

# NOVUS

HYBRID PIANO

NV5

## *The true acoustic piano experience*

The Novus NV5 is the perfect blend of tradition and innovation. A stunning hybrid instrument that combines a full acoustic piano keyboard action and damper mechanism, with the latest digital sound and amplification technologies.

Designed for and tested by professional pianists, the NV5 provides the unmistakable feeling of playing a premium quality acoustic instrument, with all the practicality and convenience of a modern digital.

Introducing the Novus NV5 – a hybrid piano that delivers the true acoustic experience.





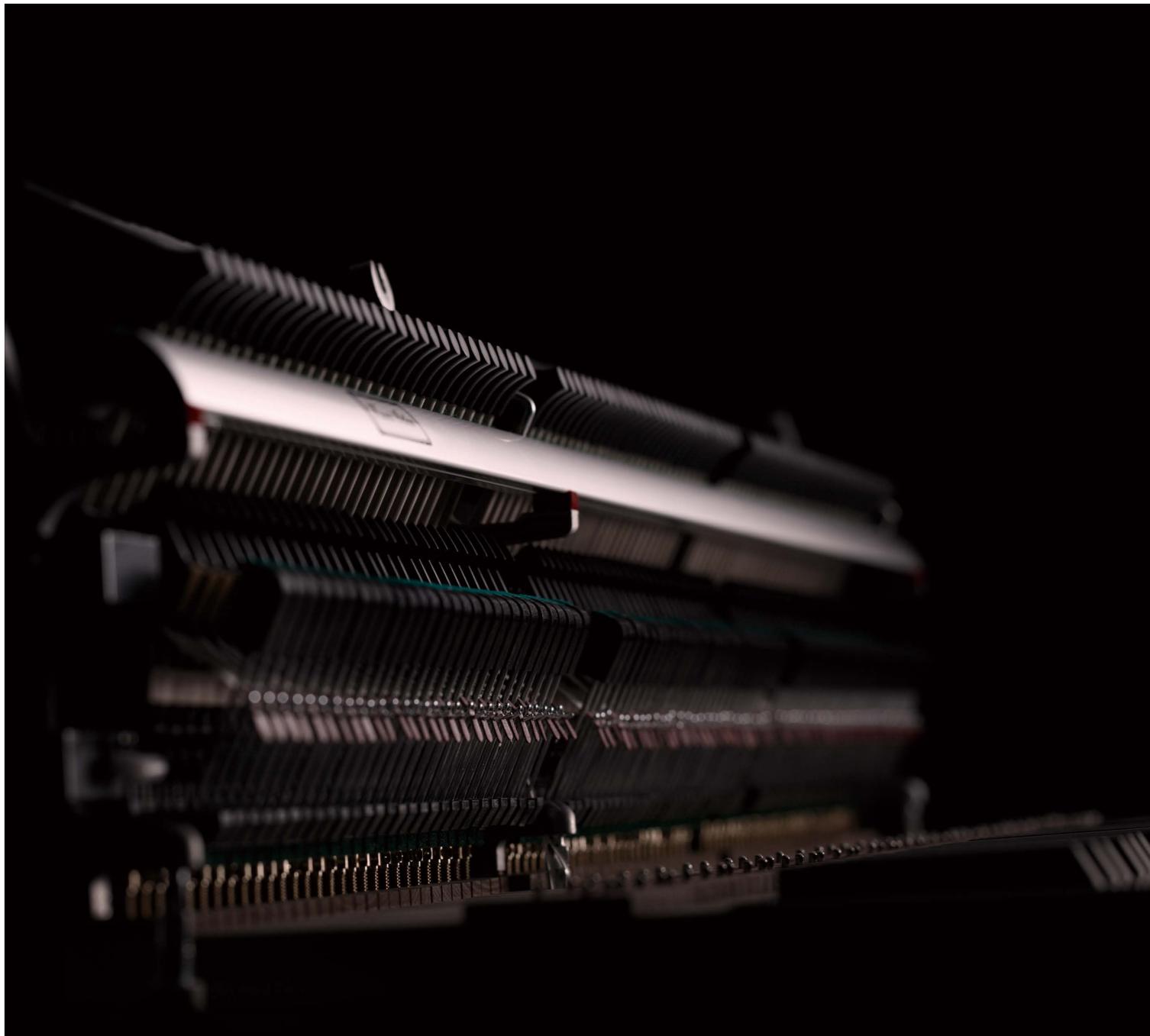
## *The touch of an acoustic piano*



### **A quest for perfection**

Koichi Kawai designed and built the first complete acoustic piano action in Japan in the early 1900s. In the decades that have followed, Kawai engineers continue to pursue the company founder's quest for perfection, pioneering the use of state-of-the-art materials and designs that advance the piano art form.

