

The Buckeye Backcheck

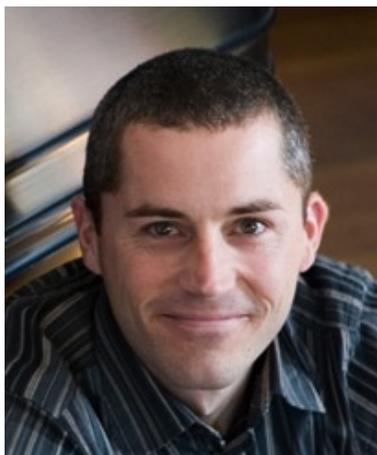
Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Volume 39 Issue 4 may 2014



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Do you remember the rumor floating about last autumn? Apparently it was true:



The grip of the ice is gone now.
The silvers chase purple.
The purples tag silver.
They let out their runners
Here where summer says to the lilies:
"Wish and be wistful,
Circle this wind-hunted, wind-sung water."

-Carl Sandburg

So here we are, the last meeting of the year, kindly hosted by Henderson's Music in their new location. In addition to a great technical topic on control of ever-troublesome humidity there will be discussion of the agenda for the upcoming convention in Atlanta as well as chapter elections.

Bryan Hartzler, RPT

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Chapter Meeting Minutes April 15, 2014

The meeting was held at Bryan Hartzler's shop in Galena, Ohio.

Attendance:

Bryan Hartzler, John Schmoll, Ron Kenreich, Chris Burget, Dave Gorsuch, Mark Ritchie, Tim Thompson, Phil Walters.

Treasurer's Report:

The Chapter has \$3,016.30 in checking.

Old Business:

Ken Foresee is a new member of the Chapter. There was brief discussion of the new government regulatory proposals concerning the trade of ivory. Mark Ritchie had sent all Chapter Members a letter from the American Institute Of Organ Builders (AIO) regarding the subject and its potential impact on our industry. No action was voted upon to offer an official response from the Chapter, but it was mentioned to Maria Pollock, CERVP, that perhaps the matter may be addressed by National PTG Leadership. Members were also encouraged to educate any customers that may also be affected by any changes in the regulations.

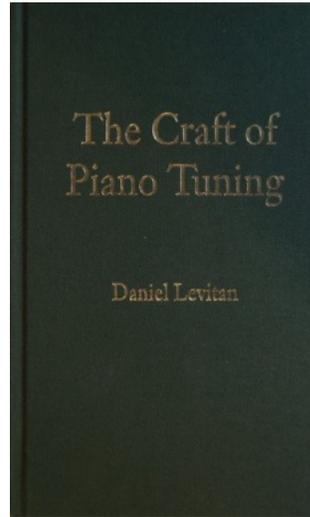
New Business:

Ian Trumbull is a new member of the Chapter. Welcome!

Announcements:

Dave Gorsuch told the group his experience with the Affordable Healthcare Act. He said that, for himself at least, it has been a positive one. He said that he was able to find a plan that was reasonable for him and met his needs and that he will be saving considerably on his perscriptions. It may not suit everyone, but is worth looking into if you are without health insurance. "I am one of the good stories," he said.

Butts & Flanges

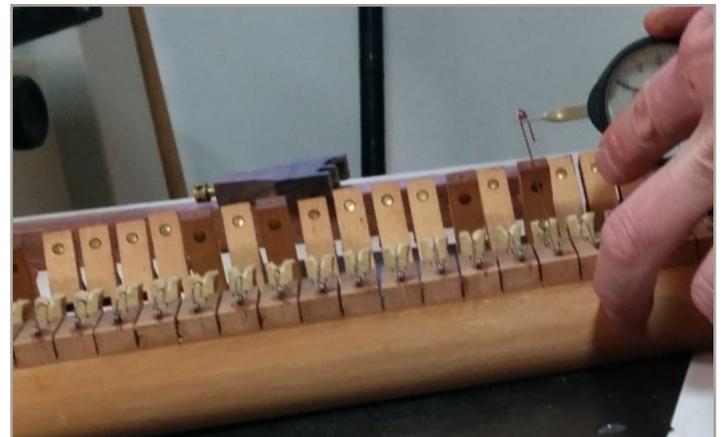


John Schmoll recently bought "The Craft Of Piano Tuning" by Dan Levitan. He says there were many interesting topics in the book and he learned some new things. One example was seating a string by pressing round nose pliers against a string on the bridge cap in such a way that a slight rotational motion back and forth would seat it to the bridge without marring or grooving the notch.



Bryan Hartzler showed us how he was measuring and modifying the spring tension on damper underlevers in a back action. He recently bought a spring gauge and was measuring the tension in some of the springs, some of which were more than double what some of the factory specs may have called for.

Some were measuring upwards of 50 grams, or more, when the specs may have initially suggested 20-25 grams. He then cut a "V" shaped notch along the length of the felt underneath the springs and this lessens the tension. Then he suggested spraying McLube on them. He says this greatly reduces the weight felt at the back of the key.



