

# The Buckeye Backcheck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*  
Volume 37 Issue 1 February 2012



## The Well Tempered Clavier



The Second Sunday Music Series will present the second installment of Hector Garcia performing J.S. Bach's Well Tempered Clavier. Our very own Kim Hoessly has been asked to tune a historical temperament for the performance.

**February 12, 2012 2pm** - Preludes and Fugues 13 to 24

Highlands Presbyterian Church  
6909 Smoky Row Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43235  
[www.highlands-presbyterian.org](http://www.highlands-presbyterian.org)

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## **PianoBuyer.com Launches New “Piano-Buying Stories” Feature**

The following is from an email that Kim Hoessly thought some Chapter members might find interesting: For many, buying a piano is like finding a marriage partner. In “Piano-Buying Stories”—a new feature on PianoBuyer.com—consumers and retailers tell of their experiences in buying or selling pianos that were unusual, touching, surprising, or instructive—or all of these at once.

PianoBuyer.com, host of Piano Buyer magazine, has launched a new, ongoing blog feature—“Piano-Buying Stories”—in which individuals who have purchased a piano and those who sell them share unusual and touching stories about the piano-buying experience. “Pianos are unique among consumer goods,” says Larry Fine, editor, “in the extent to which buying one combines hardheaded choices about price and features with emotional responses involving art and passion. For many, buying a piano is more like finding a marriage partner than like buying furniture or appliances.”

This theme is well illustrated by the blog’s lead story, “The Piano Match,” by Nancy M. Williams, a creative writer and founder of Reflections on a Grand Passion, an online magazine for students of adult piano lessons. Williams describes her year-long search for a grand piano to replace an upright that no longer meets her needs. In the process she assesses the personalities of dozens of new and used instruments, rejecting some because of their undesirable tonal qualities, others for their unresponsive actions—and one used piano because its owner’s alcoholism reminds her of her father. Visiting the local Steinway dealer, Williams says, “I felt as if I had been set loose in a roomful of eligible bachelors, with [my teacher] Stephen not unlike my brother, intent on fostering a suitable match.” In the end, Williams finds and marries the piano of her dreams. “I commune with my beloved,” she rhapsodizes. “I have found my piano match. I revel in the sensation of being one with its crystalline sound.”

If “buying a piano is like dating, owning one is like marriage,” reminds Perri Knize in her piece, “The Surprising Thing About Pianos.” Knize, author of the book *Grand Obsession: A Piano Odyssey*, writes, “After a brief honeymoon, you find that your piano is far from perfect. She has bad hair and bad breath days. She has mornings when her voice is shrill and cutting, and evenings when she hisses, ‘Not tonight, dear.’ . . . You wonder whatever happened to the beautiful bride you brought home, the dream you fell for and believed you would possess forever.” Her prescription? “Once you’ve found your ‘perfect’ piano, accept its whims, find the good in it—just as you do with your spouse—and when it shows its flaws, look the other way. . . . Then it will be more likely to come back around to giving you those treasured moments of pure transcendence.”

Selling a piano, too, has its special challenges, fulfillments, and memorable moments. In “Piano-Buying Stories,” one piano dealer tells of his encounters with famous clients for whom cost seems no object, such as computer pioneer Steve Jobs and rock star Rod Stewart. Another tells of an instrument that was not sold but donated, and helped launch the career of a promising young musician. Several others share touching or humorous moments involving the importance of a piano in a customer’s life.

The blog can be read online at [www.pianobuyer.com/stories](http://www.pianobuyer.com/stories)

Piano Buyer is a semiannual publication devoted to the purchase of new, used, and restored pianos and digital pianos. Available free online at [www.PianoBuyer.com](http://www.PianoBuyer.com), it can also be purchased in print, in color on glossy paper, from the website and in bookstores. Distributed by IPG. ISBN 9781929145324. List Price: \$24.95.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Barbara Fandrich, Public Relations, at [bjfandrich@pianobuyer.com](mailto:bjfandrich@pianobuyer.com).

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## For Sale

### Gunther Upright

Doug Brandt sent these pictures of an older upright complete with candelabras. The piano is for sale. If any Chapter members, or anyone else, is interested in more information contact the owner at [sandrafisk@mac.com](mailto:sandrafisk@mac.com)





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[www.ptgcolumbus.org](http://www.ptgcolumbus.org)

Try not to sing out of key...!



Mr. Ritchie knows talent when he hears it!

<http://youtu.be/PibIYasnzWE>

## Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

**President** John Schmoll, RPT  
**Vice-President** Mark Ritchie, RPT  
**Treasurer** Ron Kenreich  
**Secretary** Christopher Burget

*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

### Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 7:30pm**

Henderson Music Co.  
2829 Festival Ln.  
Dublin, OH 43017  
614-764-7426

[www.hendersonmusic.com](http://www.hendersonmusic.com)

Topic: Octave & Unison  
Tuning

**Fabulous Prizes!!**

Map Link:

<http://g.co/maps/cq8gh>

This newsletter was created using the open-source program Scribus running on the Linux Mint operating system.

### Disclaimer:

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