

News Release



Elton John Piano Finds New Home in Calgary's Cantos Music Foundation

Calgary, AB - The piano used by the iconic song-writing duo of Elton John and Bernie Taupin was unveiled today as the latest addition to the world-class Cantos Music Foundation instrument collection in Calgary.

“Sir Elton John is both a legend and a consummate piano player, making his piano an extremely exciting addition to the Cantos Collection,” says Andrew Mosker of Cantos Music Foundation. “Elton John’s total record sales now rank third in history, behind only the Beatles and Elvis Presley, making it clear that this piano is an important piece of popular culture and will be a much cherished addition to the Cantos Collection.”

The piano, which is pictured on the back of the American version of the Empty Sky album, was unveiled today after serving the requisite week in Cantos’ quarantine and workshop facility. It had previously been displayed in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, and was donated to Cantos by an anonymous donor who purchased it at a public auction in Texas on April 17, 2004 for \$225,000 CAN (\$164,500 US).

Elton John’s piano was built ca. 1910 in England and served as the primary vehicle to compose his first five albums: “Empty Sky” (1969), “Elton John” (1970), “Tumbleweed Connection” (1970), “Mad Man Across the Water” (1971), and “Friends: The Soundtrack” (1971). Just some of the Elton John/Bernie Taupin songs written on this instrument include: “Your Song” (Elton’s signature song), Tiny Dancer, Mad Man Across the Water, Bad Side of the Moon and Levon.

Over the next four months the piano will undergo a conservative restoration in the Cantos workshop it will be viewable throughout the restoration process. Once it has been returned to playing condition by Cantos’ master instrument technicians, it will be permanently exhibited in the Cantos Gallery. The Cantos Gallery, located at 134 11th Avenue SE in Calgary, is open to the public for summer tours, Monday to Friday at 10am & 2pm, and weekends by appointment. For more information about Cantos visit www.cantos.ca

Cantos Music Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that strives to build better communities by connecting people through music. Cantos provides opportunities to engage with music through guided tours of the world-class Cantos collection of historic instruments and through specialty programs.

For more information: Andrew Mosker, Cantos Music Foundation - Office: 403-543-5126; Cell: 403-660-4551