



The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Volume 31 Issue 8 November 2006

CHAPTER MEETING Oct. 17, 2006

We want to thank Mahlon Ray at Columbus Piano Leasing for hosting tonight's meeting.

Attendance: Chris Altenburg, Dwight Hansen, Victor Wolfe, Kim Hoessley, Mark Ritchie, David Stang, Rick Miller, Dean Nedvecki, Mike Varrone.

Treasurer's Report: We have a balance of; \$1563.51 in our checking. We also have \$500.00 in a CD. Our total is \$2063.51.

Old Business:

The PTG logo can no longer be used by associate members of the guild. This will take effect 12/31/2007. Associate members may use the name. The logo is reserved for those members who have completed the testing to be certified as a Registered Piano Technician.

Our Executive Council will meet to discuss recent issues from the home office. These discussions will include Logo use, and raising the awareness of the PTG in Columbus. The council encourages the associates to take the RPT test whenever they are ready. The council continues to make sure the resources are there for anyone who wishes to take the certification tests here in Columbus. Those who desire to take the test please notify Kim Hoessley at 614-326-3630.

New Business:

We discussed the option to notify Al Ensminger that reduced membership dues will be offered to him. He is retired and having been a fine member for many years it is fitting that he not be required to be responsible for the entire amount.

Kim has mentioned that we will not be represented with a booth at the OMEA convention this year. It was too expensive to participate. The PTG awareness can be accomplished if multiple Ohio chapters are encouraged to participate and share the cost.

Cincinnati Regional Seminar News:

The seminar was held October 13 - 15.

Ben McKlveen has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cincinnati Chapter.

Dean Nedvecki expressed his opinion of the convention experience with excitement, awe, and reverence. He went away with more knowledge of his craft, and with inspiration. Both he and others who attended were very much inspired. (See the article about his experience in this issue.)

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Varrone

Butts and Flanges:

Rick Miller posed this circumstance. He found a Steinway fallboard, when closed, doesn't seem to close all of the way. He said that one can still see the key fronts. The answer is yes there are Steinway pianos that have key fronts exposed while the fallboard is in the closed position.

After-ring in the dampers was a topic of interest. Generally this is caused by dampers being hard. A good idea is to "file" lightly the front of treble felt and sides of the bass dampers to make them softer. They will have a better chance of seating correctly on the string. Mark reminded us of a past technical where a wire brush was used to soften hammers.

Rick also brought up an issue he had with a customer's grand dampers. A few of them seemed to go out of alignment only a few weeks after he regulated them. A suggestion was made that it could be the use of sostenuto. The sostenuto rail may be misaligned or even bent in such a way that it comes in contact with the damper mechanisms.

There were a few words about WD-40. Mark mentioned that there are technicians who use it as lubrication, but it's intended use is as a water displacer. (Thus the name "WD". "40" comes from the fact that the government contractor who invented it got a satisfactory result on the 40th try.)

The next meeting of Columbus PTG will be hosted by Dave McDonald on Tuesday November 21, 2006. It will be held at The Piano Warehouse at their new location, 6370 Proprietor's Road in Worthington.

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THE WEAVER PIANO

by Mark Ritchie

Since Tom Harr brought up the Weaver piano last month I thought I would follow up with what little I know about them. I have only ever seen a handful of these instruments, they were all in poor condition. The pianos were built in York, PA and were discontinued in 1959.



*Ad for the Weaver piano from The Tuners Journal
Vol. 30 #8 March 1949*

There was very little piano manufacturing during WWII as most all factories had been tooled over for the war effort. (see Vince Mrykalo article in Oct, 06 PTJ) During the war Weaver Piano Co. made pianos with less than 10 percent of critical materials by producing plates of plywood. The drop rocker arm were made of a pot metal, and on the few Weaver pianos I have seen at least some of these had failed. Instead of extending the

wooden key down as in other “console” style configurations the metal drop rocker was attached to the back of the key. It was somewhat heavy and cumbersome, with this hunk of metal hanging off the back of the key. Lost motion was adjusted by levering between the two screws attached to the key, not unlike some rocker type capstans you may have encountered on old verticals, or grands. I have a few “new” replacement lift arms (maybe the only ones in existence) if you ever encounter one.



The rocker lift arm. Note the “hump” at the top of the arm between the screws to lever the arm.



Two screws attached rocker lift arm to the key and would be levered to adjust for lost motion.

