

Exhibit 4

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS

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of Walter. In a letter to his beloved Madame Genzinger dated 4 July 1790, he wrote:

It is quite true that my friend, Herr Walter, is very celebrated . . . I know Herr von Nikl's fortepiano [made by Anton Walter]: It's excellent, but too heavy for your Grace's hand, and one can't play everything on it with the necessary delicacies. Therefore I should like Your Grace to try one of Herr Schantz, his fortepianos are particularly light in touch and the mechanism very agreeable.

EVA BADURA-SKODA

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SCHIEDMAYER

The Schiedmayer family were distinguished builders of clavichords, harpsichords, and pianos in eighteenth-century Bavaria. Three sons of Balthasar Schiedmayer (1711–1781), a clavichord maker in Erlangen, continued as both clavichord and piano makers. Johann David Schiedmayer (1753–1805) was the most energetic and ultimately the most successful of the progeny and became instrument maker to the court at Ansbach before moving his workshop to Nuremberg in 1797.

The modern branch of the firm was founded in 1809 in Stuttgart as Dieudonné & Schiedmayer by Johann David's son (Johann) Lorenz Schiedmayer (1786–1860), and Carl Dieudonné (ca. 1780?–1825), who met as fellow workmen in Nannette STREICHER's Vienna workshop. Their eclectic output of GRANDS, SQUARES, and PYRAMIDS was of the highest quality, and the variety of style unusual for the early years of the nineteenth century.

At Dieudonné's death Schiedmayer changed the name of the factory to reflect his own dominance and that of his family. In 1845 he took as his partners his sons Adolf (1819–1890) and Hermann (1820–1861) and renamed the company Schiedmayer & Söhne.

Eight years later the younger sons of Lorenz, Julius (1822–1878) and Paul (1829–1890), opened J. & P. Schiedmayer, a harmonium factory. This factory produced a wide range of high-quality reed organs, among these being both harmoniums (suction instruments) and, later, the genus American organ (pressure instruments). In addition to quality PLAYER PIANOS, Schiedmayer also produced an exceptional music-roll-playing reed organ, the Scheola, which, through a connection with the Paris business of Mustel, possessed some of the finest-toned reeds in the otherwise American-dominated world of player reed instruments.

At the death of Lorenz Schiedmayer in 1860, J. & P. Schiedmayer changed their business to that of piano building, renaming their firm the "Schiedmayer Piano-fortefabrik vorm. J. und P. Schiedmayer," which ultimately became a vital and predominant force in the German piano industry. In 1969 the two branches merged to create a giant manufacturer of grands and smaller pianos for the home. A Würzburg branch, Müller-Schiedmayer, was founded in 1874 by Erwin Müller (b. 1848), a son of Lorenz Schiedmayer's daughter, Maria Louisa; it continued until 1943.

The Schiedmayer factory on Neckarstrasse in Stuttgart was severely bombed during World War II and was finally demolished in 1981. Several of the earliest pianos in the important family collection were also destroyed during the war. Nevertheless, interesting examples of early Schiedmayer pianos do survive, for the most part in the collections of the German National Museum in Nuremberg, the Deutsches Museum in Munich, and the University of Erlangen. Georg Schiedmayer, who was the last of his family to build pianos, changed his focus to building celestes and glockenspiels and in 1980 sold the piano name, models, drawings, tools, and forms to the Rudolf IBACH Sohn firm. Schiedmayer is now a brand name of the Ibach company.

MARTHA NOVAK CLINKSCALE

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