



The Buckeye Backcheck

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

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President's Message

Thanks so much, Andrew, for hosting our September meeting in your lovely back yard, on what may have been the last warm evening of the year. Thanks to the attendees for contributing to the technical discussions.

In August I traveled to Winchester U.K. with a group of singers, and we had the privilege of singing at the Cathedral in a week-long residency. We sang for services every afternoon and went on day-trips in the mornings. Every day was beautiful because the weather was just about perfect, and every excursion was fun and interesting, and it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to sing in one of Europe's great cathedrals. However it was very difficult for me to decide to go because I am a bit of a travelphobe, I get nervous in airports, and I was concerned about Covid.

I think I inherited travelphobia from my mom, but my Aunt Dodie was the opposite: she was always on the go: she loved to travel, go out to flea markets and all kinds of events. When I was deciding on this trip, one of the things that pushed me was her voice in my head. She once said (when I was anxious about another trip) "You've gotta do these things while you can!" That memory has been an inspiration to me, not only about traveling, but about everything else in life I get anxious about. When I'm nervous about something, there's nothing that will take the jitters away completely, but I can just go ahead and do whatever needs to be done anyway. This is relevant to our (and every other) profession. Difficult pianos, customers, driving and financial situations are hard, but we need to just face them anyway. Often there is a reward at the end, like a nicely repaired and regulated piano. Sometimes the reward is simply getting through it. Thanks for your words, Aunt Dodie!

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 18 @ 7:00 PM

Kawai Piano Gallery - 1540 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, OH 43240

Near the Barnes and Noble in the Polaris Lifestyle Center, the outdoor portion of the Polaris Mall

Technical Presentation

Kim Hoessly - *A Discussion on Business Topics*

Up Next

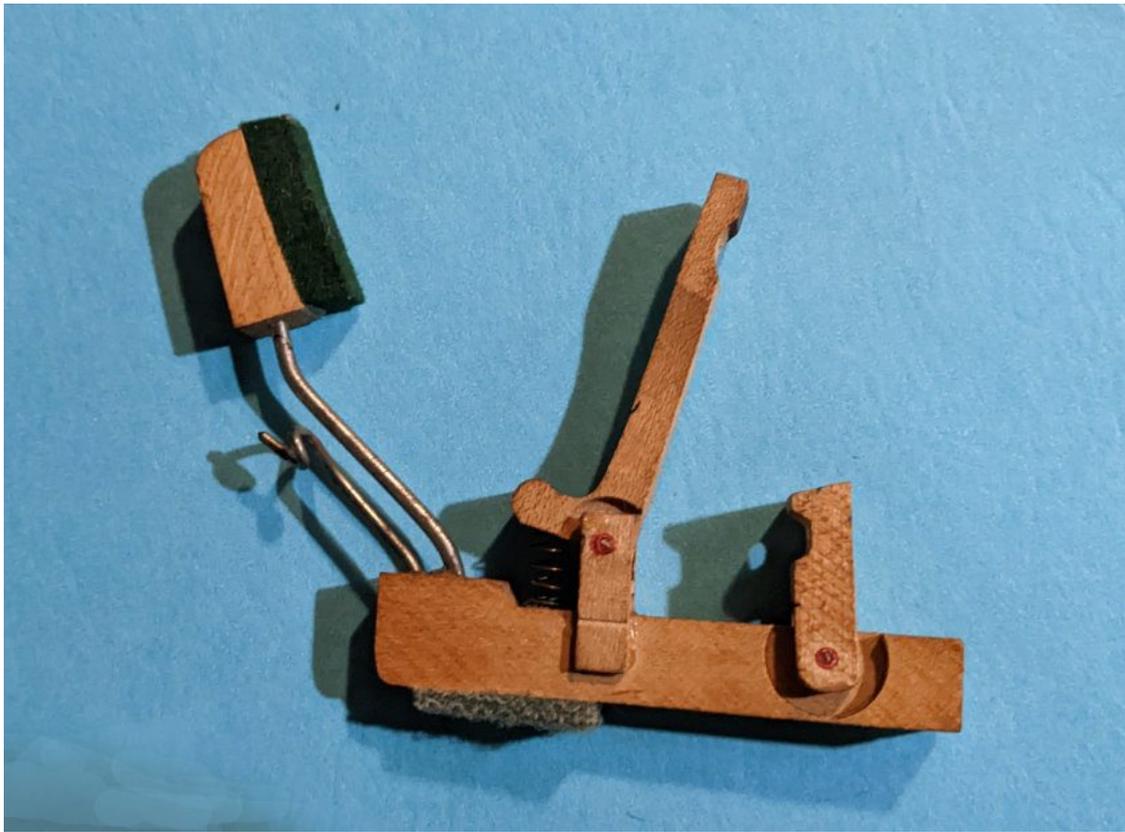
November - Chris Purdy on Keyframe Bedding

