



WANTED: Piano Technician

I need someone to repair my piano which has many sticking keys.
The keys are all staying down and the notes won't play.
Please help!! call 1-555-STK-KEYS

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

CHAPTER MEETING March 18, 2008

Thanks to Otterbein College for hosting us at their Chapel and to Kim Hoessly for arranging the meeting. And for the cookies.

Attendance: Bob Grubb, Mark Ritchie, Ben Wiant, Bill Golden, David Stang, Ron Kenreich, Victor Wolfe, Kim Hoessly, and guest Abbey Hirt, an Otterbein piano major.

The meeting was chaired by Bob Grubb, Vice-President.

Treasurer's Report

We presently hold \$1565.61 in our 12-month CD, and \$455.96 in checking, totaling \$2021.57.

Old Business

The National Convention will be in Anaheim, June 18-22. Ben Wiant may go as our delegate, but he has not decided yet. Rick Miller also may go. Be on the lookout in the Journal for By-Laws proposals to be discussed at the convention.

The Central East Regional Seminar will be in October in Des Plaines, Illinois.

The Yamaha G3 6' piano at the Otterbein Chapel is being considered as an instrument that can be used for the PTG tuning test.

Butts & Flanges

The question was brought up whether someone has taken over Ancott. It is presently unclear whether there is a good source out there for piano pricing now that the Ancott book has ceased publication.

Mark brought a small combination LED flashlight and laser pointer. It has a magnetic base and a flexible neck so it's very nice for piano work. He found it at Harbor Freight.



Another cool tool is the hammer filing tool from Mother Goose which is multi-faced and can file the end 1/3, or the middle 1/3, or the entire width of a hammer in order to mate it to the strings.

There was a discussion about pianos made in China. The Piano Warehouse has a number of Chinese instruments on display with various names, including Schaffer. There is a wide variety of pianos made in China right now, and while quality is improving overall, there are still problems to be aware of. For instance, Bob Grubb mentioned a new piano he saw where the cardboard front punchings were warped, causing problems in key dip and aftertouch. It was also in need of quite a lot of action regulation. (This instrument was *not* from the Piano Warehouse, by the way.)

Mark Wasmund Sopp, age 56, of Columbus, passed away at his home on March 24, 2008. Mark was employed by Henderson Music Company and previously worked for Piano Warehouse. He is preceded in death by his father, Theodore Ernst Sopp, and his grandparents. He is survived by his mother, Jane Wasmund Sopp; sister, Christine (John) Harmon; several aunts, uncles and cousins. Mark is a graduate from Ohio State University with a B.A. and M.A. in music and Worthington High School. He was a member of MARS and OSU Alumni Association. Interment will be in Pennsylvania. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Voice CORPS Reading Services, 2955 W Broad St. Columbus 43204.

From the Rutherford Funeral Home web site

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Technical Presentation

Kim led a discussion about aural temperament tuning. Here are a few interesting points that were made by various attendees. Thanks to everyone for their comments.

- The ear is truly remarkable in its ability to discern different sounds; with over 10,000 receptors.
- Those who claim to have "perfect pitch" probably can't pick out A-440 perfectly within a few cents, as a tuner needs to do.
- Electronic sources for A-440 are a nice convenience for those who would rather not deal with forks and they are more stable with temperature.
- How perfect are tuning forks? An experiment was suggested that where a number of people meet at a wooden table and all place their vibrating forks on the table to see how much variation there is.



- A good aural tuner does not need an electronic device for temperament fine-tuning, however there are situations where they come in handy, such as in pitch-raises and in noisy environments.
- The Journal has been running a series called "The 5-minute tuning lesson" which is worth studying.
- The Braid-White procedure using 4ths and 5ths is becoming less popular, since 3rds and 6ths are faster-beating and therefore provide more sensitivity.
- Try to tune the entire temperament as quickly as possible. If it's rough, it can be fine tuned in the next pass.
- When an interval is wrong, and it's unclear which note is the culprit, start out on the assumption the the one that was just tuned is wrong.
- Turn off overhead fans because the air movement can interfere with hearing beats.
- The contiguous 3rds test is a very good test for the temperament; it's important to know how they should sound. Note that one of the "5-minute" exercises is about contiguous intervals.
- Note that the G#3-C4 M3rd is exactly 8 per second.
- There are those tuners who use just one mute, tuning the unisons at the same time as the temperament. This technique is not necessarily for everyone, but may be interesting to try.
- Here are some more tests that were pointed out: The contiguous m3-M3 should have the same beat rate. The "inner" M3 - "outer" M6 also should have the same rate (e.g. D-F# - C-A).

