

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild
Volume 36 Issue 2 March 2011



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone enjoyed the February meeting. Thanks again to Roy Peters and Michael Wathen of the Cincinnati chapter for driving up and presenting the technical portion of the meeting on Wapin bridge pinning. Also thanks to Mitch for setting up the meeting at OSU. It was really nice to have a chance to hear the Baldwin SD with the Wapin bridge. Thanks to Ben for agreeing to perform for us!

Next week I will have the opportunity to tune for "The Five Browns". If you're not familiar, these are five brothers and sisters, all of whom attended Julliard and became world famous after being featured on NPR and other media outlets. They tour with five Steinway grand pianos which are scheduled to arrive the evening before the concert. I will have that evening and a few hours the next morning to tune all five pianos. Looking back, I don't think I've ever tuned more than three pianos for one performance. It is times like this that I am VERY happy that I use the Reyburn Cyber Tuner. I will be able to tune all five Steinways quickly and very accurately.

And by a remarkable coincidence, Dean Reyburn of Reyburn Cyber Tuner is coming from Michigan to speak at our March meeting and demonstrate his tuning software. He will be fresh off the plane from the WESTPAC regional meeting in CA. We are really lucky to get him here! Dean will also offer support and free updates for the latest Pocket RCT version to whoever attends. I don't know how many of our members are using RCT but this is a great opportunity to meet Dean directly. How often do you get to speak to a software designer in person and ask specific questions? I am really looking forward to it. I have been using RCT for many years now and I am completely sold on it's accuracy and versatility. And regardless of whether you tune aurally or use a different ETD, I am sure you will learn a lot from Dean's demonstration.

Also, as an added bonus, Dean's son Nate will be at the meeting to tell us about their new line of tuning hammers. Called "Cyber Hammers", they have a complete line of impact tuning hammers for vertical and grand pianos. If you haven't seen their new grand impact wrench yet you are in for a treat. We'll have a couple of pianos set up for you to try the hammers and see the difference for yourself.

We will be meeting at Graves Piano & Organ on Karl Rd. Please plan to attend.

Christopher D. Purdy R.P.T.

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Message From The Editor

I would personally like to thank David Stang for the time he spent helping to prepare me for taking over his duties as Newsletter Editor and Website Master. And on behalf of all the members of the Chapter, thanks for all the excellent work you did these past several years.

Chapter Meeting Minutes February 15, 2011

The meeting was held at Mershon Auditorium on the campus of The Ohio State University.

Attendance:

Chris Purdy, Mark Ritchie, Ron Kenreich, Chris Burget, Dwight Hansen, Kim Hoessly, Michael O'Neill, Mitch Staples, Ben Wiant, visiting prospective member Doug Meszaros with guest Sharon, and technical presenters Roy Peters and Michael Wathen.

Treasurer's Report:

We currently have \$2,200.00 in CD's and \$301.93 in checking.

Old Business:

As of the February meeting, the Chapter still had not received a final decision on grant money from the Home Office that would help pay for the Fortepiano Event tentatively scheduled for Fall of 2011. The possibility of inviting other Chapters was also discussed.

Chris Burget, Secretary, has agreed to take over newsletter and website duties from David Stang.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Announcements:

Last call for PTG dues is March 1, 2011.

Interlochen Center For The Arts may still have an opening for a piano technician in June and part of July during its Summer Music Camp. Contact Chris Purdy <purdy@ohio.edu>

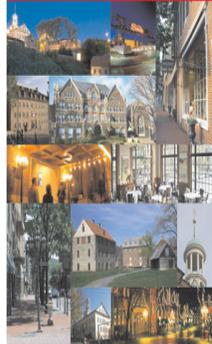
Plans are being made for Scott Jones to present the April Technical on the new TouchRail system for adjusting touch weight on piano keys.

Not Your Father's Piano Bar? ...Mystery Solved!



<http://www.oldsaltblog.com/2011/01/27/piano-on-a-sandbar-mystery-solved/>

Piano Technicians Guild



A Walk Into History ...

Known as "Christmas City", Bethlehem was founded by the Moravian's in 1741. Many original structures remain from the 1700s including a water works, tannery & grain mill, as well as Moravian College. Walking historic Main Street & dining along "Restaurant Row" just outside the doors of the convention are highlights of any visit.

... at Historic Bethlehem

Hotel
Bethlehem
www.hotelbethlehem.com

HISTORIC HOTELS
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NATIONAL TRUST FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention

Thursday, April 28 - Sunday, May 1, 2011



Excellent Instructors • National Exhibitors

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Great Entertainment • Outstanding Food

April 28 - May 1, 2011

<http://www.ptgmarc.org/>

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Technical Presentation: Wapin Bridge Pinning System

The presentation was given by members of the Cincinnati Chapter Roy Peters and Michael Wathen, inventor of the Wapin System. We were on stage at Mershon Auditorium on the OSU campus where there was a rebuilt Steinway D that had the Wapin Bridge installed.

