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Lifestyle Magazine For Consumers and Entrepreneurs

Michael Chau's
PIANO EMPORIUM

The "Tao" of his success

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Nov. / Dec. 2008 $4.99CAN

0 74450 02552 4

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The *Tao* of His Success

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Michael Chau, *Owner*

Upon entering the expansive and immaculate showroom of Michael Chau's Piano Emporium in Vaughan, one is greeted by the gleam of numerous pianos in various brand names, sizes, finishes, and ages. It is a truly breathtaking view to see the splendour of the beautiful classical instruments all lined up and showcased as if to invite the tinkling of the ivories. Although Michael Chau's Piano Emporium has only been in their new Vaughan location for the past 2 years (having moved from their downtown location of 30 years), the owner, Michael Chau, is definitely not new to the piano industry.

With over 38 years of experience in the piano industry, Chau has garnered much expertise and wisdom related to the anything and everything of pianos. A master refinisher, rebuilder, and technician, Chau is often sought out by clients and other technicians for his impressive skills. Well-known amongst his peers and loyal customers for his honesty, integrity, and friendly sense of humour, Chau is humble about his beginnings as well as his current success. "I immigrated to Canada with a limited education and limited finances, so I was determined to seek out a trade to learn and master. I was lucky to get my start as an assembly line worker with Mason & Risch in the late 1960's and from that point on, I was determined to learn all I could about pianos. After, I was even more fortunate to obtain an apprentice position with the Heintzman Piano Company under the guidance of Mr. Jim Moffat, the national service technical manager, and eventually became a shop foreman there. Next I became the shop foreman for Robert Lowry's Piano Experts. From there on, I started my own business from the Danforth to

Michael Chau's

PIANO EMPORIUM

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our new shop in Vaughan. I've been in business now for the past 32 years and I feel so fortunate to have the full support of my family, my loyal staff of many years, my peers, and my clients."

Chau has come a long way from being an assembly line worker; he has built a strong and impressive background in all aspects of the industry. In the past 32 years since becoming a proprietor, Chau's love, determination, and dedication in providing the best for his clientele is evident in the personal detail and attention he gives to each and every instrument in his store and in his care. He has won many awards and boasts a multitude of customer testimonials throughout his career.

Chau is grateful for the opportunities he has encountered and the knowledge he has gained since arriving to Canada 39 years ago from Trinidad. He has given his time to hosting classes and Master classes in his workshop with the Ontario Piano Technicians Guild but insists his career is still growing. Besides hosting classes, Chau often visits other factories and takes Master classes to further refine his skills. "Canada has been good to me and I am trying to give back to others by sharing and teaching the knowledge I have learnt from my many peers and from my many years of personal experience in the industry."

Nowadays, few piano stores have complete on-site workshops, and even fewer are family-run, Michael Chau's Piano Emporium hosts a comprehensive piano workshop along with a substantial grand piano showroom. Tours and up-close opportunities to observe the intricacies of piano rebuilding, refinishing, and tuning are always readily available from Chau himself – just look for this friendly piano technician in Vaughan. •