

CELEBRITY LIFESTYLE

# A Bright, Bejeweled Piano Inspired by Jennifer Hudson Is Being Auctioned for Charity

In honor of her new film *Respect*, Steinway & Sons and MGM Studios commissioned a custom piano painted by muralist duo MenaceResa

By Rachel Davies

August 20, 2021



The piano is on auction now. Photo: SAVERIO TRUGLIA



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Jennifer Hudson might be best known for her work in the music and film industries, but the Julian D. King Gift Foundation she and her sister Julia founded keeps her plenty busy too. This past week her film *Respect*, the biopic in which she portrays Aretha Franklin, was released and to coincide with this, renowned piano company Steinway & Sons and MGM Studios, which produced the film, are auctioning off a custom piano to benefit the Julian D. King Gift Foundation.

The Boston upright piano was painted by the New York muralist duo MenaceResa, who are known for their ability to seamlessly meld the fine art and graffiti worlds in their work, and who were chosen by Hudson for the project. “The design for this piano is based on all of Jennifer’s favorite things,” the duo said, finishing each other’s sentences in a video about the making of the piano. “She likes purple, a range of bright colors, and she really likes gems. Things that really shimmer and shine.” The bejewelled piano certainly catches the eye, its vibrant appearance perfect for any musician who’s dissatisfied with the subtlety of a classic black piano.





The front of the piano. Photo: SAVERIO TRUGLIA

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The piano will be on auction through September 27 via Charity Auctions Today. All proceeds will go toward the Foundation which was established to honor Hudson's nephew who was slain at 7 years old. The charity distributes school supplies, one of the largest charitable events in all of Chicago, and Christmas presents to children of all backgrounds.



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