

Mid-city musical era at an end

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Alan and father Ernie Ormrod close a long association with the Collier Music House when Collier's moves to a new Devon St site later this month. Photo: ADRIAN MALLOCH

IT'S been a building of note — and notes — for years, but the music has reached its finale at Collier's Music House in New Plymouth.

Ernie Ormrod and son Alan move their business to new premises next week, ending 65 years of music-making from the tall, skinny building in the Devon Mall.

The building also once housed Taranaki's first radio station, 2ZP, which began broadcasting there in the 1920s before moving to King St and later Brougham St.

Colliers Music House opened in 1926 and was for some time the tallest building in New Plymouth, said Ernie Ormrod.

The four-storey building cost £3300 to build and remained under Collier control until early

last decade, when Ernie and Alan Ormrod bought the business from the original owner's grand-daughter.

Herbert Collier, for whom Mr Ormrod senior worked in the 1950s and early 1960s, also owned music shops in Opunake, Hawera, Wanganui, Taumarunui and Palmerston North.

Besides selling instruments and music, Colliers was once also the box office for many local concerts and events.

Alan Ormrod said it was not unusual for him to climb the several flights of stairs 30 times a day, and both father and son had tired of moving pianos up and down the floors.

Colliers will be on Devon St East and the old building will be offered for rent.