The *Millennium III* upright piano action found in today's Kawai 'K' series instruments exemplifies Koichi's philosophy. This highly-coveted action incorporates components produced using ABS Carbon, an extremely sturdy and rigid composite material that allows these action parts to be stronger, lighter, and faster than their conventional wooden counterparts. In addition, Kawai 'K' series upright pianos also utilise extended length key sticks, providing greater control and a more even response from the front to the back of the playing surface.



### **The future of the piano**

The *Millennium III Hybrid* action represents the latest milestone in Kawai's rich legacy of piano innovation, and serves as the centrepiece of the Novus NV5.

Based on the 'K' series' proven action design, *Millennium III Hybrid* retains the composite parts and extended key sticks of its acoustic cousin, while replacing the traditional felt hammers with individually-weighted ABS equivalents. As a hybrid piano, there are no metal strings inside the Novus for these hammers to physically strike when the keys are played, therefore their precise movements are instead captured using high-resolution optical sensors mounted over the action.

*Millennium III Hybrid* delivers all of the benefits of a premium Kawai upright piano action within a digital instrument. This feat of modern engineering allows pianists to enjoy the unmatched feeling of playing an acoustic piano, regardless of the time of day, or the size of their home.



### **Optimal expression**

The *Millennium III Hybrid* keyboard action comprises over 6,000 individual parts, each playing a crucial role in allowing the performer's fingertips to express feeling and emotion through music.

The Novus NV5's precision-engineered ABS hammers have been designed for structural stability and optimum keyboard touch-response. Each individual hammer is grade-weighted to mirror the heavier bass and lighter treble hammers of an acoustic piano, ensuring that the NV5's key touch-weight feels the same as a well-regulated acoustic instrument.

The precise movements of each hammer are measured using high-resolution optical sensors, providing greater accuracy than conventional key-based sensor systems. This more advanced approach closely reproduces the mechanical flow of an acoustic piano, and allows rapid pianissimo passages with mordents or trills to be performed with greater fluency.



### **Unprecedented realism**

The Novus NV5's beautiful chrome plated pedals are sourced from the same 'K' series instruments as the premium *Millennium III* keyboard action. Moreover, in addition to featuring a full acoustic piano action, the Novus NV5 also incorporates a real acoustic piano damper mechanism.

Again, there are no metal strings inside the Novus to require physical damping, as the instrument's sound is produced digitally. However, in order to reproduce every aspect of playing an acoustic piano, the NV5 retains the damper mechanism behind the keyboard action, replicating the extra load of traditional wood and felt parts, as the keys and pedal are pressed.

This innovation allows pianists to not only hear how the damper pedal affects the Novus' generated sound, but also feel the various mechanical interactions through their hands and feet. Such attention to detail is unprecedented in a digital instrument, and further reinforces the NV5's objective of delivering a true acoustic piano playing experience that is indistinguishable from the real thing.



*The sound of an acoustic piano*



#### **The premier piano of Japan**

The spirit of the Shigeru Kawai SK-EX concert grand piano is at the heart of the Novus NV5. Each world-class instrument is hand-crafted by Master Piano Artisans (MPAs), utilising the finest available materials to ensure optimum touch, tone, and artistic expression. Widely regarded as ‘the premier piano of Japan,’ the SK-EX graces the stages of concert halls and musical institutions around the globe, receiving universal acclaim for its magnificent tonal clarity and exceptional dynamic range.

Shigeru Kawai is also frequently provided for official selection at some of the world’s most prestigious music competitions, including the Hamamatsu International Piano Competition in Japan. At the 10<sup>th</sup> edition held in November 2018, three of the six grand finalists selected the SK-EX throughout the competition, including 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner Can Cakmur.



### **Naturally expressive sound**

In order to reproduce the stunning tonal qualities of the Shigeru Kawai concert grand piano digitally, the Novus NV5 incorporates Kawai's latest *SK-EX Rendering* technology. This advanced piano sound engine combines the well-established process of sampling with the modern approach of physical modelling, to produce a piano sound that is both rich in natural acoustic character, and dynamically responsive to the player's musical desires.

### **High performance delivery**

Developed in collaboration with Onkyo, one of Japan's leading premium audio equipment manufacturers, the NV5 features specialist filtering and amplification components designed for high-resolution sound reproduction. These technologies improve tonal clarity throughout the dynamic range, while helping to preserve the unique harmonic characteristics of the Shigeru Kawai piano.

