

# ES8

DIGITAL PIANO

**KAWAI**





# Wherever the venue, whatever the occasion

Regardless of whether you're playing a gig on stage, practicing for a recital at home, accompanying the local church choir, or studying Chopin in the classroom, the new Kawai ES8 is portable piano perfection.

Drawing upon Kawai's 85+ years of knowledge and expertise in crafting world-class acoustic pianos, the ES8 provides the most authentic playing experience ever realized in a portable instrument. Its improved *Responsive Hammer III* keyboard action recreates all the subtleties of playing a grand piano, with premium features such as *Ivory Touch* key surfaces, let-off simulation, counterweights, and a precise triple-sensor detection system.

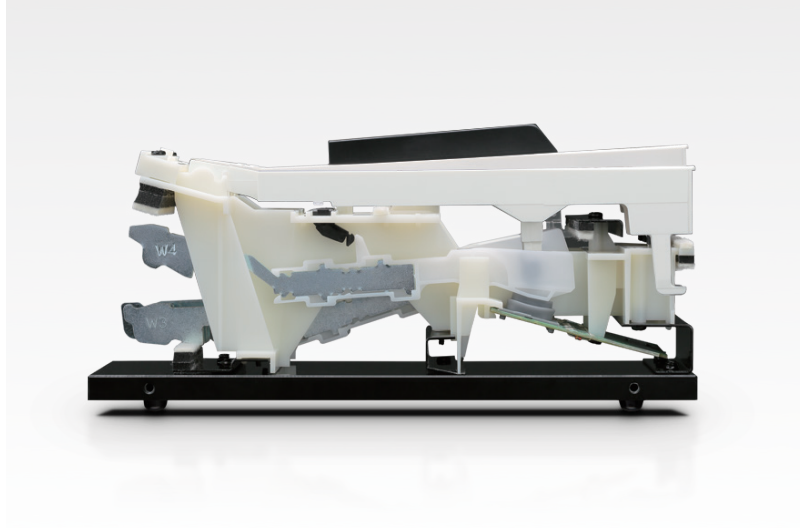
The extraordinary ES8 utilizes *Harmonic Imaging* sound technology to capture and reproduce every nuance of our SK-EX and EX concert grand pianos, plus SK-5 chamber grand piano. Advanced resonance modelling and reverberation effects are then applied, delivering unparalleled acoustic realism, while unique *Virtual Technician* controls allow discerning musicians to personalize the piano beneath their fingertips.

Versatile and powerful, the multi-purpose ES8 also includes a selection of outstanding electric pianos, drawbar and church organs, strings and choir sounds, along with professional backing accompaniments to cover a wide range of musical genres. Favorite instrument setups can be stored and instantly recalled from Registration memories, while modern USB features allow MP3 and WAV audio files to be recorded and played back directly from the instrument's control panel.

Yet, despite its class-leading keyboard action, breathtaking sound, and abundance of premium features, the Kawai ES8 remains a compact, elegant, and highly portable digital piano. A piano with a broad range of applications, and a piano for truly every musical occasion – anytime, anywhere.







More realistic,  
responsive &  
reliable

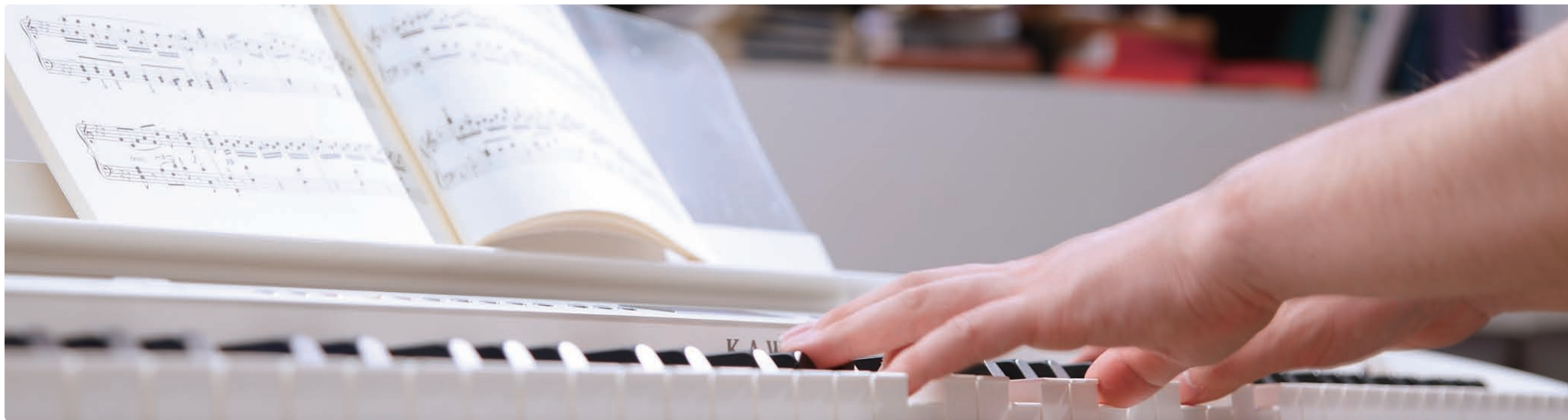
The ES8's class-leading *Responsive Hammer III* keyboard action recreates the supreme touch of an acoustic grand piano, with its realistic movement and rigid, springless design providing a smooth and natural piano playing experience. The instrument's advanced triple-sensor key detection system enhances responsiveness and accuracy, while structural reinforcements throughout the action assembly help to minimize noise and key wobble during staccato and fortissimo passages.

