

# The Buckeye Backcheck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

**Volume 41    Issue 8    November 2016**



# The Buckeye Backcheck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

## Chapter Meeting Minutes October 4, 2016

The meeting was held at Solich Piano-Columbus.

### Attendance:

Mitch Staples, Ron Kenreich, Chris Burget, Kim Hoessly, David Chadwick, David Stang, Mark Ritchie, Phil Walters, guest Carl Taylor, hosts Thomas Solich and Jay Grayson, and from Yamaha: Michael Bremit, Dom Cicchetti, and David Durben.

### Treasurer's Report:

\$1494.81

### Old Business:

Old Bag Of Nails in Westerville has been confirmed as the location for the Post-Holiday Dinner, which will take place at 6:30pm on Saturday, January 28, 2017. They will have a bar upstairs and we can order from the menu. We could meet at 6:30pm, have drinks (1st round on the Chapter) and order food when folks have all arrived.

The Newsletter page on the Chapter website is still disengaged and options for the archive are being explored. It may remain on the site but the link will only be available to members and subscribers.

Locations for the November meeting were briefly discussed but no final decision was made at the meeting.

### New Business:

No New Business.

## Announcement

The Worthington Historical Society is thrilled to announce that our rare Tröndlin piano will return to Worthington on November 12th after its extensive restoration. Several events are planned to celebrate the completion of this project, and we would like to invite you to join us!

### Tröndlin Fortepiano Homecoming Celebration

Saturday, November 12th

The Griswold Center, Town Hall

Restoration Talk - 3 pm

\$7 (Free with concert ticket)

Celebratory Concert - 7 pm

\$25 (includes admission to Restoration Talk)

Tickets are available for purchase at the Shop at the Old Rectory. You may also register for the event online through Worthington Parks & Recreation ([Worthington.org](http://Worthington.org); [Talk, #7544](#); [Concert, #7545](#))

Robert Murphy of Oberlin Conservatory, has been working meticulously on restoring all aspects of the instrument since June of 2015. He will share the details of the restoration process in a talk at 3 pm at the Griswold Center. Pianist David Breitman, director of the Historical Performance program at Oberlin, will join Robert to demonstrate the unique qualities of this rare Tröndlin fortepiano in comparison with a modern piano.

At 7 pm, "Ensemble 1816", a group devoted to music of the early 19th century will present a celebratory concert featuring the Tröndlin fortepiano. David Breitman, piano, will be joined by Jesse Blumberg, baritone and Johanna Novom, violin. They will present a program of mixed selections including works by Beethoven and Schubert. In the 19th century, the piano played an important social role, and music was often made among friends. Breitman said, "the most revelatory difference with a modern piano is the way those instruments work in an ensemble. After all, the piano has changed dramatically, while the violin has changed relatively little, and human voice hasn't changed at all..."

Following the concert, the Tröndlin will return to its home in the sitting room at the Orange Johnson House.



# The Buckeye Backcheck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

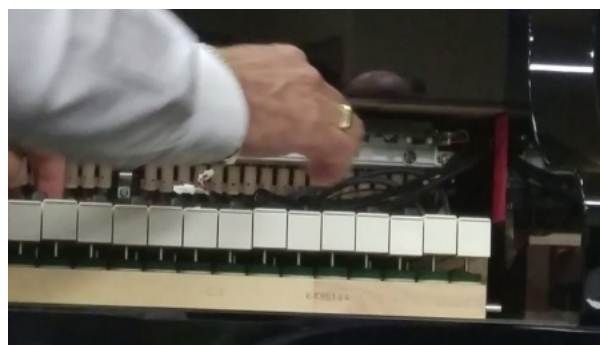
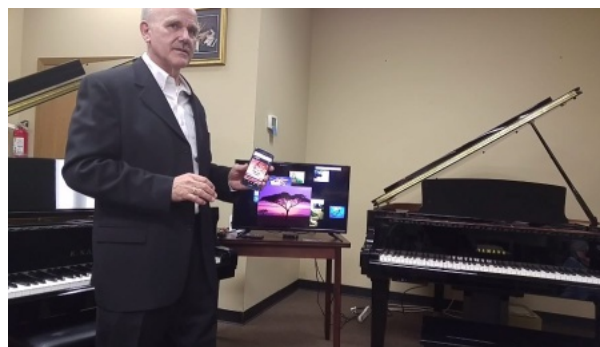
## David Durben Presents The Yamaha Disklavier Enspire

Thanks to Solich Piano-Columbus for hosting the October meeting, and congratulations to them as well for being named the authorized Yamaha dealer in central Ohio.

David Durben, Piano Service Specialist for Yamaha and Bosendorfer, gave the technical presentation showcasing the latest generation in the Disklavier line, the Enspire. This latest iteration shares some of the features of its predecessors such as gray-scale tabs under the keys that intercept beams of light to relay key-travel information to its central processor, as well as internet connectivity like the previous generation. But, it also has changed a few things, namely in the size of the unit itself, which is much thinner and streamlined than before. No more disks! Information is transferred to and from the unit via a mobile app that acts as the interface via wifi. Tracks can be downloaded from Yamaha's PianoSoft library. The app is available for all Apple iOS and Android systems, as well as any computer via a browser. Yamaha may even supply a tablet, if desired. There is also a USB port for transferring files and recordings. The resolution of the recordings has improved, as well as the resolution of the data recorded by the various key, hammer and pedal sensors. Even when keys are brushed but don't play will still register, it's so sensitive. The unit also will supply syncing information for HD video where the piano is recorded separately by the Enspire unit. This allows the user to film their own performances, or download from the Yamaha library and the piano will automatically sync to the video on playback. This is useful not only for entertainment purposes but educational one as well.