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A PEDAL NOTE

by Tom Harr

This started out to be a different article than it has turned into; such is life, our intentions and expectations have a way of becoming rather different than what was envisioned in the first flush of enthusiasm. A customer with a laundry list of complaints about his Yammerhammer M3 console concluded with, "And the pedal is too hard to push down." Most of the problems were tuning related, viz. snarly unisons and very poor octaves, or else minor voicing or regulation items. Easily solved.

The pedal item gave me pause, however, because after all, how much can you do about that? Turning it over in mind on the way home it became evident that in fact due to the design of the trapwork in these sorts of pianos it would be no great feat to change the leverage by shifting the location of the trap spring away from the pedal. As I reported to the owner, "One does not lightly undertake to change the design or alter the specifications of the maker without a compelling reason. In this case the alteration is insignificant and can be undone without any harm if the results do not satisfy."

The simple proposal was to change the trap lever ratio from approximately 1:3 to more nearly 1:2 by moving the screws on the top and bottom to the right by the spacing of the holes on the floorboard and the bottom of the lever. At this point reality intruded. In reassembly the linkage under the keybed which connects the trap dowel (tube in this case) to the damper lift rod gooseneck made itself known. Instead of running directly up to the damper rod from the end of the trap lever it was intercepted by a linkage under the keybed whose swing converted the upward thrust into a backwards push to the gooseneck which was turned down vertically. This was of no real consequence except for making re installation of the action a bit of a nuisance,

and limiting the resetting of the trap spring to about the 1 3/8" spacing of the holes without having to shorten the dowel.

Perhaps this linkage was usual on Yamahas of a certain vintage, but is not something I had encountered (or noticed) previously. Indications are that this piano came out of the Everett factory in South Haven, Michigan in the mid- to late 1970's.

Incidentally, instead of a muffler rail for the middle pedal, the piano had a bass sustain with a split damper rod (and the attendant squeaks). The bass end had a conventional linkage running directly to the gooseneck on the damper rod end.



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What I Learned at the Piano Technicians Guild Central East Regional Seminar

by Dean Nedvecki

The Cincinnati chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild was an exciting and informative event. The seminar was held at the Cincinnati Marriott North. The theme of the seminar was: Building Your Business - Invest a Little, Earn a Lot.

As you know my dad has been tuning pianos for the last 40 years and was active in the PTG for many years. He is now 83 and still tunes a half dozen or more grand pianos each week. I have learned quite a few things from him but would like to become more active in my own piano tuning in Columbus. This was my very first PTG seminar that I attended. Along these lines I came to the seminar to learn. And I did...

I have to agree with others at the seminar that if you weren't there; you missed a really nice seminar... beautiful hotel... good friends.... Good fun, food and drink. A highlight of the seminar was Ben McKlveen being given the Chapter's lifetime achievement award.

The most rewarding part for me was the lectures and the workshops. So much concentrated learning by some really great teachers. Each class / instructor was a wealth of learning.

I learned about Piano Tuning in:

- Inharmonicity, Theory and Practice: Dan Levitan, RPT
- How Partial are Used in Tuning: Fred Tremper, RPT
- Hybrid Tuning Combining Digital and Aural Techniques with RCT: Dean Reyburn, RPT

I learned about Regulation and Repair in:

- Vertical Piano Service and Troubleshooting- Kent Webb
- The Associates Skills Workshop
- Tuning Stability into your Client's Pianos: Don Mannino, RPT
- Piano Life Saver System Installation - Roger Wheelock
- Tools of the Trade: Joe Goss, RPT

What a great experience. I am looking forward to attending the next seminar.

FROM THE MUSIC TRADES ...

Yamaha Acquires Intellectual Property Rights To Rogers Drums

BUENA PARK, Calif. — Yamaha Corporation of America announces that it has acquired the intellectual property rights to the legendary Rogers Drum Company at auction. The move followed the Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing of Brook Mays Music Company on July 11.

Rogers, founded in 1849, boasts a rich heritage of manufacturing excellence and holds a reputation as one of the most innovative lines of drums ever sold. The Dyna-Sonic snare drum, the company's centerpiece, is prized by collectors and players. Past endorsers included drumming legends Buddy Rich, Louie Bellson and Ed Shaughnessy.

“Opportunities to acquire a well-respected brand that is so treasured by players do not come along every day”, said Tom Sumner, vice president and general manager, Pro Audio & Combo Division, Yamaha Corporation of America. “We will use our expertise to improve on the Rogers legacy.”

