

Old, Grand Piano Brought Back to Glory



By J.D. Wallace , KOLD News 13 Reporter
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Music is often an art of precision, one like many that goes beyond words.

"You can express a feeling. If I go to a concert and the hair goes (up) on the back of my neck, I know, something happened," Jens Witter said.

A feeling that drove Jens and Trudy Witter to spend five months restoring a grand piano that is almost a century old.

"It is by itself an outstanding, beautiful piano that Mason and Hamlin built in 1909, so it sounds beautiful, even without that presidential background," Witter said.

A background that Witter says comes from the 30th president, Calvin Coolidge. Now that the mahogany looks, and the strings sound like they might have back in the 1920's, the piano will go west. The Witters donated it to the New Apostolic Church of Los Angeles .

"If I restore the piano and I sell it to a private person, nice. Now it's gone for the public, for the American people. If I give it to a museum, wonderful, you have a rope around it, don't touch it. I'm not a friend of that because it's a piano, you want to listen to a piano," Jens Witter said.

Many will soon hear it, which is music to the Witters' ears.



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A national treasure, with a musical note, has been restored in Tucson. The White House piano, once owned by former President Calvin Coolidge, is back to its former glory thanks to Tucsonan Jens Witter. We doubled checked and found that Coolidge willed the 1909 Grand Piano to his niece Kathryn Coolidge. Witter later bought it and restored it. He plans to donate the piano to a church in Los Angeles.

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