Finally, this high-fidelity sound is delivered through the NV5's powerful speaker system, which combines Kawai's exclusive *TwinDrive* soundboard technology with six premium quality Onkyo speaker drivers. The result is a remarkably authentic playing experience that immerses the performer, and faithfully reproduces the tonal ambience of an acoustic piano.



## *The look of an acoustic piano*

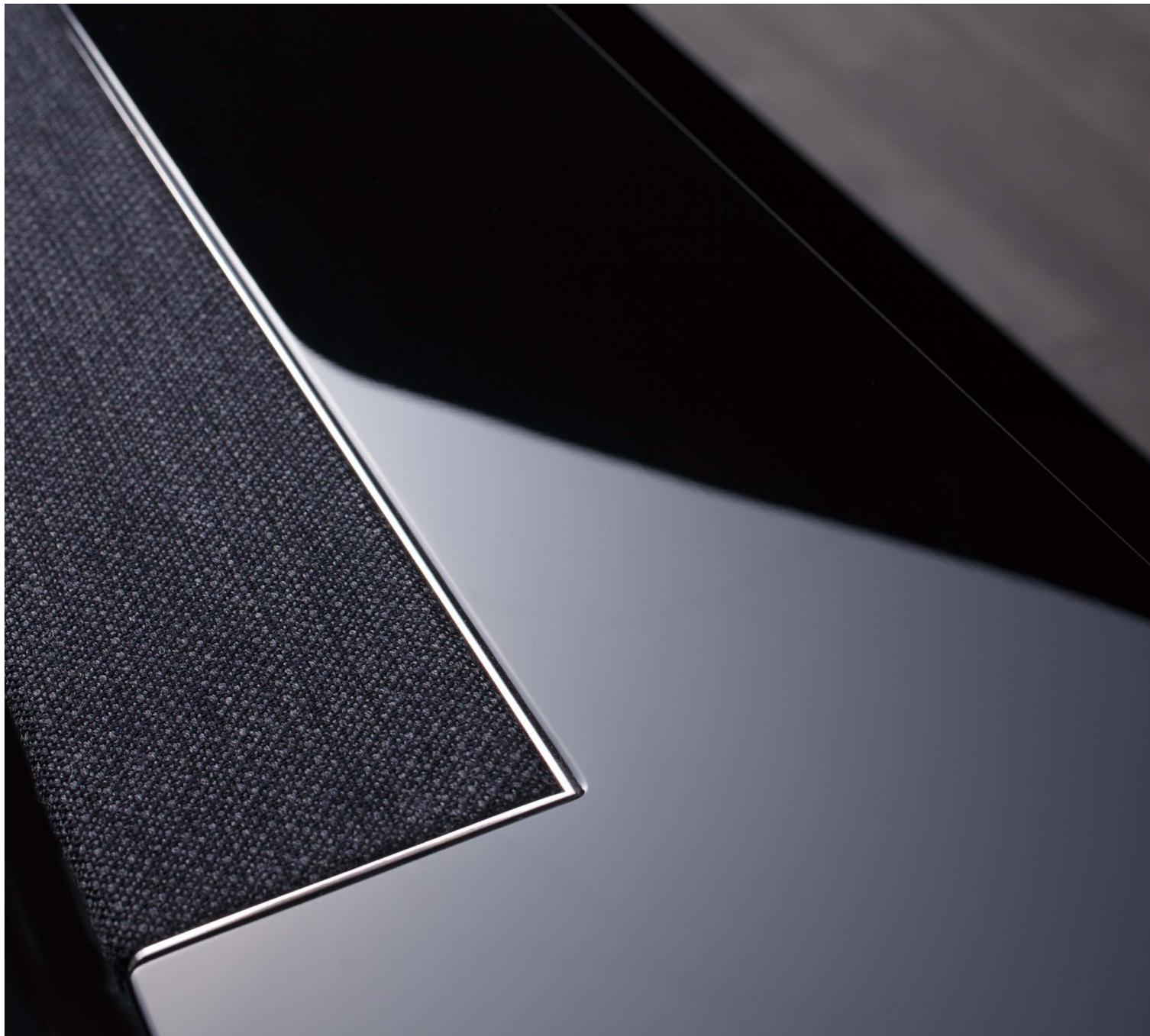


### **The modern acoustic**

The Novus NV5's stunning ebony polish cabinet is crafted in the same piano production facility as Kawai's 'K' series upright instruments, ensuring exceptional build quality and an immaculate mirror-like finish.

Its exterior appearance is undoubtedly inspired by classic piano design, thanks in part to the handsome fallboard and wide music rest, providing a sense of stability and reassurance when sitting at the instrument. However, this traditional character is refined and refreshed by the NV5's gently curved edge lines, elegantly tapered legs – free of the customary, weighty toe-blocks – and various other details that lift and modernise the instrument's presence.

