



# The Buckeye Backcheck

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

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## President's Message

A few years ago a very well-regarded and experienced technician did a technical about tuning at a meeting. It was an outstanding talk, and one of the things I remember is that he said hard test blows are very seldom needed. During his demonstration his blows were never louder than about Forte. I had been under the impression that double- or triple- Forte blows were necessary for tuning stability, so I was skeptical. I was skeptical because I had encountered pianos that had rendering problems, that is, friction that can cause too much (or too little) tension between the pin and the pressure point as the pin is tightened. As that tension gradually passes into the speaking length the pitch will change over the coming days, so a hard blow alleviates that uneven tension right away.

But as I've gained experience I have a better feeling for when that tension is uneven, and have found ways to even the tension without super hard test blows. Now I normally get through a tuning without blasting my ears and without string breakage.

At another meeting one of our very experienced members talked about wild strings and how he claimed to be able to "cancel out" the beats of a single string by tuning the other two so they have the same beat. Again I was skeptical because to me the expression "cancel out" meant the kind of cancellation used in noise-cancelling headphones. I thought he was crazy. But then I thought about it some more and realized a better phrase would be "wash out". If the silent parts of one beat coincide with the loud parts of the other beat then the overall beating is minimized. Theoretically.

Well, just last week I proved this phenomenon for myself because I actually made it happen! To hear a left string beating by itself (with the center and right muted) then

hear the beat disappear when the mute is removed is magical.

So the lesson here is, if you hear an older person say something nutty, just nod in agreement and file it away in the back of your mind because older folks may be a little bit crazier but they're (we're?) also a little bit wiser.

David Stang

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## **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, February 21 @ 7:00 PM

Food @ 6:30 PM

Solich Piano of Easton - 4194 Easton Gateway Dr, Columbus, OH 43219

## **Technical Presentation:**

Walter Bagnall on the RPT Tuning Exam

### **Possible Future Technicals**

Bryan Hartzler on Voicing

Kim Hoessly on "Stupid Spinnet Tricks"

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*Candid photo #1 from the PTG Holiday Luncheon on Saturday, January 21 at Hofbrauhaus*

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# Chapter Meeting Minutes

*November 15, 2022 7:00 PM - Solich Piano of Easton*

## **Attendance:**

David Stang, Ron Kenreich, Kim Hoessly, Justin Swain, Andrew Kovaleski, Victor Wolfe, Walter Bagnall, Wayne Strautman, Evan Bingham, Sam Debatin, Chris Purdy

## **Treasurer's Report:**

\$1411.53

## **Old Business:**

David Stang had heard that Columbus Piano Leasing has closed. CPL has actually only moved, and the new location is TBA.

David Chadwick is scaling back and would like to sell, give away, or rent out his piano tools. If you are interested in any of these tools, please reach out to David at [pianoservice54@gmail.com](mailto:pianoservice54@gmail.com).

PTG dues were due at the end of the year - please make your dues payments ASAP if you have not already!

## **New Business:**

Ohio MTA has a scholarship fund which the chapter has usually contributed \$200 to. Chris Purdy moved to support the scholarship fund, and the motion passed.

## **Butts and Flanges**

Kim today dealt with a damp-chaser at a school and found a mouse dead in the bucket. A discussion followed about making sure that humidifier systems in vertical piano aren't too close to the bass bridge to avoid corroding strings.

Does anyone know how to tune a portative organ? Kim suggested checking with Peebles-Herzog. Chris suggested that a pipe organ can change up to 4 cents per one degree fahrenheit.



*Candid photo #2 from the PTG Holiday Luncheon on Saturday, January 21 at Hofbrauhaus*

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We are saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Grubb, RPT. The following is excerpted from his obituary, located at this link: [LINK](#)

Rev. Robert D. Grubb, 83, of Gallipolis, Ohio passed away on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at his residence. Bob was born on January 26, 1939 in Sophia, West Virginia, son of the late Carrie Mae Andrews Belcher and Merlin R. Belcher. Bob was retired from Holzer Medical Center as an Electronics Technician and was a registered piano technician for many years. Bob was known as the piano doctor. Bob was a member of the Grubb Family Singers and a member of the Gallipolis Christian Church.

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## **- Officers -**

President - David Stang

Vice President - Chris Purdy, RPT

Treasurer - Ron Kenreich

Secretary - Andrew Kovaleski

Immediate Past President - David Chadwick, RPT

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