

**14 September 2011**

**The Manchester Music Festival Offers Rare Steinway Grand Piano for Sale**

The Manchester Music Festival announced that it is offering a rare 1873 Steinway Style 1 6'10" grand piano for sale.

"This piano was part of the estate of the late June Bentley," said Ariel Rudiakov, MMF's artistic director. "Ms. Bentley's gift to the Festival was incredibly thoughtful and generous. If we had room for it, and if we had the funds to make it into a performance instrument, we would definitely keep it." In keeping with the spirit of the gift, MMF intends to utilize the funds raised from the sale to provide on-going maintenance and tuning of pianos used for performances, rehearsals, and educational efforts.

The Steinway has the original case parts, which are extraordinary, and superb ivory keys (unobtainable today). It features ornate, serpentine legs, carved music stand, and an ornamented rosewood body. Some of the action parts have been updated, which makes the instrument more playable than it was originally.

"This is more than just a piano," said Mr. Rudiakov. "It was part of the community, and if possible, the Festival would love to have it remain in the area. That is why we will advertise it only locally for a period of time. If we can't sell it for at least its appraised value – about \$8,000 – we will consign it to one of the major auction houses. We have been told that if it were to be completely restored, its value would be in the neighborhood of \$100,000."

Interested parties should contact the MMF office at 802-362-1956.