

Meeting Minutes April 19, 2006

We want to thank Jerry Wade and Norwin Mergler of the Piano Gallery for hosting the meeting and providing the refreshments.

Meeting called to order 7:31PM by Mark Ritchie
Attendance: Kim Hoessly, Bob Grubb, Chris Altenburg, Dean Nedvecki, Doug Brandt, Mike Varrone, Ben Wiant, David Stang, Dwight Hanson, Mark Ritchie, Ron Kenreich, *guests:* Marilyn Ritchie, Don Carle, Mike Hill, Ben Canfield
Guest speaker: Ben McKlveen

Treasure's Report: \$2,303.90

The auction gift to the Chapter was \$40.00.
Chapter Dues received from Home Office

New Business:

The Chapter will offer the second technical exam to anyone who has passed the written test on May 19, 2006. Mike Masters, from Cleveland, has requested a spot and we will have openings for two other applicants. Please be courteous and plan for this as Columbus RPT's have to plan their week accordingly. Contact Mitch or Kim to take the written exam if you haven't already.
Congratulations to David Stang on passing the technical exams last month.

Reminder that next meeting is the chapter elections. Chris Altenburg has received the delegate book. He will present any pertinent information and the Chapter will direct the delegate at the next meeting.

We will be advertising in the OMTA directory and the AGO directory again this year.

Open letter from Chris Robinson of the Connecticut Chapter on proposed bylaw changes regarding any PTG member who may have been charged with a felony and their dismissal from the Chapter/Guild.
Business Meeting Adjourned: 8:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Varrone

Butts and Flanges:

When splicing a bass string that has broke, it is advised to splice with a wire that is one half to one size larger than the core wire.



Tuning Technical with Ben McKlveen

What happens when the guest speaker brings 58 years experience to a tuning seminar and has the credentials of a being nationally known clinician? What is it like learning from a concert tuner for the Cincinnati Symphony, and for many nationally known artists? You get a teaching session that was insightful, professional, relaxed, candid, humorous, and informative. It is easily seen that Ben McKlveen has complete command of his craft. He unleashed a wealth of knowledge, teaching what every truly great instructor teaches...the basics!
The topic for the evening covered tuning and tuning stability. Ben explained his tuning process, everyone from the novice to the seasoned veteran listened with great interest. He believes the piano will "tell you" what the tuner can accomplish. Piano tuning is a collaboration with the instrument. All pianos have unique characteristics and no two pianos will sound exactly the same.

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Ben emphasized tuning lever technique. To insure stability, he makes a series of small moves with the tuning lever to “turn” the pin. This is sufficient for the note to stay tuned, then checked with up and downward pressure on the pin for stability. He closed with a story from his “travels,” saying that piano tuners are the “Sancho Panza” of the of the piano world. We are there for others.



Ben McKlveen and Ben Wiant, long time friends, will be offering a class at the Central East Regional Seminar Oct. 13-15, 2006 in Cincinnati, OH
Contact: Jon Ralinovsky 513-524-8863 for details.



Associate members get hands on tutoring from Ben

Next Meeting Tue. May 16, 2006 7:30pm

The next Chapter meeting will be held at the Worthington Christian Church 8145 N. High St. in Worthington. The church is located about 1 mile north of I-270 on High (Rte. 23) Turn west at the light on Highbluffs Blvd. Enter thru front door, meeting in choir room. Please be present for Chapter elections and to direct council delegate. Please read through the supplement in the May PTJ on some of the issues to be discussed.

Technical on artist bench repairs and parts.

Notice:

What piano technician with any time in the business has not encountered a number of interesting situations? How many times have you regaled family and friends with a humorous tale or a horror story?

I could use your help. I am looking for great Piano Stories to include in an upcoming book and I'll bet you have one or two you would love to share. To make it easy I've set up a website for the purpose. Please do not be concerned with writing ability. Just send the story and let me do the work.

Come visit us today at <http://www.PianoStories.net> for more information and to submit your stories.

Hope to hear from you soon.
David Mayfield
PTG Associate Member



Focused on listening

*“the piano speaks to the tuner, but softly” ---
Quote from -- Ben McKlveen*

Name the Piano

I know this decal has been seen by nearly every working tuner/technician, if you haven't you need to tune more pianos. I'm uncertain of what apparitions this one brings to mind.



Answers to last months Name the Piano

I guess the third decal stumped at least a few of you.



#1. Mason & Hamlin

The palm [of victory] belongs to he who has earned it."

Sui generis literally meaning of its own kind/genus or unique in its characteristics

#2. Marshall & Wendell / appealing in pastels

#3. J.& C. Fischer /this was the more obscure one
Hey -- they can't all be easy.