The acquisition fits into Yamaha's expansion plan to provide high-quality, complementary products with a wider reach across the country, an initiative that includes the recent acquisition of Steinberg Media Technologies and distribution agreements with digital music equipment manufacturer CME®, software company Arturia, cymbal manufacturer Paiste and speaker/line array manufacturer NEXO.

FROM THE ARTS JOURNAL ...

Classical fans log on to digital age

by Mark Brown, *Guardian Unlimited*

Research commissioned by Gramophone magazine shows that classical music fans have enthusiastically joined the digital music revolution. The survey calculates that 57% of aficionados have converted at least some of their classical CD collection to digital format,

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and three-quarters listen using new media such as PC, DAB digital radio, radio via the internet, digital TV and MP3 players.

One in five download classical music legally from the internet (though there are no figures for how many illegally download) and the same number prefer listening on their MP3 player or iPod. Gramophone's editor-in-chief James Jolly said: "These findings overturn our preconceptions about the kind of person who buys and listens to classical music."

Elsewhere the Gramophone survey showed that record companies have little to fear from downloading, with only 6% saying they will buy fewer CDs. Unsurprisingly, Beethoven and Mozart were the most popular choices for a first download.

You can find the complete article at
<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/news/story/0,,1882963,00.html>

Road shows in tune financially

By Elaine Guregian *The Akron-Beacon Journal*

Oct 29, 2006

The Cleveland Orchestra's per capita attendance and contributions are the highest of any symphony orchestra in the country, said executive director Gary Hanson. But the population of the Cleveland area is smaller than that of any other major symphony orchestra. Add to that a sluggish Northeast Ohio economy, and times are tough.

Rather than cut back on programs and threaten the orchestra's standing as a force in the international music world, a Select Committee made up of board members of the Musical Arts Association (the orchestra's parent organization) decided to change the way the orchestra does business, build up the endowment and leverage the orchestra's musical strengths to come back financially.

A key feature of the turnaround plan is related to the orchestra's growing number of performances away from home.

"Under (music director) Franz (Welser-Moest's) direction, demand for the orchestra outside Cleveland has grown," Hanson said. Because the economy is slow in

Northeast Ohio, there is less potential for growth here than in outside markets. So, Hanson said, the orchestra is concentrating on three markets:

- German-speaking Central Europe (Welser-Moest is from Austria and regularly conducts in Europe).
- Miami, where the orchestra in January will inaugurate a 10-year series of residencies at the just-opened Carnival Center for the Performing Arts.
- New York and the Eastern seaboard. The orchestra opened New York City's Carnegie Hall season this fall and regularly appears there.

You can find the complete article at:
<http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/entertainment/music/15871580.htm>

Canada's Angela Hewitt named Gramophone Artist of the Year

CBC Arts

Canadian pianist Angela Hewitt has won the 2006 Gramophone Artist of the Year Award.

In an interview with CBC Radio, Hewitt spoke of the ways she tries to reach out to fans, including writing her own CD notes, giving pre-concert talks, playing for schoolchildren and maintaining a blog.

Ottawa-born Hewitt began piano lessons at age three and studied at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music and the University of Ottawa. She came to notice in international Bach competitions and began touring internationally.

"Technically dazzling, she is a chameleon of the piano, able to shift moods and character while still remaining indisputably Hewitt," said the jury that nominated Hewitt for the award. It called her Bach Keyboard Concertos and her interpretation of Chabrier "essential listening."

You can find the complete article at:
<http://www.cbc.ca/arts/story/2006/09/28/hewitt-pianist.html>



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www.ptgcolumbus.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Chapter Meeting: Tuesday November 21, 7:30 pm

The Piano Warehouse at their new location,
6370 Proprietor's Road, Worthington.
(Across from Columbus Piano Leasing)

Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

April 19-22, 2007 Valley Forge, PA
www.ptgmarc.org

PTG 50th Anniversary Convention

June 20-24 2007, Kansas City

FOR SALE:

1991 / K. Kawai KG-2 5'10" - High Gloss mahogany with bench. Excellent condition, regularly tuned and very stable. appraised at 12K. This is a very nice piano. Contact the owner, Mr. Brad Barker at 451-5571 if interested. - Mark

Many thanks to Tom, Mark, Mike, and Dean for their contributions. Submissions to the Buckeye Backcheck and to the Columbus PTG Web Site are always welcome and encouraged! Don't forget to take pictures of those interesting, odd, and/or beautiful pianos you may come across. The deadline for Newsletter articles is the first of the month. - Editors.

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 acknowledgement, unless otherwise indicated in the article.

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

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