David then went on to cover some of the protocols involved in servicing these instruments. He showed us how to do an initial record and playback to sort of test the system. He played a chromatic scale, in even tempo and volume, from bottom to top and then depressed each pedal a couple of times. The unit then reproduced exactly what he had done. If anything would have sounded different, then that may tip off where something may need attention. This is why he stressed playing the scale that he did very evenly and consistently, so it would be easier to identify problem components.

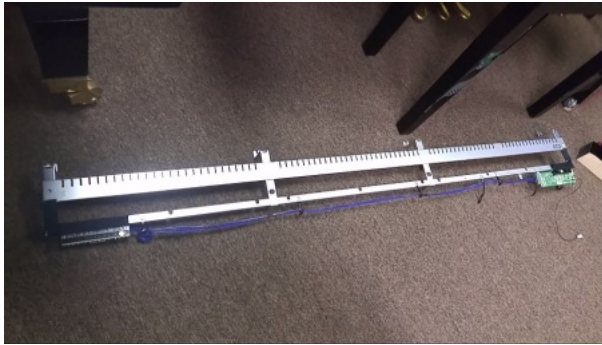
After that, he removed the action and partially disassembled some of the parts, primarily the hammer sensor which consists of a metallic strip that is notched above each hammer shank. There is a fiber optic beam that passes through the sensor and each hammer shank, in turn, has a tab that passes through the notch which intersects the beam of light. This tab is not gray-scaled like those under the keys and the pedal assemblies, but has a square hole that cuts off the light as it passes through, and the speed of that interruption is measured and converted to hammer





# The Buckeye Backcheck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*



velocity information by the processors. He then reassembled it all as he explained that some versions may have a few more screws here and there, and perhaps a simpler wire harness plug than what was present on this particular floor model.

Much of what he had to say after this was useful for general piano service as well as that which is focused on the Disklavier. He has strong feelings about the use of teflon powder, and much of it is negative. First of all, for Disklavier systems it is "verboden" as he put it. The gray-scale tabs may become electrostatically charged over time, which may attract the powder. If even so much as a speck of that sticks to the tab, it may interfere with its readings as it will scatter and deflect the light beam and confuse the CPU. He feels that it is misused in treating squeaky knuckles, and that it is often better to clean them with a stiff bristled brush or felt mute. "It's not so much that they need lubrication, as much as they really just need cleaned up a bit, and it's actually quicker to clean them than try to get that powder to adhere to the knuckles!" He then pointed out that the factories don't lubricate the knuckles, they lubricate the tops and backs of the jacks, and the tops of the repetition levers. He had a few more things to say about these things which are beyond the scope here.

Another thing he discussed was making pedal adjustments. He said the some of these Disklavier pedal components, or plungers, are a bit heavy and can loosen the pedal lyre over time, so the lyre must be tightened back up. Also, excessive lost motion needs to be addressed from time to time. He questioned us about how we often address this in a typical grand. He went on to say that many technicians then adjust the length of the pedal rod by turning the bolts at the top. "What has changed over time in this pedal assembly? Did the rod get shorter and now it must be lengthened? Or is it more likely that the felt under the pedal has compressed too much and the pedal will not travel in its proper arc of motion?" He says that it is better, and probably quicker, to just place a dense piece of felt of the appropriate thickness under the pedal. Lost motion is taken up without disturbing the integrity of the rest of the system. In some cases the pedal rods can get turned up so far that they raise the damper tray, which may have a spring on it which adds tension to the whole system inappropriately.

He also went on to discuss tuning techniques, like cracking unisons, which is well beyond the scope here.

He stressed over and over again that he is more than willing to assist technicians over the phone while they are servicing these instruments. His email is [ddurben@yamaha.com](mailto:ddurben@yamaha.com) He can supply an FTP address for downloading service manuals beforehand and relevant phone numbers for assistance, if needed. He requested that the FTP address not be published. (Editor's note: I have the FTP address if needed)



# The Buckeye Backcheck

*Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

[www.ptgcolumbus.org](http://www.ptgcolumbus.org)

## Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

### - Officers -

<b>President</b>	Mitch Staples, RPT
<b>Vice-President</b>	Chris Altenburg, RPT
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ron Kenreich
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Burget
<b>Imm. Past Pres.</b>	Kim Hoessly, RPT

## Chapter Meeting **Tuesday, November 15** **7:00pm**

### OSU Campus

#### Hughes Hall Rm 09

1899 College Road North  
Columbus, OH 43210

### Arps Parking Garage

1990 College Road North  
Columbus, OH 43210

**Topic:** Roundtable on piano  
cleaning tools and techniques.

### Map Link:

[goo.gl/maps/zDZw56tP97F2](http://goo.gl/maps/zDZw56tP97F2)

This newsletter was created using the open-source program Scribus running on the Linux Mint 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:

Chris Burget, 1706 Pin Oak Dr., Columbus, OH 43229 [cjburget@gmail.com](mailto:cjburget@gmail.com)