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This story begins in 1885 in Leipzig, Germany. Wilhelm Schimmel built his first piano in a modest workshop with the philosophy of “Quality will prevail”, and continued to live up to this phrase. By the 1910s, Schimmel had made a name for itself by developing an international reputation, receiving titles from royalty, and winning gold medals at exhibitions.

In the 1920s, Wilhelm Sr. passed the company to his son, Wilhelm Arno Schimmel. Hyperinflation began and the Great Depression soon followed. German piano manufacturers formed a conglomerate to unify certain operations and help each other make it through the depression. This did not work for Wilhelm Arno for

long and in 1932 the “Wilhelm Schimmel, Pianoforte GmbH” factory was established in Braunschweig, Germany. Smaller pianos were produced to meet the demand for less expensive pianos that could fit in smaller housing; one of the smallest uprights measuring only 98cm high! An aerial attack in 1944 during WWII destroyed a portion of the factory halting production until 1949 when the factory was finished with repairs. In 1951, Schimmel put out the first ever acrylic glass piano.



In 1961, Wilhelm Arno passed away leaving the company to his son, Nikolaus Wilhelm Schimmel. Nikolaus carried the company onward until 2003. He continued to strive for the highest quality German made pianos and opened a larger factory to meet the needs of the company. By the 1980s, Schimmel was producing 10,000 pianos annually, ultimately leading the German piano manufacturing industry of the time.

The company was passed on to Nikolaus' son-in-law, Hannes M. Schimmel-Vogel, in 2003. Hannes began adding new models to the Schimmel brand. The "Konzert" series strives to make an even higher quality piano than before using modern tools and machines paired with quality hand-made craftsmanship. The "Classic" series is a modern production of the well-loved models from the past. Both the "Konzert" and "Classic" models are made entirely in Germany. The "Wilhelm Schimmel" series, formerly known as "Vogel", is considered to be of as high quality as the German made pianos but with a cheaper price tag. This series contains structural components made in Germany, actions made in China, and the cabinet produced and assembled in Poland.

In 2016, Pearl River, a Chinese piano manufacturer, bought a majority of the Schimmel company shares, leaving the Schimmel family a minority share holder. Soon after, the "Fridolin Schimmel", named after Wilhelm Sr.'s younger brother, line began production. These instruments are designed by Schimmel but fabricated and assembled in China.

The German-made Schimmel pianos I have seen, worked on, and played live up to their name and touts of superior quality. The materials and precision used in manufacture are truly a pleasure to work with.

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