TOOL BENDING CONTINUED

You are almost right. It *used* to be a paint can opener. The sole modification is grinding or filing a suitable notch in the business end. In the course of painting the house, porch, garage, shed, outhouse, fences, gates, and various other appurtenances of country living I acquired a lot of these freebies. Since I needed only one to open paint the extras found other employment. This one is now a string coil lifter. Fits in tight places, provides leverage, and unlike a screwdriver blade, is not apt to slip or to mar the plate. Player piano types may find it of use as a tracker-bar tubing puller as well (the original avatar of this one many years ago). The other end can save your thumb and fore-finger from painful cuts trying to twist crown-caps off long-necks. *Thomas Harr*



The Tool Box *from Kim Hoessly*

Several years ago, one of our members, Mr. Al Ensminger RPT, had his toolbox stolen from his car. Many friends and colleagues stepped up to help Al replace tools, but of course, some things we have are irreplaceable. I have been putting off the task of cataloging my tools, but if my cases were taken, I don't think I'd have even known exactly what all I had in them let alone the cost of replacement. While recuperating from my October surgery, I finally brought in my different cases and did an inventory. Geez, I have a lot of stuff. The next task would be to price everything so I'll know approximately how much insurance I should be carrying.

So here is a list of what is in my "main" tool box (the one I carry into the house). The case itself is a Genck soft cover case, which is now out of production. If you are not familiar with the cases, they have slots in the lid, a removable pallet and some divided sections in the bottom, one long one in the back, a divided one in the middle and another long one in front.

Main tool box**lid pallet:**

needle nose pliers, combination handle, tweezers center pin nippers, sideways key easing pliers, Hart spring tool, sm. phillips screwdriver 5 1/2" vise grips, scissors, sm slotted screwdriver, Gisuke saw/ break away razor tool, sm rat tail file grand damper bushing easer, sm quick grip clamp pin vise w/ drill bit, vertical capstan wrench, sm sandpaper block, telescoping magnet

removable pallet:

center pin tool, offset grand capstan tool w/ handle, chalk chuck, short slotted & phillips screwdrivers for comb. handle skinny #2 tuning tip, 1/4" brass rod for string work, #2,#3 tuning tips, brush for Teflon powder, glide bolt tool, double grand drop screw regulator cigar lighter, long phillips & slotted screwdrivers stubby screwdriver, long skinny slotted screwdriver for comb. handle, 7/32" & 3/16" allen wrenches string spacer/ coil lifter, arrowhead tool for comb. handle, long grand capstan wrench,

7/32" drill bit for comb. handle hammershank, flat capstan tool, medium flat metal file, 7" metal ruler, spoon regulating tool

back compartment:

triangle lid prop, large rubber mute, center pin box, small screw assortment, leather scraps, long & short hammer shaping files, string, stick graphite, plastic spring clamp, flange bushing cloth, polita, a nickel, Teflon powder, 2 safety razors, shoe pegs, wood glue, balance & front rail paper & felt punchings, brass wire brush, spare grommets, cork bridle straps, wing nut tightening tool, jack springs, grand damper set screw tool, block for voicing, acrosonic sticker set screws, length of abrasive cord, brass butt plates, wood shims

middle compartment:

Petzl head light, 3 pieces rubber shelf liner, 2 Renner screw starters, Sanderson Accu-Fork, voicing needle holder, 3 strip mutes, 10' tape measure, Protek lube

front compartment:

tuning hammer w/#1 tip, sm piece of spring steel, Papp's mute, medium slotted screwdriver in comb. handle, 2 rubber mutes w/ handles, box containing: brass rod string leveler, dip block, 3 sm plastic spring clamps, chopstick voicing tool, dental floss, shrink tube, cloth rag, vertical voicing tool, 3 felt mutes Approx. replacement \$1200.00





The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Mark Ritchie, Editor

Upcoming Events

Regular meetings are on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 PM

Next Meeting

Tuesday May 16th at 7:30 PM

Worthington Christian Church

8145 N. High St. Worthington, OH

about 1 mile north of I-270 on Rte. 23 Turn west at the light on Highbluffs Blvd. to enter parking lot

Enter front doors and go thru sanctuary, meeting held in choir room

Technical on artist bench repairs and parts replacement with Kim Hoessly

June 21-25 PTG Annual Convention & Institute

Hyatt Regency Rochester, NY details at ptg@ptg.org

There will be no Chapter Meetings in June or July

Central East Regional Seminar Oct. 13-15, 2006 in Cincinnati, OH

Contact: Jon Ralinovsky 513-524-8863 for details.

Disclaimer:

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