

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild
Volume 36 Issue 3 April 2011



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I apologize that the newsletter is late in coming out this month. I asked Chris to give me a few more days and I accept full responsibility. But it is finally official and I am very happy to let you know that I have accepted the piano technician position at Middle Tennessee State University. Since my job at Ohio University was cut to part time last year, I have been actively searching for a job at another university. If you are interested in tuning referrals in the South Eastern Ohio area, please contact me in the next month. I would like to have a list of tuners on hand that would be willing to work in this area.

I have not yet decided how to handle my chapter affiliation with the PTG. However, as my family will be staying behind in Athens for at least the first couple of years, I will be returning to the area often. I'll do my best to fulfill my duties to the Columbus chapter this spring. I want you all to know that it has been my honor to give back to the PTG this last year by serving as chapter president. I think we have had a pretty good season, I hope you have enjoyed the meetings and technicals.

I hope you all received the note that Chris Burget sent out about the seminar next week in Akron. I highly encourage everyone to seriously consider making the trip. One great advantage to membership in the PTG is our dedication to education. Whether you are a beginner or have years of experience, there are so many opportunities for you to learn and grow in the field. I encourage each of you to attend as many of these seminars as you possibly can. See me for information, read the Journal, check promotional emails; the possibilities for advancing your experience is there for the taking.

And speaking of education, Mark Ritchie has gone to great lengths to set up our technical this month with WNG. Join us at Graves Piano & Organ for the April meeting and learn about the new action parts available. Chances are good you are going to be finding this new technology in the field. Come learn what they are all about!

Hope to see you there,

Chris

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Chapter Meeting Minutes March 15, 2011

The meeting was held at Graves Piano & Organ Co.

Attendance:

Chris Purdy, Mark Ritchie, Ron Kenreich, Chris Burget, Chris Altenburg, Evan Bingham, Bob Grubb, Kim Hoessly, Doug Meszaros, Rick Miller, John Schmoll, David Stang, Phillip Walters, Ben Wiant

Treasurer's Report:

We currently have \$2,200.00 in CD's and \$201.93 in checking, for a total of \$2401.93.

Old Business:

The Chapter still has not heard a final decision on grant money from the Home Office for the Piano Forte Event this Fall.

The Ohio Music Teachers Association received our \$100 contribution to their Summer Music Study Scholarship Program.

New Business:

The Wessel, Nickel & Gross Technical Presentaion has been moved from May 2011 to April 2011, and will be given at Graves Piano & Organ Co..

Announcements:

On Monday April 11, LaRoy Edwards, RPT and Piano Service Manager for Yamaha, will be giving two seminars at Classic Pianos, 121 E Market St. Akron, OH., 44308. At 2:00 p.m. there will be the "Interactive Grand Regulation For The Institutional Piano". This will deal with problems common to pianos in colleges, schools, churches, and performance pianos. Sandwiches and refreshments will be served at 5:00 and then at 7:00 LaRoy will talk about "The Most Recent Technical Advancements From Yamaha", Co-hosted by the Northeastern Ohio Chapter of the PTG. If you would like to go, they ask that you RSVP at (330) 258-2900 x206.

The Piano Page, the National PTG website, has been updated and will offer many new features like individual profile pages for members and a new format for discussion groups. The CAUT and Pianotech Archives are gradually being switched to the new format. Go to www.my.ptg.org for more details.

Japanese Piano Industry Assesses Damage

The massive March 11 earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated Northern Japan have apparently had little direct impact on the country's top music manufacturers, which are located well south of Tokyo. (The effects of damage to four nuclear reactors in the region remain to be seen.) Hamamatsu-based Yamaha apparently suffered no significant damage. Tak Nakata, president of Yamaha Corporation of America, reported, "As far as we know, no Yamaha employees have been injured as a result of this disaster. Also, there has been no significant damage to our offices or factories. It is still too early to determine if this ongoing situation will affect shipments due to the currently unknown impact on ports, vessels, and shipping lanes."

Roland Corporation, and Kawai Corporation, which have headquarters and factories in Hamamatsu, were also unaffected. Kawai Vice President Brian Chung commented, "Our home city of Hamamatsu is located quite a distance south of the epicenter and remained safe from the devastation. As a company, our heartfelt sympathies go out to all who have been affected by this terrible tragedy. Kawai Japan operates several music schools in the affected areas. As yet, we have been unable to reach any teachers or students associated with those schools, but we continue to hope for good news regarding their wellbeing once communication to the area is restored."

(Excerpted from The Music Trades Online. For more go to: www.musictrades.com/index.html)

More is... more?



