

Pearl River Dealers Tour Expanded Piano Plant



An architect's rendering of the new Pearl River plant, slated for completion in 2017.

Thirty Pearl River and Ritmüller dealers from the United States and Canada recently spent four memorable days visiting the expansive new Pearl River Piano plant in Guangzhou, China in celebration of the piano maker's 30th anniversary serving the U.S. market. When the new plant is completed in 2017, it will have the capacity to produce 100,000 pianos annually.

From a lumber yard that processes and cures rough cut logs to an action and plate operation, Pearl River produces every critical piano component. The newly expanded manufacturing operation also makes use of sophisticated computer-controlled woodworking machinery to produce bridges, ribs, and action parts to exacting tolerances.

Dealers on the tour spent time with Li Jian Ning, general manager of the Pearl River Piano Group, and a committee of group managers. Pearl River's management team includes piano experts from around the world. Stephan Mohler, formerly with Bechstein, is now Pearl River's quality control manager. Lothar

Thomma, who directs product development, previously advised in the design of many famous European piano brands such as Bechstein and Steingraeber. He is also the co-inventor of the TF-65 "slide" calculator, a system used by many piano manufacturers over the years to correctly design the "scale" (recipe) of pianos.



Thirty U.S. and Canadian dealers recently toured the Pearl River Plant in Guangzhou, China.