

[View this email in your browser](#)



The Buckeye Backcheck

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

Volume 47 - Issue 3 - May 2022

President's Message

"When you play, never mind who listens to you." – Robert Schumann

"Sometimes I can only groan, and suffer, and pour out my despair at the piano!" --
Frederic Chopin

"I believe in using the entire piano as a single instrument capable of expressing every possible musical idea." – Oscar Peterson

"There are eighty-eight keys on a piano and within that, an entire universe." — James Rhodes

"When I had nothing else, I had my mother and the piano. And you know what? They were all I needed." – Alicia Keys

"I've always wanted to smash a guitar over someone's head. You just can't do that with a piano." -- Elton John

"It's like a whole orchestra, the piano for me. And also it's to me the greatest instrument. I shouldn't say that, but I believe that this is the only instrument I can really feel happy about playing." -- Dave Brubeck

“The typewriting machine, when played with expression, is no more annoying than the piano when played by a sister or near relation.” -- Oscar Wilde

“The piano ain’t got no wrong notes.” – Thelonious Monk

David Stang

Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 17 @ 7:00 PM

Columbus Piano Leasing - 6492 Proprietors Road, Worthington, OH 43085

Zoom link will be sent out before the meeting for any who would like to listen online

Technical Presentation

Show Me Your Temperament Procedure, and I'll Show You Mine - A Temperament Sequence Show and Tell



Franz Mohr passed away March 28, 2022 at age 94 at his home in Lynbrook, NY on Long Island. Mr. Mohr was the chief concert technician for Steinway & Sons for 24 years. He was born in Norvenich, Germany in 1927. He

recalled living through air raids during World War II. Mr. Mohr presented a technical to the Columbus Chapter in 2004 at Graves Piano & Organ.

I remember him as a modest man, soft spoken and religious. We all enjoyed dinner after his presentation at a local restaurant. He had quite a number of recollections of his time traveling with Vladimir Horowitz and other famous concert artists including Glen Gould, Cliburn & Rubinstein. He published a book "My Life with the Great Pianists" detailing many of his encounters. I have a copy if anyone is interested in borrowing it. Mr. Mohr was kind enough to sign a poster for me, pictured above. - Mark Ritchie

Chapter Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2022 7:00 PM - Graves Piano and Organ

Attendance:

In Person: David Stang, Chris Purdy, David Chadwick, Kim Hoessly, Wayne Strautman, Phil Walters, Ron Kenreich

Zoom: Andrew Kovaleski, Justin Swain, Heather Fullenkamp, Jack Johnston, Walter Bagnall

Treasurer's Report:

\$1960.72, including \$630.00 from the home office for dues.

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

Our bylaws state that annual elections are to be held at the May meeting. If any member is interested in running for office, please contact David Stang at stangdave@columbus.rr.com stating the office for which you'd like to run.

Walter is planning to attend the PTG Convention in August, and he would like to serve as the delegate or alternate. If anyone else is interested in serving as a delegate, please contact David Stang at stangdave@columbus.rr.com.

Butts and Flanges

Kim Hoessly went out to a spinet where the customer had replaced the plastic elbows themselves, and had done a fairly good job, but the sustain pedal wasn't working. Upon depression of the pedal, all the hammers raised a bit. With inspection, the hammer rail was split and needed to be glued back together. The piano turned out fine, but with maybe more work needed than they had hoped!

Justin Swain was working on an Ellington grand piano when he saw that one of the agraffes was broken off. He was able to extract the stub, but finding a replacement has proved tricky. Agraffes of the appropriate length and thread width are not available from the supply houses - the ones with the right thread width are too long. Mark Ritchie recommended finding a 7/32 nut and screwing it onto the agraffe, cutting it to size, and then removing the nut to reshape the threads. Chris Purdy recommended using a tap to clean out and restore the threads of the hole in the plate, and maybe it would give enough room for the longer replacement agraffe to fit into the hole.