<http://www.npr.org/2011/01/18/132945634/musical-innovation-a-grander-grand-piano>

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Technical Presentation: Reyburn CyberTuner and CyberHammer

The presentation was given by CyberTuner inventor, Dean Reyburn, and his son, Nate. Both are RPT members of the Western Michigan PTG.

They started off by saying that ergonomic designs are central to all the tools they make. Dean related how an injury from an auto accident is a primary factor in making tools that allow a technician to do quality work more efficiently with less stress to the mind and the body.

Next came a presentation of some of the more distinctive features of the Reyburn CyberTuner (RCT). He demonstrated how RCT samples five to six notes and measures inharmonicity between partials and any amount of "pitch wobble". This information is then used to calculate tuning curves based on circumstances like pitch-correction, fine tuning, type of piano, home or concert venue, and desired amount of octave stretch.

Much of the time was spent discussing the "Smart Tune" Mode. This is a micro-pitch raise mode that allows many pianos within 15 cents to be pitch-corrected and possibly fine tuned in one pass. In this mode, one can input where the tenor and treble breaks are, as well as where the lowest plain wire strings are located and where trichords switch to bichords. This allows the RCT to tweak the overpull ratios for notes surrounding these areas in order to compensate for changes of flexibility in the soundboard as well as choosing different partial matches due to jumps in inharmonicity between string types and separate bridges. According to them, many RCT users now use this as their default setting.

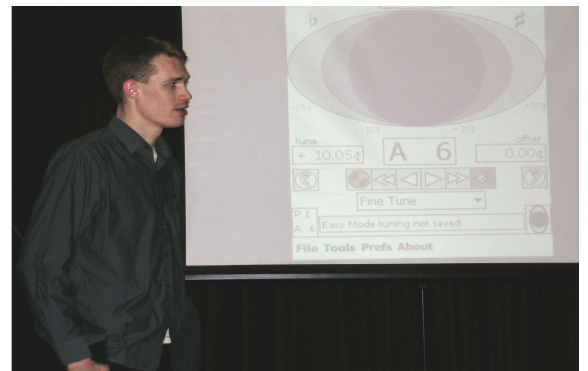
The presentation then shifted to their line of CyberHammers. These are impact hammers and there are several models available with many different wood handles, aluminum or titanium shafts, as well as other options for different weights, extenders, handle shapes and rubber grips. All are threaded at standard 30 TPI and can accept all American/Japanese tips, including those supplied by Schaff. The levers come with Wantanabe #2 tips. They claim to be lighter than other impact levers but still have just enough weight to move tight pins without sacrificing the ability to finely manipulate the pins when necessary. Also available is the curious looking grand impact hammer. It has two opposing handles extending upward 30 degrees that help to offset any flagpoling or unbalanced torquing of the tuning pin and also allows clearance over the rim and stretchers of most pianos.

They went on to discuss some basics of tuning with an impact lever as it is different from traditional techniques and does require some getting used to. The feel of the pin and all the subtle cues one uses to make decisions and movements is not entirely the same. They recommend trying it on pitch-raises first then gradually shift into finer tuning when more confident. They acknowledge that it is strange at first, but that your body will thank you in the long-run due to the reduction of stress in the upper body. Also shown were egg-shaped key strikers that felt very comfortable in the hand.

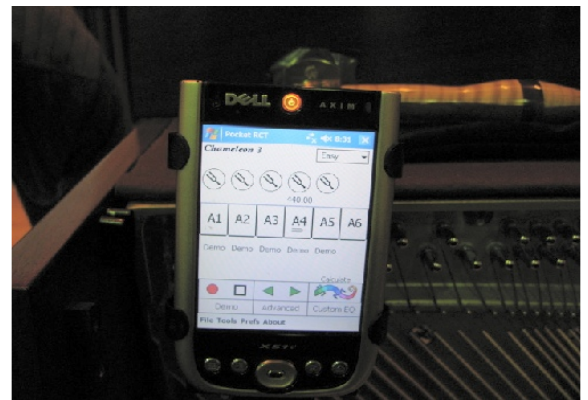
For more information go to: www.reyburn.com or www.reyburnpiano.com



Dean Reyburn



Nate Reyburn



Pocket RCT in Sample Mode



GW-1000 Grand Impact Lever



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<http://www.ptgmarc.org>

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Vice-President	Mark Ritchie, RPT
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Imm. Past Pres.	Kim Hoessly, RPT

Contributions and pictures for the Buckeye Backcheck and the web page are always welcome, (even if they are only peripherally related to pianos)!

- Chris Burget

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 19, 2011, 7:30pm
Chapter Meeting

Graves Piano & Organ Co.
5798 Karl Road
Columbus, OH 43229

Topic: Wessel, Nickel & Gross
Composite Piano Action Parts
Presenter: Mike Collins

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Disclaimer:

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

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