

Immediate Release

**The one-of-a-kind masterpiece**  
**Lalique and Steinway & Sons “Masque de Femme” piano**  
**First ever auction - for charity, in Hong Kong on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**



The one-of-a-kind masterpiece of customized art, “Masque de Femme” piano is the symbolization of the pursuit of perfection and finest quality of the French luxury crystal house, Lalique and world-renowned piano maker, Steinway & Sons. “Masque de Femme” piano is a blend of exquisite craftsmanship and artistic excellence.

In collaboration with China Guardian (Hong Kong) Auctions Co, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September Lalique is to auction The “Masque de Femme” piano at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre during the China Guardian (Hong Kong) 5th Anniversary Full Moon Charity Gala Dinner. The net proceeds will be donated to Ai You Foundation to help disadvantaged children in mainland China who suffer from congenital heart diseases.

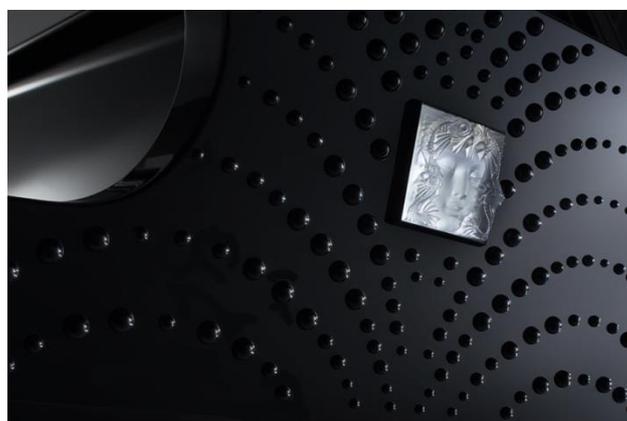
Mr Silvio Denz, Chairman and CEO of Lalique, has a deep passion for music and came up with the idea of co-operating with Steinway & Sons three years ago. He said, “I attended a concert in London during which I was mesmerized by a beautiful piano. I was wondering why we cannot produce a piano by Lalique. The logo of Steinway & Sons then flashed through my mind”. Mr Denz wrote to Steinway & Sons in Germany inviting them to co-operate in this project, and the legendary cooperation between these two famous brands with over a hundred years’ history each was created.

“Sometimes when you listen to piano, you will have the feeling like listening to the sound of the rain. We decorate the piano with over 1000 pieces of crystal, you may hardly see them but if the light is shining on them, they are sparkling. They look like a thousand of droplets and this was the effect we wanted. This is an exceptionally beautiful piano which will last for generations and we are very happy to be supporting such a good cause.”

According to Mr. Denz, the “Masque de Femme” piano is much more than just a musical instrument but an elegant art piece, a legend to be passed on from one generation to the next.”

Ms Hu Yan Yan, President of China Guardian (HK) Auctions Co., Ltd., is of the opinion that “In Hong Kong, charity is not only about charitable activities and social responsibilities, but one that perpetuates the spirit of charitable deeds from one generation to the next. China Guardian (HK) has always been willing to collaborate with different charitable organisations and kind hearted people from different parties to build an international platform for charitable deeds, which will provide an undertone of warmth and humanity to Hong Kong, which is an international centre of business and finance.”

“As early as in 2012, China Guardian formed a relationship with Steinway & Sons to sell the Long Yun x Steinway & Sons Piano at China Guardian Spring charity Auctions. Since its establishment in 1993, China Guardian has been tirelessly working with charitable organisations such as Ai You Foundation, with whom we contributed to the success of their charity gala dinner in 2016. The co-operation with Lalique for the auction of “Masque de Femme” piano also promises to accomplish its awaited goals.”



Nature's beauty and structure have often been the origin of great designs. Lalique's work on the design of "Masque de Femme" piano focused on two iconic motifs, "Coutard" and "Masque de Femme". The unique art piece "Masque de Femme" piano is adorned with 1,043 individual crystals. Each crystal is surrounded by a geometric motif of a fountain, symbolizing the Chinese dictum "life begets life, and it goes on till eternity". The Coutard design was created by René Lalique in 1935 for the famous Coutard fountain and represents a geometric motif of water droplets evoking both the Art Nouveau and Art Deco genres through a subtle play of symmetry and shape. To adorn the same fountain, René Lalique created the Masque de Femme pattern inspired by his love of women and nature. This design is a classic and avant-garde work of art that reveals the face of the mysterious nymph, Arethusa, surrounded by aquatic life. Fast forward to the present, Lalique continues to perpetuate its founder's creations, by beautifully marrying two iconic motifs, Coutard and Masque de Femme, on this masterpiece, the "Masque de Femme" piano.

To make an instrument that combines the perfection of Lalique and Steinway & Sons, the artisans had to be extremely meticulous. The piano required two years of development to perfect the exact techniques needed to ally the crystal and traditional materials of Steinway, and it took over 500 hours of work to install the crystal elements alone. Each Coutard cabochon perfectly blends with the piano, like drops of water that come alive and dance on the black lacquer with an elegantly restrained tactile quality. Each crystal has been worked, cut, polished and signed at the Lalique factory in Alsace and then placed on the piano in the workshops of Steinway & Sons in Hamburg, Germany.