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Changing Action Leverage By Moving Capstans

The April technical presentation was given by Bryan Hartzler, and covered the topic of improving action leverage by moving capstans and through other means. Many aspects of action regulation, touchweight analysis, key leading and action ratio were discussed and the the decision to move capstans is done within that broader context. This article will primarily cover aspects of the procedure of moving the capstans if the decision has been made.

Bryan started out by discussing a few regulation problems such as the condition of a too large action ratio between available blow distance and key dip. Signs of this may include hammer felt having been deliberately shaved off where it meets the backcheck in an attempt to maximize blow distance. He also mentioned that finding five, or more, key leads in the bass is another sign that an attempt was made to mask regulation problems, and that this often happens in the factory. Yes, the extra leads help with static down weight which seems to help lighten touch somewhat, but "weight is still weight," as he puts it, "and it's still flopping around." One possible solution is to move the capstans slightly so as to increase leverage from the key.

First, he removed a capstan from a key. He likes to use C4. Then he showed us a capstan "boat", or jig of sorts. It is comprised of a thin slat of wood with a capstan inserted in one end and any excessive threaded shaft filed away from the bottom. The wood piece came from a Renner parts kit. He recommends saving all those little pieces because they come in handy for a variety of things. Ideally you want to have several "boats" of varying thicknesses so you can find one that best fits into a particular action. In this instance he taped front rail punchings to the bottom. You may want to glue some in advance.

The general idea is to place the boat on the key where the original capstan was and slide it in and out as down weight is checked with each change. When you think you have found a spot that has improved the touch weight you can carefully tape the jig to the key, remove the key and mark the boats position onto the keystick. He had a line drawn on the edge of the boat



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(Capstans continued...)



showing where the center of the capstan line is and he used a marking guage, or sharp edged tool, to mark that spot on the key. A pencil line may be too thick and it is better to lightly etch the mark for better accuracy.

Once that is done, the old hole needs to be filled. First, he chased the hole with a drill bit 1/16" larger than the dowel used to plug it. He then glued in the dowel and trimmed it flush with the key and smoothed the surface. Sometimes the old hole is chamfered around the edge and that must be filled in because the new capstan line could very well end up partially on it and a drill bit may wander off mark. CA glue or epoxy will work, and more may have to be added if any soaks in to the wood. Sand smooth as needed. Now do this on the rest of the keys. One tip is to remove the capstans with a drill by tightening the drill chuck directly onto them and spinning them out. That will save time, and your wrists and fingers. He then placed the key back onto the keybed and used a straight edge to transfer his locator mark on the C4 key to the rest of the keys, again with a sharp-edged marking gauge. That is the new capstan line. He then set up his drill press and drilled the new pilot hole centered on the new line. When screwing the capstans back in, he recommended placing them into the drill chuck as before and winding them back in, taking care to maintain a proper vertical angle. A bubble gauge on the drill is helpful here. From his experience, this is not only quicker than doing it by hand but more accurate as well. He showed us a jig that he bought from one of the supply houses that it supposed to screw the capstans back in using a drill press but he found that it usually just pushed, or "pressed", it in instead of actually drilling.

Other topics discussed throughout included: using new or replacement parts; locating capstans off-center from whippen heels if needed; using whippens with movable heels; brass capstans versus anodized aluminum capstans; whether angling capstans is effective and doing so when limited heel space is available

The Buckeye Backcheck

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Message From Maria Pollock, CERVP

Please make plans to attend the Regional Seminar in Davenport, IA. on Sept. 25 – 28th, 2014. This is the first time that the Central West and Central East regions are combining efforts to have a spectacular regional for all of you.

Both registration and hotel fees are very reasonable. Cost of early registration will be \$295. and hotel should be under \$75. Registration will soon be able to be done on line.

There are many classes and instructors being coordinated, an exhibit hall, hands on classes, tuning and technical exams, and some fun and entertainment thrown in.

Please visit www.midwestptg.com. It will continue to inform you as the information comes in.

Thanks,

Maria Pollock

Regional Vice President Central East

For Sale Steinway 1098



For those technicians who know someone looking for a Steinway upright:

I have a customer who is looking to sell her mahogany Steinway model 1098 with matching bench. She bought this piano new in 1985. There is slight crazing on the rim arms on each side, but otherwise the piano is in excellent condition. She is asking \$8800.

You can contact her at [614-237-6477](tel:614-237-6477). Anyone wishing to contact me can do so at [614-488-5377](tel:614-488-5377).

Doug Brandt

In Memorium

Local Jazz Pianist & Composer Mark Flugge
1962-2014



Photo Credit: John Lubinsky

http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/life_and_entertainment/2014/05/12/mark-flugge-obituary.html





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www.ptgcolumbus.org



Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

President Bryan Hartzler, RPT
Vice-President John Schmoll, 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 20, 2014,
7:30 pm

Henderson Music Co.

1313 Cameron Ave.
Lewis Center, OH 43035
614-436-0200

www.hendersonmusic.com

One mile west of Polaris Mall
on Polaris Parkway

Topic: Humidity Control
Chapter Elections

Map Link:

<http://goo.gl/maps/Nbt56>

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

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