

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Volume 37 Issue 4 May 2012



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Members,

I was excited to see so many of you at our last meeting. Thanks for taking the time from your busy schedules to come. Mark did a very thorough job presenting his technical on stringing. We have been discussing tuning at our meetings and I think understanding the stringing process can help. Next meeting will be at Brian Hartzler's shop, and he will be presenting a technical on soundboard replacement. And yes, I think all of this relates to tuning. We will also have election of officers for this year. I have been filling in as President for several meetings to help out as best I can. I do think we need someone for President who has been a regular attender. I was glad to help Mark and serve as President, but I think it's time for someone else to step forward. Think about it. I will continue to come to meetings and help in any way I can. Thank you all.

John Schmoll, RPT
President

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Chapter Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2012

The meeting was held at Mark Ritchie's shop.

Attendance:

John Schmoll, Mark Ritchie, Ron Kenreich, Chris Burget, Chris Altenburg, Doug Brandt, Dave Gorsuch, Bob Grubb, Kim Hoessly, Doug Meszaros, Rick Miller, Mitch Staples, Victor Wolfe

Treasurer's Report:

The Chapter has \$2,574.77 in checking.

Old Business:

A group picture of the Chapter was postponed until a more suitable location is decided upon.

The May meeting will be held at Bryan Hartzler's shop and will cover soundboard replacement.

New Business:

Chapter elections will be held during the May meeting.

Announcements

David MacDonald, owner of Piano Warehouse, announced that he is retiring and going out of business after 41 years of running a successful piano retail store. All inventory is being liquidated and he says everything must go. We, the Chapter, wish him well in his retirement, and thank him for his contribution to the music community in Central Ohio.

Piano Warehouse

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

<http://www.pianowarehouseclosing.com/>

Butts & Flanges

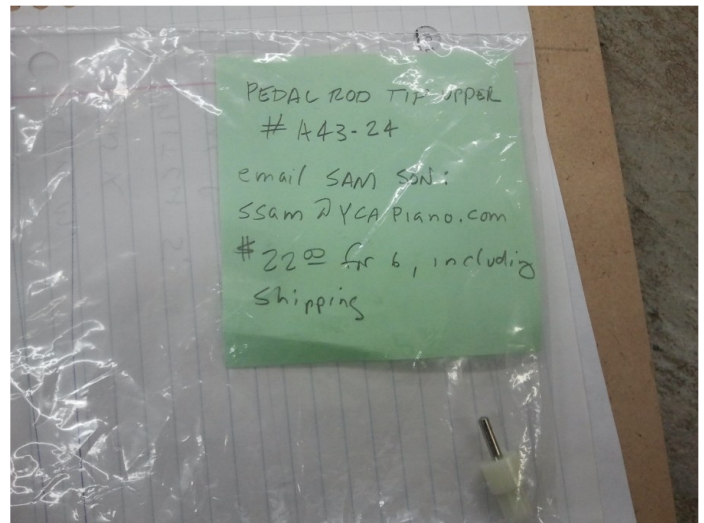
Rick Miller and Chris Altenburg related an experience of theirs at the most recent Pianorama event. They were tuning when they realized that one of the tuning devices being used was 7.5 to 8 cents sharp. It was Tunelab on a PocketPc. Rick suggested making sure any tuning devices are properly calibrated, if possible. Most, if not all, modern "professional" devices and

their platforms allow for this. Many third party devices are calibrated by manufacturers and may not need calibration but, depending on their methods of measuring time and frequency, they may "float" after use, or may have been calibrated to a slightly different standard, or installation of other software may have altered calibration for one reason or another. Rick mentioned the National Institute of Standards and Technology as a resource. The NIST has a phone number, (303) 499-7111, that sounds different frequencies at certain times of the hour. Note: it is more practical to choose a frequency other than 440 Hz because it is only aired for one minute per hour. A list of frequencies can be found at:

<http://tunelab-world.com/calnist.html>

Ron Kenreich inquired about dolly options for a Chickering grand with "double legs" that was donated to Westerville North High School. He isn't confident that the aged legs and their casters could withstand much moving around in a school environment. Suggestions included: connecting each pair with wood shims; modifying the legs so they could be countersunk into a grand piano truck; or total replacement of the legs coupled with a truck.

