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The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technician's Guild

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President's Message

A few weeks ago, I got a call from someone who said he had a spinet piano in a barn that needed to be tuned. I pictured a poor broken down spinet which had been sitting in a pile of hay suffering from the climate for years. Then he gave me his address which was way out in the boonies. The satellite map showed a house and barn back in the woods a few yards from the road, and I heard the theme from "Deliverance" in my head. On top of that, the road had a strange and sinister-sounding name. But I said yes despite the warning signs, and spent the next few days anxious and wondering if I should make up an excuse to cancel.

The day before the appointment I texted a friend, gave him the address and said "If you don't hear from me by tomorrow evening, call the cops!"

As I drove up the hilly gravel road there was a house on the left and a barn on the right, but it wasn't a saggy old wood one like I expected, but a new red metal-sided one gleaming in the sun, and there was a huge peace sign formed from branches hanging from a tree. I was greeted by a friendly young man who was enthusiastic to get his piano tuned. He led me into the barn, which wasn't a barn at all, the second floor was a modern music studio! And the piano wasn't a spinet, it was a fairly decent small upright that badly needed to be tuned but fine otherwise. No hay, no rodents, no cow patties, no broken strings.

Clearly I had let my prejudice and fear spark unwarranted anxiety. So, while one must be reasonably cautious about a potentially dicey situation, you never

David Stang



Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 19 @ 7:00 PM

Graves Piano - 5798 Karl Road, Columbus, OH 43229

Technical Presentation

Chris Purdy - Care and Feeding of the Steinway 1098



This photo and the last are of an antique piano at the Johnston Farm Historical Museum near David Stang's hometown of Troy, OH, built by John Osborn in 1835. If anyone has any ideas about fabricating new hammers and dampers for this instrument, please contact David at stangdave@columbus.rr.com

Chapter Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2022 7:00 PM - Solich Piano Easton

Attendance:

David Stang, Ron Kenreich, Justin Swain, Wayne Strautman, guest John Parmater

Treasurer's Report:

\$1294.72

Ron Kenreich spoke with the bank representatives and said that they would be waiving our monthly fee.

Old Business:

The technical exam workshop held on March 4 was very successful. The participants each said that they learned something new and useful. The jigs

New Business:

There were a couple of interesting topics from the Winter Board meeting of the National Chapter. The complete news from the meeting can be found in the Regional News email sent from our Regional VP, Mike Gutowski.

- The written RPT exam is now electronic and the paper form has been eliminated.
- CTEs and TECs are now permitted to identify themselves as such in advertising and business cards.
- The PTG attorney mentioned that our method of voting at convention council, where the weight of each delegate's vote is proportional to the number of members in the chapter he/she is representing, is illegal under Illinois law. To comply there must be written responses from each of the voting chapter members. There was no further information or proposal. (Illinois is relevant because the PTG Articles of Consolidation were established there.)

This year's Annual Council Meeting at the PTG National Convention in Garden Grove, CA will be held on Tuesday, August 2, one day before the convention begins. Our chapter's Delegate and Alternate nominations are due on July 1 in order to participate in the council meeting. Delegates and alternates will be allowed to attend the Regional Caucus virtually this year, and will need to indicate on their registration form whether they plan to attend in person or virtually. This only applies to regional caucus meetings held during council to elect regional vice presidents and nominate committee members.



One of my favorite content creators, Mattias Krantz, made this video last month of an... interesting concept. For more similar interesting piano projects, check out the rest of his YouTube channel.

Butts and Flanges

Justin Swain was happy to have participated in the workshop, especially the section on grand regulation. He appreciated the way Chris Purdy presented the regulation procedure in a methodical and practical way. Here are a few pointers: Choosing punchings for key height is easy because the change in height at the center pin is half that at the key front. Note that when using many small punchings as opposed to one thick one, there is a small difference because the thin ones are more compressible. When regulating aftertouch, it can seem ambiguous because of the compression of the punchings under the key. A good way to find the bottom of the keystroke is to watch the damper movement.

There was a discussion about pitch correction. While pianos are designed for A=440 pitch, there may be circumstances where the pitch may be "floated" so that the pitch rises and falls during the year along with the humidity. This is because the tuning will be a little more stable during the next few months if the correction isn't too radical. Also the overall pin movement, therefore wear, over the life of the piano will be less. However, some customers may not accept anything other than 440, for instance if they have absolute pitch or play other instruments with the piano. If adding a pitch correction to the tuning takes more time, then it is certainly reasonable to charge more. Also one could recommend and schedule another tuning a few weeks after the pitch correction.

- Officers -

President - David Stang

Vice President - Chris Purdy, RPT

Treasurer - Ron Kenreich

Secretary - Andrew Kovaleski

Immediate Past President - David Chadwick, RPT



Our web address is:
<https://www.ptgcolumbus.org>

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