Lalique perpetuates the founder's passion for art and creativity and in recent years has been co-operating with artists of different genres, designers and internationally known brands such as Yves Klein Archives, Damien Hirst, Anish Kapoor, Terry Rodgers, Zaha Hadid, The Macallan, Bentley, Elton John, Steinway & Sons and so on to create precious and unique crystal pieces that have become great works of art and collection pieces.

Lalique has also been active in participating in different charity auctions such as the one held in 2015 for the limited edition crystal panel "Eternal-Beauty" designed by the British artist Damien Hirst, the collected proceeds of which went to Po Leung Kuk. In 2016, Lalique had four crystal sculptures from the "ELTON JOHN MUSIC IS LOVE FOR LALIQUE" collection auctioned in America for The Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF), the funds raised were used for the global combat against AIDS. This year, Whiskey distiller The Macallan collaborated with Lalique for the creation of "The Macallan in Lalique Legacy Collection". It was put up for sale at the Sotheby's "Finest & Rarest Wines and the Macallan" auction in Hong Kong. The proceeds were donated to various Hong Kong and Asian charitable bodies.

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### **Additional details about the piano**

This magnificent grand piano (Steinway Model B) is a wonderfully balanced and versatile piano that does extremely well in intimate settings, teaching studios and mid-sized venues. The Model B is the favourite grand piano among private customers.

Dimensions: Length 211cm x Width 148cm.

In total, 1043 individual Lalique crystals adorn the « Masque de Femme » piano, details of which are as follows:

- 1,025 pieces of black crystal Coutard cabochons
- 2 Masque de Femme panels: 80x80mm
- 2 Masque de Femme panels: 30x30mm
- 2 Swallow panels
- 12 Coutard panels (4 on each leg of the piano)

### **About Lalique**

Founded in 1888, Lalique is one of the crown jewels of France's crystal glass industry. René Lalique, renowned as the inventor of modern jewellery, went on to become a master in the art of glassmaking. Over time, his name has become the powerful symbol of a unique expertise, a synonym for luxury, excellence, creativity and for a widely celebrated artistic style.

Through its contemporary work in six areas, Lalique revives and pursues the creative, eclectic work of its founder: jewellery, decorative items, interior design, fragrances, art, as well as hospitality. All crystal items are handcrafted in the company's sole manufacturing site, which has been located in the Alsace region in France since 1921.

***Lalique continues to thrive as a truly timeless lifestyle brand.***

[www.lalique.com](http://www.lalique.com)

### **About Steinway & Sons**

Since 1853, Steinway pianos have set an uncompromising standard for sound, touch, beauty, and investment value. Because of a dedication to continuous improvement, today's Steinway remains the choice of 9 out of 10 concert artists, and it is the preferred piano of countless musicians, professional and amateur, throughout the world.

[www.steinway.com](http://www.steinway.com)

### **About China Guardian (Hong Kong)**

Founded in May 2011 and wholly owned by China Guardian Auctions, China Guardian (HK) is now firmly established in Hong Kong and is into its eleventh season this year since its inaugural auctions held in the autumn of 2012. China Guardian (HK) boasts an elite international team of diligent professionals who are driven by a strong sense of integrity and a passion for applying their expertise to render the best possible service to their clients. Our auction areas include Chinese Painting and Calligraphy, Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, Asian 20th Century and Contemporary Art, Classical Chinese Furniture, and Jewelry, Watches & Luxury Goods.

Founded in 1993, China Guardian Auctions is China's premier auction house and has successfully held more than 1,300 auctions where more than 350,000 items were sold. With total sales achieving new highs again and again, China Guardian has been a global leader in Chinese art auctions. Based in Hong Kong, a potentially important international art market, China Guardian (HK) Auctions pledges to preserve traditional Chinese culture and is fully committed to serving art collectors around the world while upholding our traditional values of integrity, transparency and fairness, and operating in strict accordance with international standards and practices.

### **About Ai You Foundation**

Ai You Foundation is the first registered private foundation in China after the Administrative Regulations on Foundations came into effect in 2004. Initiated, managed and run by entrepreneurs, Ai You implements various projects across China and promotes the development of the charity cause.

Ai You Foundation was twice given the "China Charity Award", the highest recognition of contribution to charitable causes by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Also in 2015 Ai You was named "China's Outstanding Social Organisation", once again by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and was at the top of the list of Forbes's Chinese Charity Trusts in 2015. Ai You also won the "Chinese Charity Organisations Award" in 2015 and repeatedly scored "full marks" in the China Foundation Transparency Index. Furthermore, the Charity+ function organised by Ai You Foundation gathers specialists from within the charity industry and in other domains and also industry leaders from China and abroad, an action which has created an important impact on the charity enterprise and beyond. Ai You Foundation is gradually becoming a platform of exchanges and discussions between charitable organisations and other industries. Ai You (Hong Kong) Foundation was founded in August 2013.

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