

# The Buckeye Backchuck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Often when talking to customers, they will ask how I got into this line of work and inevitably they will state, “you must play piano”. Well, I do, although not very well (I think I peaked my sophomore year in college). I was, I explain, a bassoon major (which explains oh so many things). I also continue to explain that being a

bassoon player probably prepared me for certain aspects of my job much more so than playing piano. For while being a pianist does help you see the piano from a players point of view and not just mechanically and does help you talk to pianists, being a wind instrument player helped develop my ears much more so than being a pianist. Let’s face it, pianists have no control over the pitch of their instrument and while many are lucky enough to always play on good pianos in good tune, many do not and they tolerate some pretty horrendous sounding pianos (oh, it’s just a little off...). I’m just saying that in our profession, and probably in any profession, there are many things that you learn and many things that you are exposed to that will be of use to you in your daily work that you might not, at first, think are useful at all. In fact, sometimes these intellectual detours prove to be of greater value than many obvious educational opportunities. So, keep your eyes and ears and certainly your brains open because you never know when inspiration may hit.

Kin Hoessly, RPT

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## 2016 Post-Holiday Dinner



Thanks to Ron Kenreich for the making arrangements for the dinner at Bravo! Cucina Italiana Crosswoods. Notice all the dinner bills in front of us? Good thing they got our pictures... no dine and dash here!

## Welcome To New Member David Chadwick

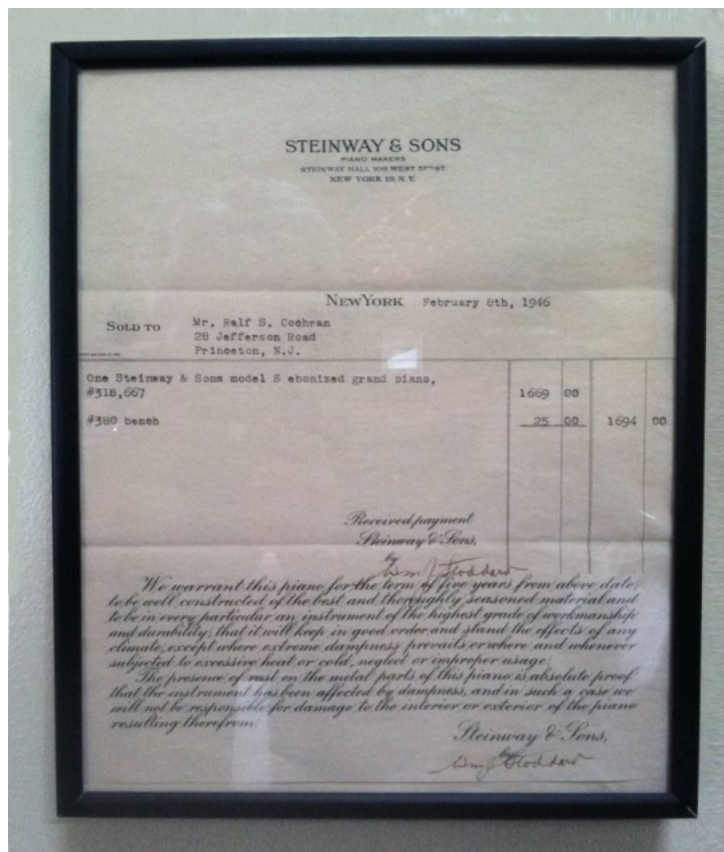


Photo: Joe Williams/Tribune

The Chapter would like to welcome new member, David Chadwick, RPT. He recently moved from Las Vegas to the Coshocton area. Originally born in Boston, he lived in Maine afterwards, then moved to Las Vegas over twenty years ago. He had a piano service business there and was also President of the Las Vegas Chapter for a time. He plans to open a shop and is now doing shopwork for Skjold Design Guitars LLC in Warsaw. The Coshocton Tribune recently ran a story on him and the link is listed below. Welcome to the Chapter and to Ohio, David!

[www.coshoctontribune.com/story/news/2015/12/29/coshocton-piano-tuner/78017846/](http://www.coshoctontribune.com/story/news/2015/12/29/coshocton-piano-tuner/78017846/)

## Steinway Model S Receipt - 1946



One of Doug Brandt's customers had the bill of sale for her Steinway on the wall next to the piano.

Hello Doug, Happy New Year!

As promised back in November, attached is a photo of the receipt I have hanging on the wall next to my family's Model S Steinway. The story in my family is that my great-grandfather, Ralf Cochran, waited patiently until Steinway started producing pianos again after World War II ended, then went in to New York City to purchase this one. It lived in Princeton, NJ with Great-Grandpa, Middlesex, NJ with my grandfather, and then in Wellington, OH (where I grew up; we hosted my senior piano recital in our home on this piano!), and I brought it to Hilliard, OH in 2007. My daughter and nieces have played it, too, meaning five generations of my family have enjoyed this instrument.

Perhaps this is more of our piano's provenance than you cared to know, but I can't help sharing my enthusiasm for our family heirloom! Thanks for helping us keep it up for the next generation and beyond.

Best regards,

Kathryn

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## Tech Tip

by Kim Hoessly



At our next meeting, we are going to talk about voicing, which is a much broader topic than one might think initially. It's about more than needles and "juicing". In our everyday work, we often come across 1 or 2 notes that just have a thin sound and don't match the surrounding notes. Often, the problem is that the hammer spacing is off just enough that either the left or right side of the hammer is not solidly hitting the string. The hammer is not missing the string, it is not hitting enough of the string to get a clean sound. If you look at the string cuts on the hammer, you can see what's going on (actually, checking string cuts can tell you lots of information about hammer spacing, loose hammer pinning, etc.). So the answer to the problem is to correct the spacing, either side to side or, if the hammer shank has warped, by burning the shank. But you cannot just move the hammer, you need to remove the string cuts first. If you do not, the hammer will want to move back into its previous spot. To prove that to yourself, lightly push the hammer towards the string with the back of your finger (basically pushing it with your fingernail to keep from pushing too hard and distorting the test) and you will see the hammer shimmy back into the cuts. The solution to this is to file the hammer before moving it. A shortened hammer file will do the trick or you can use a handy dandy hammer file similar to one that John Schmoll handed out a meeting a few years ago (see photos). The inside of the tool is lined with sand paper and the outside with buckskin to give you some grip as you use it. This was, according to John, designed for blind technicians as the tool is designed to keep the file square to the hammer as you use it when you can't see. It is a big help to sighted technicians as well. Be aware as well, that when you tighten hammer screws, sometimes the hammers will move incrementally and cause a similar problem. You may need to eliminate the rattley noise of loose hammers, but you may create another problem in the process.



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

## Happy Valentines Day...?



"Don't be silly Elise...Of course I remembered your birthday."

### Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

President	Kim Hoessly, RPT
Vice-President	Vacant
Treasurer	Ron Kenreich
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Imm. Past Pres.	Bryan Hartzler, 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*

### Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, February 16  
7:30pm**

#### Solich Piano

6370 Proprietors Rd  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 888-3441

[solichpianocolumbus.com](http://solichpianocolumbus.com)

#### Topic:

Pre-Voicing The Piano

#### Map Link:

[goo.gl/maps/5ddSHcLCh4F2](http://goo.gl/maps/5ddSHcLCh4F2)

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