Indeed, despite housing an acoustic piano keyboard action and damper mechanism, the NV5 is a remarkably compact instrument, occupying a depth of just 46 cm – far smaller than a conventional upright. This slim profile allows pianists to enjoy an authentic, acoustic piano playing experience, in confined spaces previously limited to a standard digital piano.



#### **Premium design detail**

The Novus NV5's upward facing topboard speakers project mid-range frequencies outward, closely reproducing the sound field of an acoustic piano. These speakers are protected from dust and other foreign objects by fabric created by esteemed Danish textile house, Kvadrat.

Established in 1968, with deep roots in Scandinavia's design tradition, Kvadrat is Europe's leading supplier of high-quality contemporary textiles, crafting beautiful and inspiring fabrics for some of the world's foremost architects, designers, and premium consumer brands.

The NV5's topboard speaker cover features an original Kvadrat material, customised to meet Kawai's specifications, with a woven mesh composition optimised for musical clarity and tonal projection. Its soft, dark-grey yarn with pearl-like highlights, contrasts with the lustrous sheen of the NV5's ebony polish cabinet, elevating this musical instrument to the level of a piece of fine furniture, destined to become the centrepiece of any room it occupies.



### **Digital piano convenience**

While the Novus NV5's core features are unquestionably derived from an acoustic piano, the instrument neatly incorporates various additional technologies that provide the modern conveniences of a premium digital piano.

These features are primarily controlled through the NV5's touchscreen LCD, which is discretely embedded within the instrument's left cheekblock. This high resolution touchscreen allows sounds and settings to be adjusted from an attractive user interface simply by tapping or swiping the display with a finger. For piano purists, the screen can be set to turn off automatically while playing, thus preserving the Novus' classic appearance, and minimising any visual distraction to the performer.

Unlike an acoustic piano, the Novus NV5 provides a variety of options for connecting to other devices, with audio jacks that allow the instrument to be amplified in halls and other large settings, and USB and MIDI ports for transferring music data to and from a computer. The NV5 even supports Bluetooth®, providing an effortless way to connect and enjoy smart devices wirelessly.



## Specifications

Acoustic specifications		
Keyboard action	Type	Millennium III Hybrid, upright piano keyboard action
	Keyboard	Extended length spruce keys, acrylic/phenol key surfaces
	Hammers	ABS grade-weighted hammers
	ABS Carbon parts	Yes
	Sensing system	Integrated Hammer Sensing System (IHSS), contact-less optical sensors
Pedals	Type	Upright piano pedals
	Damper	Upright piano damper mechanism
	Soft/Sostenuto	Grand Feel pedal system
Cabinet	Finish	Ebony Polish
	Keyboard cover	Upright piano type, Soft Fall fallboard
	Music rest	Upright piano type
	Dimensions	149 (W) x 46 (D) x 110 (H) cm 58 3/4" (W) x 18 1/4" (D) x 43 1/4" (H)
	Weight	113.0 kg / 249 lbs.

Digital specifications			
Sound	Mode	Pianist mode	Sound mode
	Sound engine	SK-EX Rendering	Harmonic Imaging XL
	Piano source	SK-EX	SK-EX, EX, SK-5, K-60
	No. of sounds	10 rendering characters	88 sounds
	Polyphony	max. 256 notes (depending on selected sound)	
	Virtual Technician	Smart Mode: – Advanced Mode: 9 parameters	Smart Mode: 10 types Advanced Mode: 19 parameters
Delivery	Onkyo technology	1-bit processing, Dual DAC, DIDRC filter, Premium Power amp, Premium Headphone amp	
	Output power	135 W (45 W x 3)	
	Speaker system	8 cm x 4 (top speakers), 2 cm x 2 (dome tweeters), TwinDrive Soundboard Speaker	
Features	Display	5" colour LCD touchscreen	
	Recorder	10 x internal song recorder, MP3/WAV record/playback (USB), Metronome	
Connectivity	Headphones	1 x 1/4", 1 x 1/8" Stereo jacks	
	Audio	LINE IN (1/8" STEREO), LINE OUT (1/8" STEREO)	
	MIDI/USB	MIDI (IN/OUT), USB to Host, USB to Device	
	Bluetooth*	Bluetooth MIDI, Bluetooth Audio	
	Power	AC IN (60 W power consumption)	

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Specifications are subject to change without notice. Availability of Bluetooth function dependent on market location.

# KAWAI

THE FUTURE OF THE PIANO

