

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

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FROM MADAME PRESIDENT

It's January and the topic is usually resolutions. I've already broken a couple, so I'm not off to a very good start. The key thing (no pun intended), to remember about resolutions, though, is to not get discouraged if you take 2 steps forward and 1 step back. You're still making forward progress! So, let's all resolve to be more resolute. Here's a mix of some of my personal and professional resolutions:

Read more books (actually a pretty easy one, I love to read)

Walk more (I like to do this as well, but sometimes I'm wimpy when it's cold)

Eat smarter (But I do so love the four American food groups: flour, salt, sugar, fat)

Listen to more piano music (I listen to all kinds of music, but often not enough piano. It's good to hear what the piano should be and what it needs to be)

Be more organized (if only I could see the wood part of my desk...actually, any part of my desk)

Work on some of those cool jigs I see in the PTG Journal tech sections that I think, ooo, I could do that (but, of course, when?)

Catch up on my PTG Journal reading (I'm up to Sept. 2007!)

And of course, I always resolve to putt better, but that's an ongoing battle.

And hey, let's all resolve to go to Grand Rapids in July!

On another quick note, I'll soon be getting notification from the Home Office of any delinquent dues. Duty requires me, as chapter president, to call if your name is on the list and check if there are problems, or if you just forgot. If there is a problem I hope we can work it out. So, I'm not picking on anyone, just doing my job.

- Kim

The next chapter meeting will be **February 17, 2009 at Graves Piano and Organ**. The technical program will be troubleshooting and repair, presented by Mike Masters, RPT from the Cleveland chapter. This will be a "hands-on" technical where we will each be assigned to a piano with a regulation problem or repair to be diagnosed.



Our Chapter's Post-Holiday Dinner at the Hoover Grille.
Mike Hill, May Hill, Bill Golden, Chris Altenburg, Barb Altenburg, Ron Kenreich



Dwight Hansen, Victor Wolfe, Mark Ritchie, Marilyn Ritchie,
Kim Hoessly, Bud Hoessly

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Butts & Flanges

Have a look at this gorgeous Steinway S Art Case, built in 1938, pictures by Kim Hoessly. Note the interesting pedals.



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FROM THE ARTS JOURNAL

The Fingers Were Live; the Sound Was Recorded

By Daniel J. Wakin, *The New York Times* Jan. 22, 2009

It was not precisely lip-synching, but pretty close.

The somber, elegiac tones before President Obama's oath of office at the inauguration on Tuesday came from the instruments of Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman and two colleagues. But what the millions on the Mall and watching on television heard was in fact a recording, made two days earlier by the quartet and matched tone for tone by the musicians playing along.

The players and the inauguration organizing committee said the arrangement was necessary because of the extreme cold and wind during Tuesday's ceremony. The conditions raised the possibility of broken piano strings, cracked instruments and wacky intonation minutes before the president's swearing in.

"Truly, weather just made it impossible," Carole Florman, a spokeswoman for the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, said on Thursday. "No one's trying to fool anybody."

"It's not something we would announce, but it's not something we would try to hide," Ms. Florman said. "The fact they were forced to perform to tape because of the weather did not seem relevant, nor would we want to draw attention away from what we believed the news is, that we were having a peaceful transition of power from one administration to the next."

The musicians argued that the magnitude of the occasion and the harsh weather made the dubbing necessary and that there was no shame in it.

Along with admiration for the musicians' yeoman work in the cold, questions had swirled in the classical music world about whether Mr. Ma and Mr. Perlman would use their valuable cello and violin in the subfreezing weather. Both used modern instruments. Mr. Ma said he had considered using a hardy carbon-fiber cello, but rejected the idea to avoid distracting viewers with its unorthodox appearance.

"What we were there for," he said, "was to really serve the moment."

FROM THE PIANOTECH LIST

Esteemed Colleagues, A while ago, I posted about a Wm. Rolfe Fortepiano that someone in my area has in their possession. They want to sell, or donate, this piece to a museum, or private collector, that will preserve, and appreciate it. I went to look, and photograph it today, and it is magnificent, even though it would need some TLC to be perfect. It has 1 string that was tied, has a few over-dampers that are detached, and 4 key-fronts that are also detached. The one thing that is possibly missing is some kind of pedal lyre? There is only very minor veneer chips (at the bottom edges of the case) that I could see. I have additional pictures available if there is anyone out there who knows of someone who might be interested.

Interestingly enough, the piano came from New Hampshire, and in the drawers at the bottom of the keybed are tons of artifacts from New England, that the owners put in there to keep. There are two cards from manufacturers in Boston from way back. McPhail, and Miller, Gibson, and Co., and Newspaper articles dating clear back to 1773!!!

Isn't this a wonderful business that we're in? To be able to see, and touch artifacts that go clear back to before the Declaration of Independence is just incredible to me. The serial number of the piano seems to indicate that the piano was made circa 1805, and further proof of this is that the piano is signed Wm. Rolfe, and not Wm. Rolfe and Sons.

Clark A. Sprague, RPT
Bowling Green, Ohio



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CLASSICAL MUSIC IN COLUMBUS

Here are a few upcoming events:

Mon. Feb 2, 8pm

Faculty Recital Series:

Caroline Hong and friends - CSO Fundraiser

Weigel Auditorium

Sat. Feb 7, 5:30pm

ProMusica Chamber Orchestra

Pontifical College Josephemun

Sat, Sun. Feb. 7-8

Columbus Symphony

Choral Concert

Ohio Theater

Sun Feb 8, 2pm

Jefferson Academy Recital

Art Museum Auditorium

Fri Feb 20, 8pm

Venere Lute Quartet

Mees Hall Capital University

Sun Feb 22, 3pm

Columbus Bach Ensemble

Pontifical College Josephenum

FROM CHRIS PURDY: FOR SALE

1933 Steinway Model M Serial No. 275614

Satin Ebony Finish

Restored at Steinway-Hall in Akron Ohio (April 04' - October 04')

Everything but the soundboard has been replaced.

The piano has been regularly tuned. It has only been moved once (from Akron to my home in Athens) and has been in a humidity controlled environment since (I've been using a humidity control unit as well).

Included is the Damp-chaser Piano Humidity control system and cover.

Asking Price \$21,500

Logan Cull (740) 415-8809 lcull0423@gmail.com

Also available for sale:

Janson Standard Artist Bench, spade legs, satin ebony finish, with leather seat, and cover.





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www.ptgcolumbus.org

Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

President Kim Hoessly, RPT
Vice-President Chris Altenburg, RPT
Treasurer Ron Kenreich
Secretary David Stang

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

- David

Upcoming Events

Chapter Meetings

Tuesday February 17, 2009, 7:30pm
Graves Piano & Organ
5798 Karl Rd.
Technical Topic: Troubleshooting

Tuesday March 17, 2009, 7:30pm
Ben Wiant's home
3299 Dublin Rd.
Topic: Regional V.P. Richard Bittner

Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

April 23-26, 2009
Harrisburg, PA

Annual Convention and Institute

July 15 - 19, 2009
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Visit www.ptg.org/conv/2009
Bookmark it and check often for updates.

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

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