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Ruggero Piano  
4720 Hargrove Road, Suite 120  
Raleigh, NC 27616

Dear Piano Men,

Have you ever sold any pianos to Billy Joel? He is a real Piano Man, I must say! He's a homely looking guy, but he could really jam on those ivory keys. I still cannot believe that he landed a chick like Christie Brinkley. I remember seeing her and Chevy Chase in that movie with that other actress from the "Ally McBeal" show. She was a real knockout! If a guy that looks like Billy Joel was able to get a girl like her, there is hope for all of us my friends! They were the inspiration for me to learn how to sing and play the piano both at the same time.

I am looking for a music store that sells rugged pianos, but I was unable to find any place listing that in their business description. The closest thing I could seem to find was your shop: "Ruggero Piano". How would you rate your pianos for strength and life expectancy? Do they hold up against adverse weather conditions? I need a piano for my new job as an outdoor lounge piano man and I want something that won't get ruined being out in the elements for six - eight hours each day.

I have limited experience playing piano in the lobby of the local Best Western hotel about two years ago for the first few weeks after their Grand Opening. They had posters printed up touting the "Best Western Grand Opening, with Rusty Opening on the Best Baby Grand." The Best Western rented that piano from a local music shop, but they had to send it back after the promotion was finished. Once the novelty of a new hotel wore off, they couldn't afford to keep me on as live entertainment.

I've been doing odd jobs since then, but I recently got a gig as lounge piano player at a major hotel in nearby Cleveland, Ohio. I cannot disclose the hotel name or location yet as a condition of my confidentiality agreement, but it is a sweet deal for me. (I am allowed to tell you that it will be called the Skytop Lounge, as long as you promise not to use that name yourselves on any projects of your own). The only contractual obligation on my part, prior to the actual performances, is that I have to supply my own piano and arrange for its delivery to, and set up in, the Skytop Lounge. I need my new piano in place by October 1st. That will be a very big day for me.

The hotel is building a new open air lounge on the roof above the 28th floor. That is where they got the Skytop Lounge name idea, I think. They will also have an outdoor pool and bar to serve cocktails. This will all be covered in the wintertime with some sort of tarp or dome so that guests can still enjoy the pool, bar, and lounge music without the winter elements and bitter cold. It really is a great job for me as I am still just starting out my musical career.

So what I am looking for from you is a suggestion for a good, rugged, black, baby grand piano. If you have something that would be ideal for my open air lounge performances, I hope we can work out a deal. I intend to haul it up along the outside wall of the hotel to the roof/lounge using a rope and pulley. I have a couple of strong friends who are willing to tie the rope around the piano (they are former boy scouts and know all of their knots). They will then hoist it up the 28 floors to the rooftop.

Do you know any good safe companies? I don't mean "safe" in terms of a stable stock investment, I mean companies that design, manufacture, and sell safes for storing valuables. I am talking about a really heavy sturdy floor safe with a thick door and combination lock -- almost like a miniature bank vault. I will have lots of piano music books to store at the Skytop Lounge and I do not want them to get stolen. I had a bad experience at the Best Western with music thieves. It seems people were determined to get (steal) a piece of history. Based on that experience, I convinced the new hotel manager to give me an expense account for the sole purpose of providing adequate security. I will get Chad and Nate to pulley/hoist the safe up to Skytop Lounge once the piano is safely on the hotel roof.

Please give me a list of your rugged baby grand pianos with prices. Thank you in advance for your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rusty Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rusty Lucas

p.s. If the hotel will allow it (and I don't see any restrictions in my contract), I would be honored to advertise your piano store during my performances at the Skytop Lounge. Please send me a free Ruggero Piano baseball cap and I promise to wear it every time I play your piano at the Skytop Lounge. If you have caps available in multiple styles and colors, I would prefer a soft material orange cap with a metal buckle adjustable sizer. But if not, any old Ruggero Piano baseball cap will do (provided that it is new and previously unused).