

# The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Nature, in the Northern parts of the Northern Hemisphere, slows down and goes into a dormant state in the winter season. From trees to flowers to many animals, everything and everybody gets to rest up in order to prepare for the frenetic activity of Spring and Summer. And that's as it should be. We don't, however, take our cues from nature this time of year. Instead, we tend to get caught up in the capitalistic

crazy busy activity rather than take some time to reflect and restore. I heard a song on the radio by the Leftover Cuties that sort of summed it up: This Crazy Time of Year. Now maybe a certain amount of extra work is welcome as we close out our work year and little extra padding in the checking account is always welcome after all. But, do we have to go nutty with the sales and the shopping and parties and seemingly endless holiday programs? I for one, am glad we took our holiday dinner and made it a post-holiday meal in January (January 17th if you're wondering, details to follow). Most of us are busy enough in December without trying to squeeze in one more get together (my book club didn't take the hint when I brought it up at our last meeting, so I guess I'm going out to dinner that evening when a part of me would rather crash at home at the end of the day). So I guess I'm just saying, I'm sure everyone is busy, busy, busy, but don't forget to give yourself a little break at some point. Take a cue from nature and get some rest and take some time to reflect (maybe we'll get a snow day, that's a good excuse to have some hot chocolate and catch up on your reading. Of course, it has to be really heavy snow for the piano tuner to stay home!)

Kim Hoessly, RPT

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## Chapter Meeting Minutes November 18, 2014

The meeting was held at Classic Pianos, which has taken over the store previously run by Henderson Music on Polaris Parkway, and is now the Columbus area authorized Yamaha dealer.

### Attendance:

Kim Hoessly, Ron Kenreich, Chris Burget, Chris Altenburg, Ken Forsee, Bob Grubb, Lawrence Peters, Mark and Marilyn Ritchie, Alle Schwartz, David Stang, and hosts Robert Gelhomen (sp?), Tony Mastadonna, and Gary Oliver of Classic Pianos.

### Treasurer's Report:

\$3445.18

### Old Business:

Maria Pollock, MERVP, requested Chapter Officers from around the region take part in a conference call on either October 21 or October 25. Chris Burget offered to take part on October 21. Details of the conference call are published in the November 2014 newsletter.

Arrangements are still in the works for relocating the Chapter Library and cataloguing all of its contents. If there isn't space to house everything in one location, then the possibility of redistributing some of the contents among the Chapter members was also discussed.

### New Business:

Lawrence "Ben" Peters is the newest member of the Chapter. He is from the Logan area, about sixty miles south of Columbus, and he got his start in piano technology when his piano teacher's son, Glenn Tipton, showed him some of the basics in the craft. Welcome to the Columbus Chapter!

The post holiday dinner will once again be held at The Worthington Inn. Details to follow.

### Announcements:

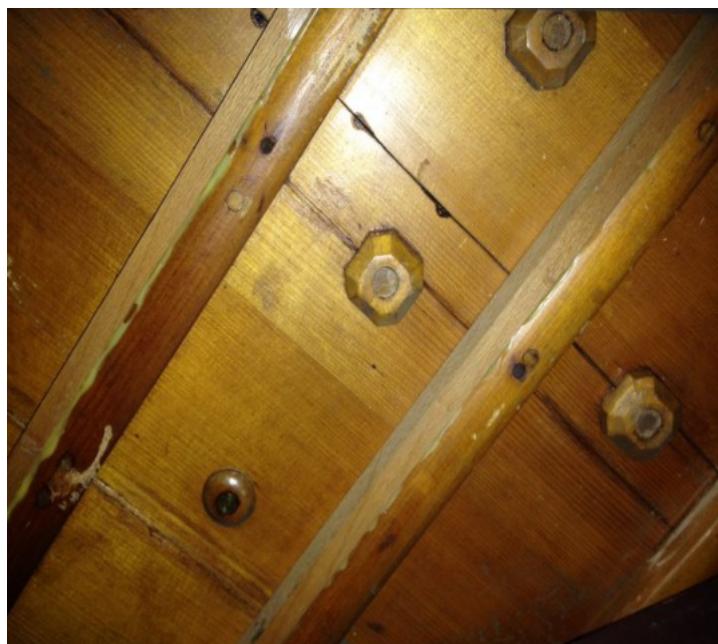
The Cincinnati Chapter is hosting a One Day Tuning Seminar on Saturday, April 18, 2015. This seminar will be held in honor of a beloved deceased member, Ben Mcklveen. The instructors for this event will be Dan Levitan and Lawrence Becker. There will be much more information coming soon as the date approaches and more details are in place.

## Butts & Flanges

Kim Hoessly was working on a vertical piano where one of the pedal rods was missing. It seems a former technician placed the middle rod onto the damper pedal. Kim said the damper pedal rod was sitting right there in the bottom of the piano in plain sight, or at least it was in plain sight when she looked there. Several possibilities were offered up: poor eyesight; lack of attention to detail; the proper rod was found after going to the trouble of readjusting the pedal for the wrong rod and was just thrown into the bottom because the tech was in a hurry (see aforementioned lack of attention to detail!) Try to remember which rod goes where. Mark them with chalk or pencil if needed. Also, rods may roll under a pedal lever and be hidden from view... or still be propped up in that corner where you left it!

