

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild
Volume 34 Issue 8 November 2009



OCTOBER MEETING AT THE HARTZLER WORKSHOP

Our October chapter meeting was held at Bryan Hartzler's home and workshop where he brought us up to date on his rebuild projects.



1953 Baldwin with a new soundboard, and
1891 Steinway with original board.



Bryan's shop.



Bryan discussing his work with Phil.



Dave Gorsuch giving the Steinway a whirl.

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Meeting Minutes October 20, 2009

The meeting was held at Bryan Hartzler's Home/Workshop

Attendance: Kim Hoessly, Chris Altenburg, Ron Kenreich, David Stang, Mark Ritchie, Richard Miller, Bryan Hartzler, Phil Walters, and David Gorsuch.

Treasurer's Report

We presently hold \$2171.18 in CDs and \$456.78 in checking, totaling \$2627.96

President's Report

The "Leader Letter" is sent to officers, but note that it is available to anyone who wants to read it.

The National PTG is now on Facebook. Anyone on Facebook can join and post or read messages.

PTG dues are coming up. They can now be paid online as well as with the traditional methods.

National By-Laws proposals are due November 30. Awards nominations are due Dec. 31, and Officer nominations are due Feb. 1, 2010.

Committee Reports

Testing Committee

Preparation help is available for the written and technical exams. See Kim to sign up.

Old Business

There was a discussion about whether we should allow advertising in the Newsletter, and if so, what rate we should charge. This was brought up because in August Damp-Chaser emailed a request about advertising in chapter newsletters. During the discussion there was some reluctance because it was thought that ads would change the informal and friendly character of the newsletter.

The Newsletter Editor indicated that he would be willing to do the layouts for ads.

A motion was passed that we will allow advertising from commercial interests at a rate of \$10 for a business-card size ad for 2 consecutive issues, and \$40 for 10 issues.

Note that chapter members can always place announcements and ads in the newsletter for free.

We have an ad running in the current OMTA annual directory. Kim has a copy (as an advertiser) and she will pass along the chapter's copy to the Del Gittinger Chapter Library to be available to chapter members.

New Business

We had a preliminary discussion about the post-holiday dinner. Thai Orchid restaurant was suggested. (Dave Gorsuch may play the piano, and he promised not to play holiday music because we will have been sick of it by then.)

Carolyn MacNeal of the Roanoke chapter sent a note that a piano store in the Ironton area needs one or more piano technicians who are willing to travel to the Southeast Ohio / West Virginia area. The customer base is growing and it's a long way to travel from Roanoke. (Her note and more details are printed in the October Newsletter).

Upcoming Meetings

Nov. 17 – Rick Millers Home/Workshop. Topic: String replacement and repair.

Feb. 16, 2010 TBA

March 16, 2010 - Bob Grubb on Dampp-Chasers, place TBA

April 20, 2010 – Ben Wiant on square grands at Otterbein College

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Butts & Flanges

Bryan mentioned a customer's complaint about a piano that had a weak sound in the mid-range for years. He looked underneath the instrument and found a wooden wedge that had been placed between a beam and the soundboard. Apparently someone had put it there to do some kind of work many years ago and neglected to remove it. The piano sounds much better now.

Technical Program

Thank you very much to Bryan Hartzler for hosting the meeting and for showing us his rebuilt pianos. Thanks to Dave Gorsuch, too, for playing some terrific jazz on them for us.

Bryan has 2 beautiful pianos in his living room: An 1891 Steinway A, and a 1953 Baldwin F. They both sound wonderful but they are different from each other. The Baldwin has a very clean sound, that is, it has clear fundamentals, while the Steinway has more partial content in its spectrum, and there is more inharmonicity. The Baldwin is a larger piano and has a great dynamic range, and would work well in a small or medium size concert hall. Bryan likes working with relatively soft hammers, and using lacquer to bring the tone up. This gives a pleasing tone at medium volume, and a good strong tone at fortissimo on both pianos.

In addition to the pianos he has finished, there are two in his workshop: a Steinway D and a small Hallet & Davis. He is making some radical changes in the H&D, inspired by some of the work David Andersen, Dale Erwin, and others are doing. The soundboard has fanned-out pattern in the ribs, and has a reduced active area. The scaling is very different, where many of the tri-chords in the tenor range have been replaced with bi-chords. He considers this piano an experiment, and is anxious to hear the results when it's done.

For more information on these pianos, which are for sale, see Bryan's web site at www.hartzlerpianos.com



Bryan has a very complete workshop, including a set of soundboard clamps/cauls which utilise a pressurized fire hose.

ON THE INTERNET

Have a look at this article about Alfred Brendel and his retirement from the concert hall:

http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/music/classical/article6856909.ece

Here is something (which also appeared on the PTG Blog) which is the one of the coolest and geekiest things I've ever seen - the Talking Piano:

http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-10368904-1.html



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www.ptgcolumbus.org

Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

President Kim Hoessly, RPT
Vice-President Chris Altenburg, RPT
Treasurer Ron Kenreich
Secretary David Stang

*Contributions and pictures for
the Buckeye Backcheck and the
web page are always welcome,
(even if they are only periph-
erally related to pianos)!*

- David

Upcoming Events

Chapter Meetings

November 17, 2009, 7:30pm
Rick Miller's House/Shop
799 Colony Ct., Worthington Hills
Technical Topic: String Replacement

No meeting in December.
The January meeting will be our annual
post-holiday dinner, details TBA.

*"The masterpiece should tell the performer what to do, not the
performer tell the composer what he should have composed."*

- Alfred Brendel

This newsletter was created using the open-source program *Scribus* running on the Linux/Ubuntu 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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