- Officers -

President - David Stang

Vice President - Chris Purdy, RPT

Treasurer - Ron Kenreich

Secretary - Andrew Kovaleski

Immediate Past President - David Chadwick, RPT

Care and Feeding of the Steinway 1098 - Chris Purdy

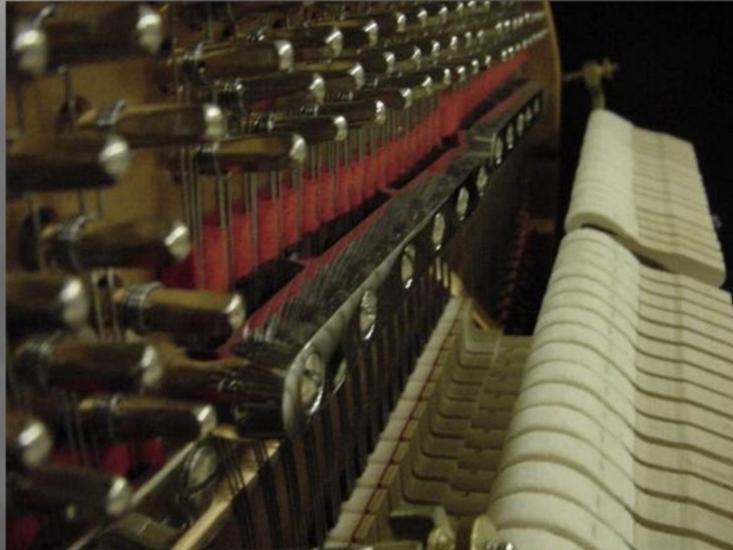
When you encounter a Steinway upright in the wild, the fallboard and music desk system is a bit different. The music desk hinges on the cabinet, and can sit behind or on top of the fallboard. The desk should be able to just pop off of the screws holding it on at either side. The piano can be tuned without removing the fallboard. To remove the fallboard, the key slip just slips right off like a grand, and the fallboard is connected to the cheek blocks. There are two screws per cheek block which must be removed, and then it will lift off as one big piece.

Chris has found that these pianos prefer very little stretch - when he was the tuner at an all-Steinway school, they had thirty of these uprights. Tuning compact octaves helped him find a satisfactory tuning, as well as using strong test blows.

There used to be a big hump in the plate where the treble strings render, and in newer models, this has been replaced with simply a felt strip. The newer models additionally have shorter tuning pins, and both of these features help smooth the string rendering.

45 Scale – Recent Modifications

- › Elimination of the cast mound
- › Tuning pins are 1/8" shorter (now 2.5")
- › Revised tuning pin scaling