The weight of the keyboard is appropriately graded to mirror the heavier bass hammers and lighter treble hammers of an acoustic piano, while *let-off* simulation recreates the subtle “notch” sensation felt when softly playing the keys of a grand piano. These important characteristics allow discerning pianists to practice their expanding repertoire with confidence, and ensure that there are no unpleasant surprises when called upon to perform using the finest grand pianos.

# Class-leading Keyboard

The keyboard action of an acoustic grand piano is composed of black and white keys, graded hammers, and numerous intricate components working in harmony when each note is pressed. It is a beautifully designed mechanism that allows gifted pianists to express a wealth of feeling and emotion in their playing.

Translating the keyboard action's elaborate movements to a digital instrument, while still retaining the tactile feeling and subtle nuance that one comes to appreciate in an acoustic, is a considerable challenge – a challenge that draws upon over 85 years of experience in building the world's finest pianos.



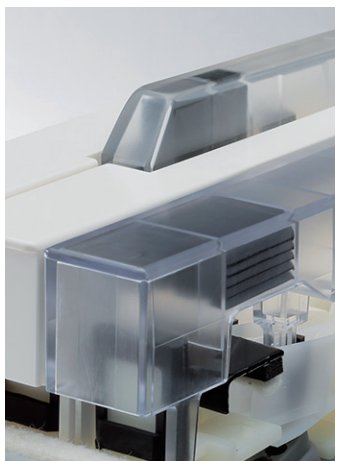
## Premium surfaces

The high specification ES8 features Kawai's highly-regarded *Ivory Touch* key surfaces as standard. This finely textured material intelligently absorbs finger moisture to aid playing control, without dirt or grease permeating the keytops, and allows the piano's keyboard to be wiped clean easily using just a damp cloth.



## Superior control

In addition to grade-weighted hammers, the RHIII keyboard action also features counterweights placed within each key. As with an acoustic piano, these finely balanced weights help to lighten the touch of the keyboard during pianissimo passages, while adding a feel of greater substance when playing with force.







# Breathtaking Sound

Earning a reputation as the “premier pianos of Japan,” Shigeru Kawai instruments grace the stages of concert halls and musical institutions throughout the world, and are prized for their outstanding tonal clarity and exceptional dynamic range.

The new ES8 captures the magnificent tone of two Shigeru Kawai instruments, the flagship SK-EX concert and medium-sized SK-5 chamber grand pianos, allowing musicians to enjoy the contrasting properties of each.

In addition, the ES8 also features the distinctive sound of Kawai’s highly acclaimed EX concert grand piano, which has frequently been selected by professional pianists in such prestigious events as the Chopin, Tchaikovsky, and Rubinstein international piano competitions, among countless others.

## True character in every note

The rich, expressive sound of the SK-EX, SK-5, and EX grand pianos is at the heart of the new ES8, with all eighty-eight keys of these worldclass instruments painstakingly recorded, meticulously analyzed, and accurately reproduced as high-fidelity digital waveforms.

Recording each key individually in this way preserves the grand pianos’ unique harmonic character, and guarantees that the sound heard when playing any one of the ES8’s weighted keys is a faithful representation of the original acoustic source.

## Rich, dynamic & expressive

When playing a fine piano, the amount of pressure applied to the keyboard affects not only the volume of the sound produced, but also the unique tonal character of each note. Therefore, in order to construct a realistic acoustic portrait of each grand piano, not only is each key recorded individually, but also at a wide variety of different volume levels, ranging from gentle pianissimo to thunderous fortissimo.

The new ES8 offers a highly detailed acoustic portrait of each piano, with *Harmonic Imaging XL* sound technology ensuring smooth tonal transitions across the keyboard and throughout the entire dynamic range.