Alle Schwartz found her first dead mouse. Welcome to the club!

Bryan Hartzler sent in this photo via email. "Here is a photo of rib "repair" performed on an 1890 Steinway A. Oak glued directly to the sides of the ribs that were not even broken. Shall we say, a non-standard approach." (Editor's Note: I posited that maybe the soundboard had crown issues, had separated from the ribs and/or there was buzzing, but Bryan said there were no signs of any separations.) ...Any thoughts?



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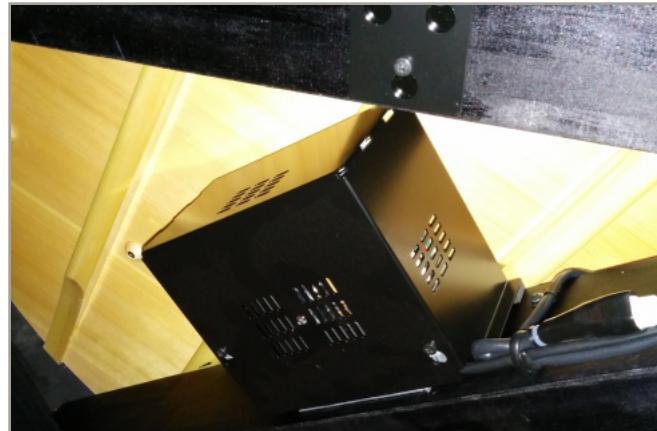
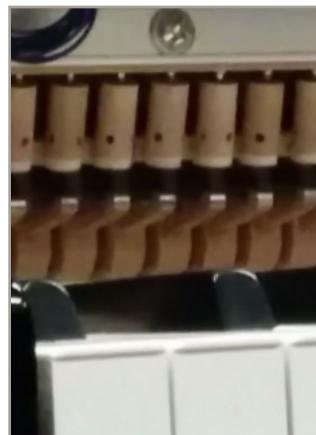
## Classic Pianos Of Columbus

Thanks to Classic Pianos Of Columbus for hosting our November meeting and providing food and beverages. Classic Pianos has taken over the store formerly occupied by Henderson Music, and is now the authorized Yamaha dealer in town. They are part of the Classic Pianos family of stores that has locations in Cleveland, Seattle and Portland, and they are a family-owned operation that spans four generations, many of whom are piano technicians. In 2014, Classic Pianos was named the Yamaha Dealer Of The Year.

The evenings presentation covered several Yamaha related products like Disklavier and hybrid pianos, and Notestar and various digital apps than enable distance learning and remote broadcasts of concerts and performances that can be reproduced on Disklavier equipped player pianos. The main focus, however, was on the CF series of grand pianos and their Transacoustic technology.

According to Gary Oliver, the CF project was nineteen years of research and development that involved much input from piano technicians throughout the industry, and it covered all aspects of piano design, manufacture and materials used. The CF series is not a normal production run, in that it is constructed by some of Yamaha's most skilled technicians that pay attention to the smallest details like notching of the bridges, and stringing, action weight and regulation, etc.... The models include the CFX (9'), CF6 (6'11"), and the CF4 (6'3"). The staff stressed over and over how much involvement was had from piano technicians in design and manufacture.

The model demonstrated was equipped with Silent Piano and Transacoustic technology that blends digital and acoustic sounds. The action has a built-in system of sensors that actuate digital sounds and stop rails prevent hammers from striking strings and a quick escape mechanism for the jacks. One can listen to purely digital tones with headphones, or blend digital and acoustic sounds with the aid of a transducer mounted under the soundboard. No speakers at all. All sound comes from the board and digital sounds get a little added sparkle from the natural string resonance. All of this is equipped with USB ports that can be integrated with various devices and mobile apps that allow for recording and playback and storage of files via a cloud server.





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

# Happy New Year!

## Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

<b>President</b>	Kim Hoessly, RPT
<b>Vice-President</b>	John Schmoll, RPT
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ron Kenreich
<b>Secretary</b>	Christopher Burget
<b>Imm. Past Pres.</b>	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*

## Upcoming Events Post Holiday Dinner **Saturday, January 17** **6:00pm**

**The Worthington Inn**  
649 High Street  
Worthington, Ohio 43085  
(614) 885-2600  
[www.worthingtoninn.com](http://www.worthingtoninn.com)  
Map Link:  
<https://goo.gl/maps/8fkeU>

\$40 per person includes meal and  
music with Richard Lopez on piano.  
**RSVP by January 10, 2015**  
to Kim Hoessly 614-537-8596  
[khoessly@columbus.rr.com](mailto:khoessly@columbus.rr.com)

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### Disclaimer:

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