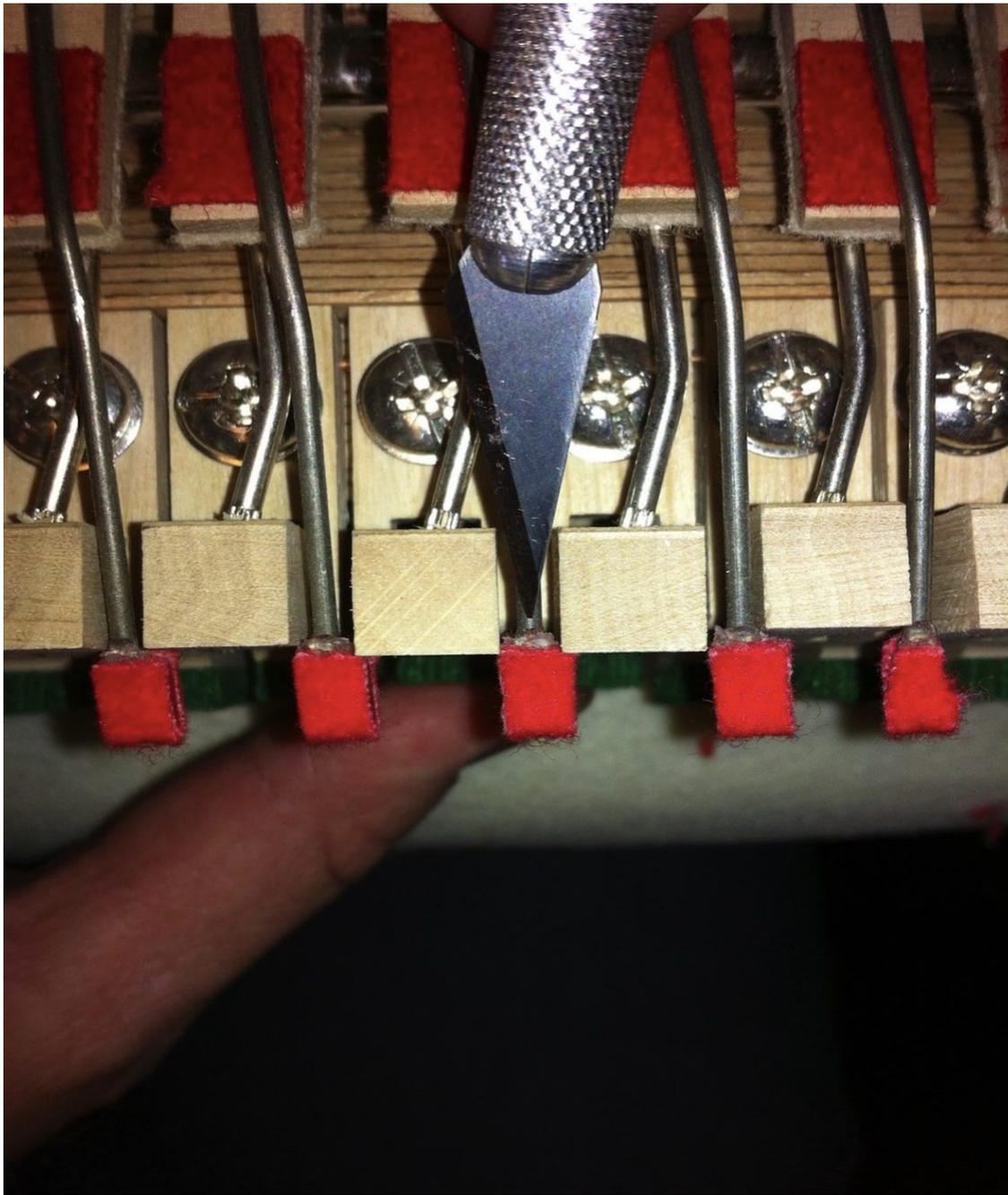


These pianos are particularly sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity, and in order to prove this to the administration, Chris logged data on the rooms containing each of these pianos. The pianos in rooms where the climate fluctuated more reliably went out of tune much more quickly than the ones in rooms with consistent climate.

Common repair problems with these pianos are with the damper pedal rods - the damper pedal rod sits in a piece of wood with a bushed hole, and the wood of the rod wears at the felt bushing until the rod is loose. Remove the old felt and replace with an appropriate size, similar to how you re-bush a center pin. To size the bushing, wrap the rod in sandpaper and use the rod to burnish the bushing to the size you need. Then, smooth the rod with sandpaper and put a bit of teflon powder on it to avoid needing to do this repair again in a few years.



Another common problem that can be hard to track down is a noise around the top of the mid treble section, caused by the sostenuto knife being too close to the backs of the keys, which are cut away to accommodate it. Especially when dip increases, this can cause a thumping noise. Additionally, the tabs for the sostenuto can sometimes cause a buzz when it touches the whippen next to it. They can also be a bit too wide and they only barely stick below the whippen, and cause a mushy feeling in the key when they are obstructing the whippen. Chris has taken an exacto knife and trimmed them a bit on each side to make sure that they do not make contact on either side and center the metal rods so they do not contact either whippen.



Trapwork on these pianos have a few issues - the pedal adjustment rods are sometimes too long, contacting the other trap works and causing a binding feeling. Cut off the excess above the screw to solve this problem.



Damper lever felt where it contacts the spoon of the repetition or the damper pedal rod can get hard and make its own squeaking and groaning sounds. A quick way to solve this is to apply some McLube or possibly Pro-felt lubricant to the pedal and the spoons. The damper pedal rod can come out - there are four hinges, three facing one way and one facing the other way. If you remove the opposing hinge, then the rod will just slide right out. Then, you can apply all of the lubricant with a brush applicator to the sustain pedal rod.

A quick way to adjust the strike point on C88 is to heat the hammer shank and warp the hammer down just a bit. The thorough way to do this fix is to adjust the action rail, but this is an acceptable quick fix.

Flanges are the asian-type with the spring and a metal plate on the hammer butt . The screw on the plate can get loose and allow the center pins to walk out. Correct fix is to tighten the screw but you can also use a small metal part which fits under the screw and has tabs between the flanges to quickly stop the pins from walking out.



The steinway vertical action has posidrive screws with a big slot and a small slot. It looks like you could use a flathead or a philips, but you should use a posidrive screwdriver without beveled edges for these screws. This screwdriver has straight edges which allow you to put more torque into a screw.

Copyright (C) 2022 Columbus PTG. All rights reserved.

Our web address is:

<https://www.ptgcolumbus.org>

Disclaimer:

All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the chapter or the guild. Articles and illustrations may be re-printed by other PTG newsletters with proper acknowledgement, unless otherwise indicated in the article.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**