## Room-filling resonance & tonal clarity

The ES8’s impressive speaker system utilizes speaker box enclosures that deliver a rich, expansive sound to rival much larger console digital pianos. This unique design allows for a compact, portable instrument, capable of enthralling medium-sized audiences, without the need for additional amplification.

## Variety beneath your fingertips

Complementing the various classical, jazz, and pop grand piano sounds, the ES8 also features a distinctive upright piano sound, captured from one of Kawai’s popular K Series instruments. Vintage electric pianos, drawbar and church organs, and warm synth pads are also available, allowing this portable piano to serve as a convenient gigging board, while church organs, strings, and graceful choir voices ensure that the versatile ES8 is equally at home in places of worship.



# Inspiring Features, Personality & Convenience

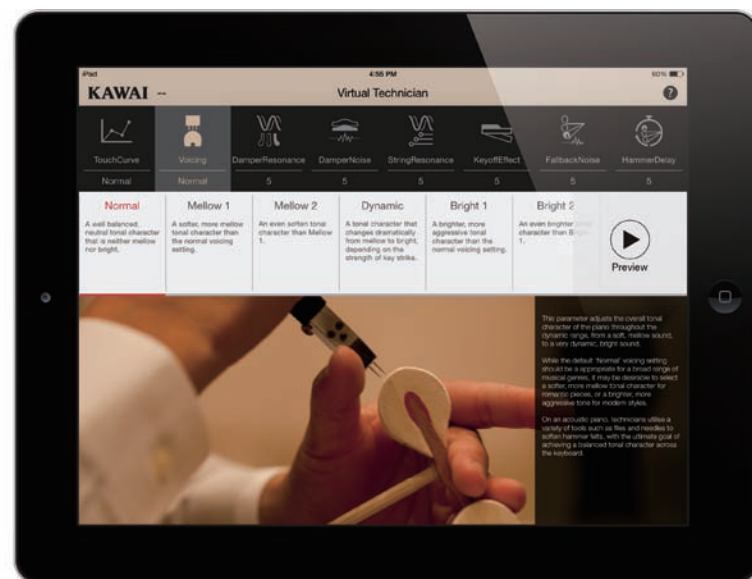


## Studio quality effects with vintage flavor

The ES8's powerful digital effects engine further enhances the instrument's superior core sounds, applying additional layers of detail and realism that bring performances to life. Tailor an instrument's character and feeling with a range of studio quality chorus, tremolo, delay, and auto-pan effects. Add vintage warmth to electric pianos and trademark growl to drawbar organs using the dedicated Amp Sim speaker models. Then adjust the instrument's reverb controls to position yourself within one of six acoustic environments, ranging from a small practice room to an inspirational grand cathedral.

## Personal piano enhancements

The ES8's comprehensive *Virtual Technician* function invites discerning players to shape aspects of the selected piano's character to suit their unique personal preferences. Perform touch weight and voicing adjustments, regulate subtle hammer and key release noises, and fine-tune string, lid, and damper resonances – all in real-time. Adjustments can be made directly from the ES8's control panel, or via an attractive touch interface using the dedicated *Virtual Technician* iPad app.



## Professional backing styles

In addition to the standard Dual and Split playing modes, the ES8's *Rhythm Section* feature offers solo performers a selection of professionally arranged backing accompaniments at the touch of a button. Whether you need a practice partner, some quick ideas for a new song, or a backup band at a live performance, you're sure to find the perfect accompaniment among the 100 pop, rock, jazz, funk, and Latin styles.

## Flexible USB connectivity

The ES8's USB ports enable the instrument to be connected to a computer for MIDI use, or to load and save data directly to USB memory. This latter *USB to Device* functionality allows favorite registration settings and memorable recorded songs stored in internal memory to be safely preserved on USB, or standard MIDI files (SMF) downloaded from the internet to be conveniently played back through the instrument without additional hardware.



## Digital audio recording

USB memory devices can also be used to play back MP3 or WAV audio files, allowing musicians to learn the chords or melody for a new piece, or to simply play along with their favorite songs. It is even possible to record entire performances directly as MP3 or WAV files for emailing to family and friends, casual listening away from the piano, or for further editing using an audio workstation.

## Renowned quality & compact, stylish design

Strong, rigid, and surprisingly lightweight, the ES8's modern chassis is engineered from aluminium, with a reinforced keyboard base to provide additional stability. Its curved wooden side panels reflect Kawai's acoustic piano heritage, and double as convenient hand grips when lifting, while the included metal music rest is durable enough to with-stand the bustle of an enthusiastic classroom and the rigors of the live stage.

