufacturing, in the precision of the function, and the uniqueness of these woods. All this I hope to have achieved with my writing instruments."



From top—Steinway & Sons Masterpiece 8x8 grand piano in oak and matching Jan Zander Design fountain pen; Steinway Europe President Guido Zimmermann and Jan Zander.



From left—Jan Zander Design Studio fountain pens for the Steinway & Sons Masterpiece 8x8 piano collection in wood bodies of Macassar ebony, olive, American walnut, figured sycamore, figured macore, Santos rosewood, oak, and eucalyptus.

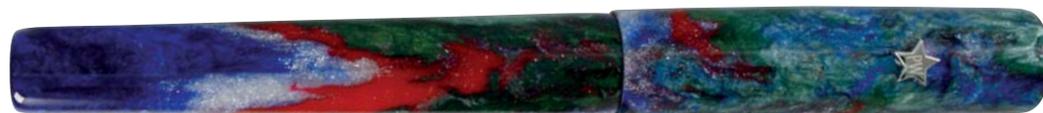
The historical connection between pianos and writing instruments—especially fountain pens—is long and storied. For example, double-slitted music nibs were—and still are—used by composers in musical notation. The partnership between Steinway & Sons and Jan Zander Design Studio is another line of melody in this centuries-long partnership between music and writing.

Visit [janzanderdesign.com](http://janzanderdesign.com) and [steinway.com](http://steinway.com).



## Pen World Bluebonnet Fountain Pen

The Pen World Bluebonnet fountain pen is a collaboration with Texas-based Hinze Pen Company. The acrylic body of this threaded, postable fountain pen is inspired by the stunning landscapes of Texas. The swirling purple-blue body with hints of crimson and green is a reflection of Texas in the springtime when highways are lined by striking blue-purple Texas bluebonnets that bloom through the central Hill Country, complemented by lush green stalks and the bright red petals of Indian Paintbrush wildflowers, which so often bloom alongside the Bluebonnet. The sterling silver Lone Star roll-stop is a tribute to the Texas Lone Star flag and is finished with a brilliant red medium nib.



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