

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Volume 46 Issue 1 February 2021



Greetings Members and friends,

First, I'd like to thank everyone for your patience while we are dealing with the continued threat of Covid and its complex divisions. My code is to follow the usual instructions by wearing a mask at all times when out of your home and into public areas. Hands washing with regular soap and water is recommended. Social distancing is also a key to remaining safe.

I apologize for not being on the ball getting my president messages out during the past months. However, I hope to be attentive to these chores and keep everyone in touch with Chapter information.

I have been busy during the Christmas Season with tuning and small repairs. It has been, and always my favorite time of year. Not so happy for one client who had their Christmas village set up on the grand piano lid. They opted to leave the tuning as it was.

I have been concerned about our careful move to hold meetings online. It has certainly been a good way to engage everyone in chapter activities and information. It was a bit of a challenge for me at first as I'm not too savvy with the workings of computer programs. But with quick learning and advice from Kim Hoessly, I have met the challenge.

My thoughts of having a gathering sometime are on my agenda and I would like to see all our members faces and hear all that is going on in our city.

To this respect... I have been to the new Solich Piano and Music store. It is located on 8600 Sancus Boulevard in Columbus. It is about 5 to 7 times the size of their previous building and was formerly a furniture retailer. If you are in the area stop in and say Hi to Nate Anders. My thoughts on this are that if possible... I would like to have a gathering at their new location to hold a meeting. Besides the showroom they have 1 or 2 meeting rooms that have doors for privacy. I pushed the idea to Nate and he is all for any meeting time. They are anxious for us to use their new area.

Our need to gather and discuss our technical trade's facets have been missed as well as our friendships.

If you have questions or concerns, I believe our next online meeting will be on January 19th at 7:30pm using the ZOOM app. I look forward to seeing and hearing you all again at this meeting.

David Chadwick RPT

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Chapter Meeting Minutes January 19, 2021

The meeting was hosted online over Zoom by Kim Hoessly

Attendance:

Kim Hoessly, Andrew Kovaleski, Wayne Strautman, Christopher Purdy, Walter Bagnall, Morgan Sieg, Ron Kenreich, Maggie Jusiel, David Stang, David Chadwick, Mark Ritchie, Justin Swain

Treasurer's Report:

\$1,939.66

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Kim Hoessly is hosting continuing education sessions for folks working toward the RPT exams over Zoom, following the lesson plan in the PACE manuals. The sessions will take place on the first Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in taking part in these sessions, please email Kim at: khoessly@columbus.rr.com

Butts & Flanges

Chris Purdy finished his longtime project of converting an upright piano into an aquarium, complete with "live 3D fish". He removed the guts of the piano in order to fit the tank in, and he weighted the backs of the keys so that they still depress as expected. Chris hopes to take a quality picture of the aquarium in order to submit it for consideration as a cover image for the PTG Journal.

The chapter suggested that there seem to be not many folks working on player pianos in Columbus - a problem that seems to be becoming more and more commonplace. For anyone looking for a niche, one may be able to find success by diving into the world of player pianos.

Ron Kenreich has a working reed organ which he would be happy to give away to a good home - if you are interested, please email Ron Kenreich at rkenreich70@gmail.com

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A Few More Butts and Flanges

In lieu of having business items in January, the chapter simply had a Zoom "hangout" - therefore, here are a few more Butts and Flanges from the meeting:

- A few horror stories involving cats! Maggie Jusiel recounted a story involving a cat which urinated along the hitch pins of the owner's piano, resulting in many rusted out and broken wires at the hitch pins. Chris Purdy told about a piano which he restrung and restored in which the owner's cat puked along the dampers of the piano, which necessitated the piano's brand new dampers needing to be replaced. David Chadwick remembers a family with two Siamese cats who loved watching the grand piano dampers go up and down from sitting on the instrument's soundboard. The cats ended up scratching all the way through the soundboard, and those holes are probably still there to this day.

- Andrew Kovaleski sometimes runs into pianos with an ancient, forgotten dehumidifier bar on the inside - the chapter advises that in most situations, these bars are best left forgotten. In most cases, the bars are not attached to a humidistat, and left plugged in indefinitely, these bars would wreak havoc on most pianos. Maggie Jusiel carries some humidistats with her to install when she runs into dehumidifiers in use without them. Walter Bagnall also suggests that it is a common misconception that the dehumidifier bar is actually a heater bar, necessitating its being plugged in during the winter, and unplugged in the summer - exactly the opposite of its usual intended use. Mark shared a story about a janitor who used non-Dampp-Chaser humidifier treatment in their church's newly refurbished grand piano, resulting in a completely rusted out instrument. Mark, Kim, and Maggie recommend to ONLY use the original Damp-Chaser pad treatment! Maggie reports that the pad treatment is a biocide which kills bacteria and mold which would grow in the water. Maggie and Mark recommend using distilled water with a Damp-Chaser; Chris suggests that the lack of electrolytes may cause the low water sensors to not work as well, but Mark suggests that the pad treatment makes up for the lack of electrolytes.

- Andrew Kovaleski ran into a piano with a squeaky pedal, which he sourced at the C-shaped spring which the pedal lever is mounted upon. He was able to resolve the squeaks by placing felt washers under the heads of the spring's mounting screws, and paper washers between the spring and the wood pieces which it is mounted to. Kim often finds that pedal squeaks are sourced where the rod is going through the lever, which she is often able to resolve with a tube of heat shrink. Andrew also recommended the rubber grommets sold at Schaff for this purpose.

- Andrew also ran into a greenish powder on the pressure bar of a Wurlitzer spinet, and is curious about if it is anything to worry about. Mark Ritchie recommends that it could be wiped off with a vacuum handy, followed by scrubbing with steel wool and wiping the pressure bar with Protek CLP in moderation.

- Ron Kenreich tunes a grand piano which has a strip of glass fitted over the pins of the piano, but under the music desk. Ron recommends that this keeps the pin area clean and free of pencils, and looks sharp as well!



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Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

- Officers -

President	David Chadwick, RPT
Vice-President	Chris Purdy, RPT
Treasurer	Ron Kenreich
Secretary	Andrew Kovaleski
Imm. Past Pres.	Mitch Staples, RPT

Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, February 16
7:30pm

**Meeting will be hosted
online by Kim Hoessly**

**Link to join meeting
in Zoom will be
emailed prior to the
meeting**

Disclaimer:

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