Available in a sophisticated Gloss Black or elegant Snow White finish, the ES8's clean design is appropriate for both traditional and contemporary spaces. And with matching designer stand and triple pedal accessories, the instrument can be easily transformed into an ultra-compact piano replacement for the lounge, studio, or home.





Available Finishes



Gloss Black



Snow White



Accessories



F-10H damper pedal



Music rest



F-20 damper/soft pedal



Gig-bag with castors



HM-4 designer stand, F-301 triple pedal (sold separately)

Technical Specifications

Keyboard	88 weighted keys with Ivory Touch key surfaces	
	Responsive Hammer III (RHIII) action with Let-Off, Triple Sensor, and Counterweights	
Sound Source	Harmonic Imaging™ XL (HI-XL), 88-key piano sampling	
Internal Sounds	34 voices (PIANO1, PIANO2, E.PIANO, ORGAN, HARPSI/MALLETS, STRINGS/CHOIR, BASS)	
Polyphony	max. 256 notes	
Keyboard Modes	Dual Mode, Split Mode, Four Hands Mode (Volume/Balance adjustable)	
Reverb	Type:	Room, Lounge, Small Hall, Concert Hall, Live Hall, Cathedral
	Parameters:	Reverb Depth, Reverb Time
Effects	Type:	Stereo Delay, Ping Delay, Triple Delay, Chorus, Classic Chorus, Tremolo, Classic Tremolo, Auto Pan, Classic Auto Pan, Phaser, Rotary. Combination effects x 4
	Parameters:	Dry/Wet, Time, Speed, Feedback, High Damp, Depth (Parameters dependent on effect type)
Amp Simulator	Type:	S.Case I, S.Case II, L.Cabinet
	Parameters:	Drive, Level, EQ Low, EQ High
Virtual Technician	Touch Curve:	Light+, Light, Normal, Heavy, Heavy+, Off (Constant), User 1, User 2
	Voicing:	Normal, Mellow 1, Mellow 2, Dynamic, Bright 1, Bright 2, User 1~4
	Resonance, Noise & Effects:	Damper Resonance, Damper Noise, String Resonance, Key-off Effect, Fall-back Noise, Hammer Delay, Topboard, Decay Time, Soft Pedal Depth
	Temperament:	Equal, Pure Major, Pure minor, Pythagorean, Meantone, Werckmeister, Kirnberger, User Temperament, Key of Temperament
	Others:	Stretch Tuning, Stretch Curve/User Tuning, User Key Volume, Half-Pedal Adjust, Minimum Touch
Internal Recorder	10 song, 2 track recorder – approximately 90,000 note memory capacity	
USB Functions	Playback:	MP3, WAV, SMF
	Record:	MP3, WAV
	Other:	Overdub Audio, Convert Song to Audio, Load Internal Song, Save Internal Song, Save SMF Song, Load Registration, Save Registration, Rename File, Delete File, Format USB
Metronome	1/4, 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 5/4, 3/8, 6/8, 7/8, 9/8, 12/8 (Volume/Tempo adjustable)	
Rhythm Section	Styles:	100 rhythms (x 2 variations), 4-part accompaniment, 100 preset chord sequences
	Settings:	Rhythm Vol., Auto Fill-in, One Finger Ad-lib, ACC Mode, Preset Chord, Rhythm Parts, Bass Inv.
Demo Songs	Main demo song, Rhythm Section demo song, 27 sound demo songs	
Other Functions	Key/Song Transpose, Tone Control (incl. Brilliance, User EQ), Wall EQ, Speaker Volume, Phones Vol., Line Out Vol., Audio Recorder	
	Gain, Tuning, Damper Hold, Four Hands, Startup Setting, Factory Reset, Lower Octave Shift, Lower Pedal On/Off, Split Balance, Layer Octave Shift, Layer Dynamics, Dual Balance, MIDI Channel, Send PGM#, Local Control, Transmit PGM#, Multi-timbral Mode, Channel Mute, Auto Power Off, Speakers On/Off	
Display	16 x 2 characters LCD	
	Jacks	MIDI (IN/OUT), USB to Host, USB to Device, LINE IN STEREO, LINE OUT (L/MONO, R), DAMPER (for F-10H), DAMPER/SOFT (for F-20), PEDAL (for F-301), Headphones x 2
Speaker System	Speakers:	(8 x 12 cm) x 2
	Output Power:	15 W x 2
Power Consumption	35 W	
Dimensions	1362 (W) x 361 (D) x 149 (H) mm / 54" (W) x 14 ½" (D) x 6" (H)	
Weight	22.5 kg / 49.6 lbs.	

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

