

Harold B. Rhodes, the inventor of the Rhodes electric piano, was a complex and fascinating figure. Though many stories surround him, some true, some embellished, one thing is undeniable: his dedication to his creation. He spent his life perfecting this instrument, who saw my own growth from a five-year-old tagging along to an engineer / designer inspired by his father's passion.

He devoted his entire life to the piano as his masterpiece came to fruition during my lifetime. He shared many valuable insights as well as trade secrets with me that I will never forget. One thing was certain - he was never satisfied with the quality of the instrument. My father's obsession with perfection was matched only by his uncanny ear for detail, making him a true phenom.

He was beyond an accomplished pianist who had developed early in his life a better way to learn how to play. He had no idea that this instrument, initially designed to teach, would go on to become such a well-known icon in the music world. Once he was able to accept this instrument as the most popular of its kind in the world, it became his mission to make sure quality came first, and he always strived to improve the piano any way he could. He was always open to criticism and suggestions from anyone, including me, which further solidified my own path towards becoming an inventor and engineer today.

Unlike my father, CBS Musical Instruments was more focused on quantity, reduced cost and labor. In fact, as demand and popularity increased, CBS tried to find ways to make their instruments cheaper, faster, and with inferior materials. This constant battle frustrated my father, who despite being the inventor of these fine instruments, did not have any control over the manufacturing decisions.

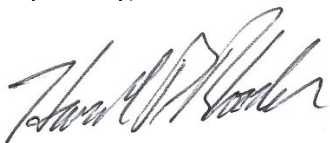
Fast forward to today, there is a strong desire for professionals and even amateurs to want to go back to the best model ever made with the utmost quality that delivered the best sound and performance possible. There have been companies since the collapse of CBS musical instruments, which made attempts at this, but none have succeeded quite like Vintage Vibe has. VV has dedicated over 20 years to refurbishing, tuning, testing, tweaking, reverse engineering and even manufacturing of new parts for this highly desired instrument. Throughout the years they have studied the true desire of what keyboard players want and need regarding the greatest electric piano ever made.

I know my father would be extremely impressed and excited that these enthusiastic geniuses have reintroduced his baby with the best of the best designs that were ever produced by Fender or CBS and have taken it to an even higher level of quality, sound, and performance. They have also managed to significantly lighten it and introduce patented innovations of their own. I know my father is looking down at what these amazing men have achieved and can finally rest in peace that what he worked so hard to achieve in his life has finally been realized beyond his wildest dreams.

Chris and Fred of Vintage Vibe have not only meticulously recreated my father's masterpiece, but they've done so with a deep respect for the legacy he left behind. They have, in essence, returned the Rhodes family a piece of what was lost, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Thank you, Vintage Vibe, from the bottom of my heart.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold B. Rhodes Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Harold B. Rhodes Jr