The first thing one notices when looking at the bridge is an extra row of pins on the cap. Another variation is that the first pin at the notch, or “speakin pin” is oriented vertically instead of at an angle opposite the rear pin. The extra row of pins is placed in between those two, and this row is oriented at the same angle as those at the rear.

According to Roy and Michael, the traditional bridge pin arrangement slightly dampens the string because it is too strongly attached to the bridge and is pinched by the slanted angle of the front pin. This means that some energy is wasted during the attack and the string cannot vibrate so freely. In the Wapin system the front pin, with its vertical orientation, still terminates the string along with the notch while the middle pin is responsible for trapping the string to the bridge. Even though there is an extra row of pins the string is actually “decoupled” from the bridge slightly. Instead of a single front pin performing two functions there are now two performing each separately and more efficiently. The end result is a clearer tone with more sustain. In effect, there is better signal to noise ratio.

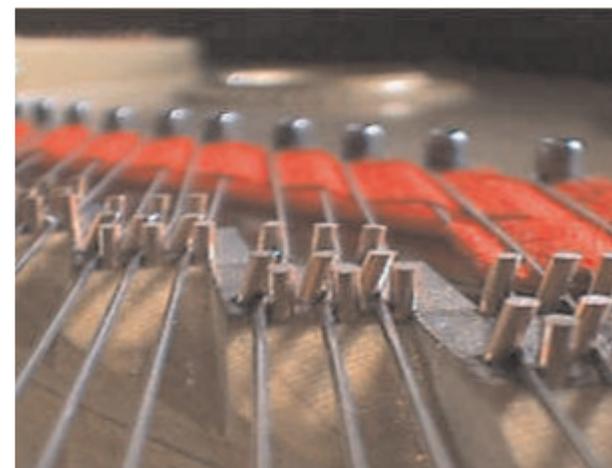
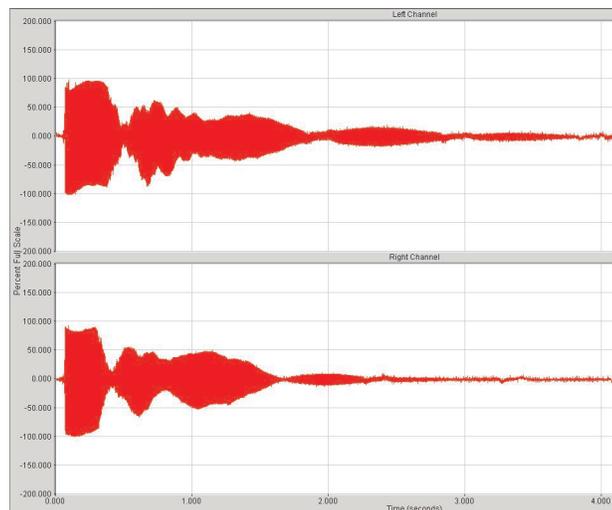
Roy supplemented his presentation with various graphs showing waveform data from notes from the same piano with and without the Wapin modification. A longer decay or sustain was evident as well as clarity in the chain of partials. The partials were more clearly defined with less “distortion” and greater amplitude.

Roy then showed us how to perform the modification on a spare loose bridge. In brief, he showed us how he marks the “trapping pins” and offered some tips on avoiding collision/overlapping of pins in relation to stringing patterns. He then removed the old pins and plugged the holes with appropriately sized dowels and trimmed them. He also discussed applying graphite or McLube 444 to the cap. Next he drilled all the holes for the vertical pins and trapping pins and burnished the bridge top with felt before notching and pinning.

Also discussed were broader topics such as how to market this service, as well as where and with whom it is most appropriate. Not all people hear sounds the same way and they can have different responses to the same tone, and Wapin isn't always appropriate in all circumstances. Those that like a darker tone may not be the best candidates. But those that say they desire a clearer tone with a bell-like singing quality may well benefit from the modification.



(L to R) Michael Wathen and Roy Peters





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www.ptgcolumbus.org

For Sale

Chris Purdy has a Baldwin C serial #65662, same as the modern L 6'3" Grand. Good rebuilding project piano. Needs a lot of work but the pin block is still good and it has potential to still be an amazing piano. He would like at least \$500 to cover what he has in it. Contact Chris Purdy at [<purdy@ohio.edu>](mailto:purdy@ohio.edu)

Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

President	Chris Purdy, RPT
Vice-President	Mark Ritchie, RPT
Treasurer	Ron Kenreich
Secretary	Christopher Burget
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, March 15, 2011, 7:30pm
Chapter Meeting
Graves Piano & Organ Co.
5798 Karl Road
Columbus, OH 43229
Topic: Reyburn Cyber Tuner and Cyber Hammer
Presenters: Dean and Nate Reyburn

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

Disclaimer:

All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the chapter or the guild.

Articles and illustrations may be re-printed by other PTG newsletters with proper acknowledgment, unless otherwise indicated in the article.

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