Doug Brandt had to replace a pedal rod tip (pictured below) on a Young Chang and had to order a minimum of six at a time from the factory. He provided ordering information if anyone needed it and also offered that if any member just needed only one in the future to let him know and he could offer one of his extras.



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Technical Presentation: Restringing Demonstration

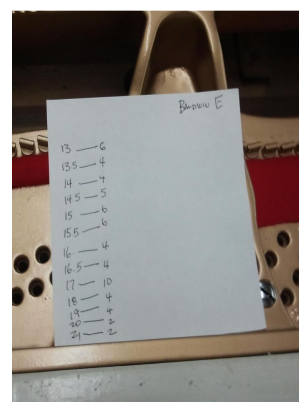
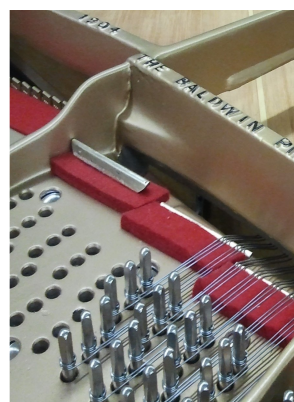
The evening's technical presentation was, in some ways, a continuation of the October technical on restringing. Members had a chance to practice coiling and restringing on dummy pins and stringing jigs while Mark Ritchie demonstrated his own method on a Baldwin E that he is rebuilding. He gave some insights on the subject in addition to fielding some questions about rebuilding and pinblock work as they relate to stringing in general. Following are but a few of the highlights.

For Mark, restringing is a physical exercise, of sorts, in that it takes on a rhythmic quality and that part of his method and accuracy is getting into a rhythm and staying there. This doesn't mean harried or hurried in pace, just that after a while an economy of motion develops and every motion has a reason. Still, one must not lose sight of where they are at in the process or what gauge string they should be using. This is one of those things where you ultimately learn by doing.

Mark wears gloves while stringing, not so much to protect his hands as much as protect the string from body oils that may lead to future corrosion. Not to mention that handling lots of wire can get hands really dirty really quick, no matter how clean and shiny it looks. He also pointed to a piano hammer (pictured) he has mounted on the edge of his stringing cart holding all of his cannisters. There is a hole in it where string can be fed through. Not only does this act like an extra hand to keep wire from flopping around, it also cleans and lubricates the string with lanolin that is present in the wool.

He then went on to string a few notes while others looked on. He showed us how he measures the strings past the tuning pin with his fingers and how he later compensates for thicker gauge bass wire. He showed how to tighten the bends around hitch pins. He explained how he strives to get all the becketts oriented in the same direction. He showed us how he uses a depth gauge where he affixed a hammer shank extending down the side of a tuning pin punch denoting the initial depth a pin should be pounded in. Here he reminded us to support the underside of the pinblock and not forget to move it as one progresses. He also answered some questions about drilling pinblocks. He prefers to drill the holes with the plate installed, and he does so at angle 7 degrees off of vertical so as to oppose the full string tension when brought up to pitch. Then he showed us a Baldwin counter bearing (pictured at bottom left, resting on red felt). They are almost like a free floating v-bar and some of these are so thin that they could crack when strings are brought back up to tension. He reinforced the underside with epoxy and let it cure before reinstalling the strings.

Throughout, other members offered some their own observations as well as a few war stories involving missing hitch pins and misdrilled pinblocks.... Oh my!