Future Technicals

Bryan Hartzler on Voicing

Walter Bagnall on the Tuning RPT Exam

Kim Hoessly on "Stupid Spinet Tricks"



Chris Altenburg brought in this unusual whippen from a piano that needs a replacement - does anyone have a part like it? The jack is 2" long.

Chapter Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2022 7:30 PM - Andrew Kovaleski's house

Attendance:

David Stang, Walter Bagnall, Jack Johnston, Ron Kenreich, Kim Hoessly, Chris Altenburg, Wayne Strautman, Justin Swain, Andrew Kovaleski, guest Kurt Mehl

Treasurer's Report:

\$2003.37

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

David Stang sent in the annual dues form to the home office indicating that we will allow the home office to collect our chapter dues of \$30 as a part of the national dues payment.

A new piano store, Kawai Piano Gallery, has opened in the Polaris Mall. The manager Lee Krause has expressed an interest in joining our chapter.

A report from the 2022 PTG National Convention in Anaheim, thanks to Wayne and Walter:

- A new 3-note grand action model for the Technical Exam will be required soon, but probably not sooner than a year from now.
- There was discussion among the delegates about ways to get more people to attend convention. One popular idea was to hold national convention every other year, with regional convention in the off years.
- All classes attended by Wayne and Walter were reported as “mind-blowingly good”, and very worth it! Wayne was especially impressed by the concert at the end of the last day, which was a two-piano work played by a pianist and accompanied by his own “recording” on a concert player grand.



This piano was very helpfully labeled as such by an excited young pianist - Andrew Kovaleski

Butts and Flanges

Andrew brought up the subject of replacing the suede in the tray of a grand piano music desk. Even using a rotary cutter, it can be difficult to cut the new material because it has a tendency to move slightly as you cut. Suggestions for stabilizing the

fabric included using a cutting surface with lots of friction, such as fine sandpaper, and clamping a straightedge over the fabric.

Andrew suggested that it is possible to replace the felt on the damper upstop rail without removing the damper wires, although it is certainly not the ideal way to perform the task. To perform the repair, one must remove the screws from the upstop rail and remove the screws holding the back action to the key cavity. Then, one can shimmy the upstop rail behind and underneath the back action in order to remove it, being careful not to bend the damper wires. The replacement is certainly easier done in the course of a full damper restoration, when the wires are disconnected from the underlevers, but this method can work in a pinch.

Wayne Strautman has a new email address - waynestrautman6670@gmail.com. Wayne also suggested a trick that he learned at PTG Convention for drilling new pinblocks - locations for each pin can be marked as a template on a sheet of plexiglass, which can then be drilled straight through.

Kurt Mehl talked about his experiences as a piano player and tuner in Nicaragua. Unfortunately, there are very few piano techs in Central America, and very few pianos.

Mark and Marilyn Ritchie have sold their house and moved into an assisted living facility in Lancaster.

- 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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Our web address is:

<https://www.ptgcolumbus.org>

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