The "Buckeye Backcheck" welcomes feedback and elaboration, especially since the editor is getting ready to take the RPT tuning exam!

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FROM THE ARTS JOURNAL

This gadget rocks!

"Tenori-On" translates as "sound on your palm", and that just about sums up the machine. A hand-held silver tablet framing a square grid of 16x16 flashing LED buttons, the Tenori-On is double-sided: both faces look identical, but one is played by the performer, while the other provides a miniature light show for the audience, providing a visual rendering of every sound that has to be seen to be truly appreciated.

When you first switch it on, the Tenori-On appears rather like your average, common or garden sequencer. Lights flicker across the display in perfect four-four timing, and you can build up a looping sequence of up to 16 tracks, from plinky electric pianos to booming bass drums. There are 256 sounds in the Tenori-On's arsenal, but you can load up your own samples using the memory card.

A thumb-roller allows you to scroll between tracks, and each of the 256 little light-buttons produces a different note when pressed. You can change the time signature by reducing your 16-beat sequence to 15 or less, you can change the tempo with a quick push and roll, and you can change the volume on each track by turning the tablet sideways to transform it into an instant live mixing desk.

The Tenori-On has plenty more unexpected tricks: you can sweep your hand over the lights to produce a warm wash of sound, or you can pick a series of points on the tablet for a pinball to ricochet around, sounding every time it hits an obstacle. Each mode can be layered into a sequence in real time. And if you're particularly proud of your instant creation it can be saved to the memory card.

If this all sounds rather complex, it's not. Or, at least, it doesn't have to be. Some pick it up more quickly than others, but the beauty of the thing is how instantly gratifying it can be to an absolute beginner. Its intuitive controls make it simple to pick up the basics, but its complexity means there's real skill involved in producing exactly the sounds you want.

See a demo at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SGwDhKTrwU
Read the complete story at:
<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/features/this-gadget-rocks-the-worlds-newest-musical-instrument-791234.html>

CLASSICAL MUSIC IN COLUMBUS

Here are a few coming events:

Fri, Sat. April 11, 12

Columbus Symphony

Lise de la Salle, piano, Junichi Hirokami, cond.
Ohio Theater, 8pm

April 14 - 18

Capital University's World Music Festival
Various events at the Capital campus

Wed. April 16

OSU Guest Artist Series

Eitan Globerson, piano
Weigel Hall, 8pm

Fri. April 18

Columbus Symphony

Choral Favorites, Peter Stafford Wilson, cond.
Ohio Theater, 8pm

Sun. Apr. 20

Edward Parmentier, harpsichord

First Congregational Church

444 E. Broad St., 4pm.

This internationally renowned recitalist and recording artist will perform on a harpsichord built by Ben Bechtel.

Sun. Apr. 27

First Church Choir concert

First Congregational Church

444 E. Broad St, 4pm

Stravinski: Symphony of Psalms

Benjamin Wiant and G. Dene Barbard, pianos



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www.ptgcolumbus.org

Upcoming Events

Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, April 15 7:30pm

Location TBA

NEESCO 2008 - New England regional conference

April 24- 27

Manchester NH

National Convention and Technical Institute

June 18 - 22

Anaheim, California

www.ptg.org/conv/2008

THE COLUMBUS CHAPTER OF THE PIANO TECHNICIAN'S GUILD

President: Chris Altenburg, RPT

Vice President: Bob Grubb, RPT

Treasurer: Ron Kenreich

Secretary: Mike Varrone

Immediate Past President: Mark Ritchie, RPT

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Comments, articles, and advertising requests may be sent to the editor.

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