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For Sale

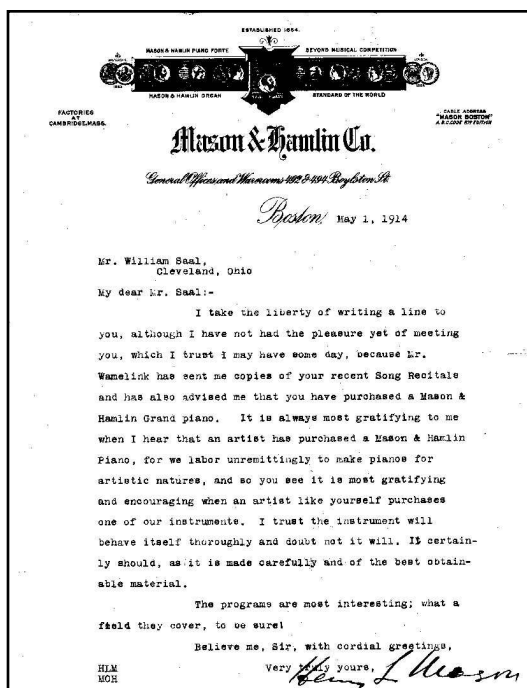
Steinway "M" 1920's ca.

Needs rebuilt.

For more information, contact Ben Wiant
(614) 771-0214 bwps2000@hotmail.com

For Sale

1914 Mason & Hamlin "AA"



Satin ebony w/ nickel hardware and bench. New block. Re-strung J.D. Grandt bass strings. New action and hammers. Ebony sharps. German acrylic key tops.
Contact Mark Ritchie (614) 855-7704 for additional information.

The Harmonious Technician

Piano Technicians Guild's 55th Annual Convention & Technical Institute

SEATTLE
JULY 11-15

convention.ptg.org

WORLD'S LARGEST GATHERING OF PIANO TECHNICIANS

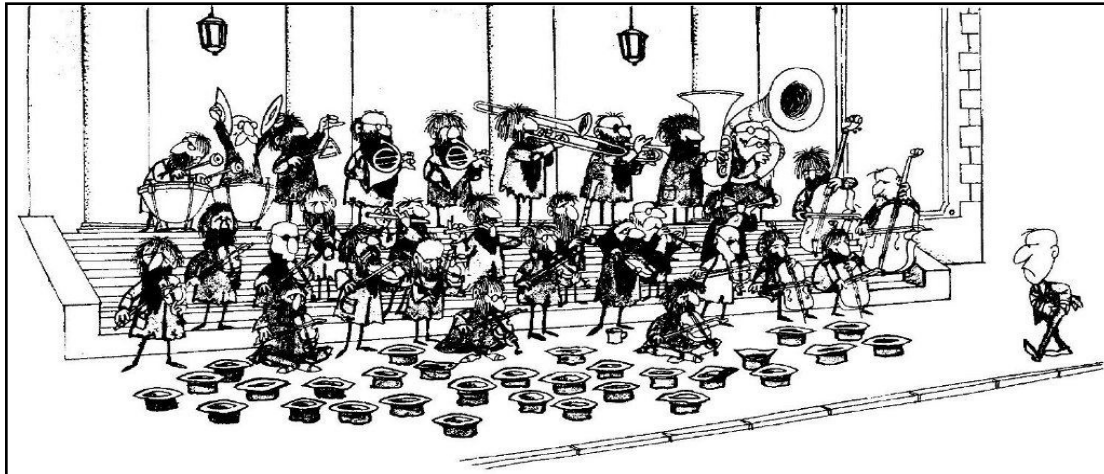


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www.ptgcolumbus.org

"Hey Brother, can you...?"



artist unknown

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, May 15, 2012, 7:30pm

Bryan Hartzler's Shop
1179 S. Galena Rd.
Galena, OH 43021
740-972-9466
bryan@hartzlerpianos.com
www.hartzlerpianos.com

Topic:
Soundboard Replacement

Map Link:
<http://g.co/maps/ckmru>

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Disclaimer:

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

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