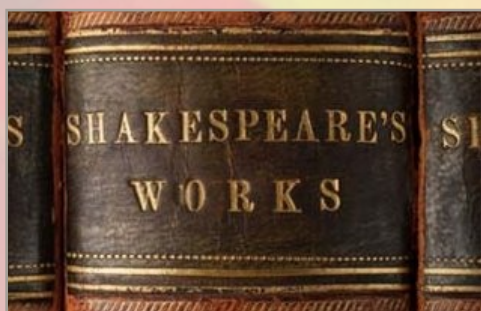


The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild
Volume 40 Issue 8 October 2015



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



One of my professors in college came to 8am English Lit class and told us that when he arrived that morning, he saw that he had on one brown sock and one black sock, so if we were looking for one of those golden moments in education, "...it was probably not going to be today". Well, I admit to doing this at the last possible moment, so if you are looking for one of those little literary gems to carry you through your piano tech career this week... well you know, probably not today.

On the other hand, I am really looking forward to Robert Murphy coming down this Saturday. We don't have the numbers I was hoping for (who could pass up this opportunity?), but I think we will have a great time. If you get this before Thursday and have a change of mind, just call me. I think there is a lot to be learned about the piano by looking into the predecessor of the instrument that we work on every day. Learning about other keyboard instruments is like learning another language, which, as a teacher once told me, is like getting an additional soul, and who doesn't want that? Besides, you never know what you might come across in the field and it helps to be prepared. We actually have a colleague from Michigan coming down for just that reason. He had someone call him about working on a very old instrument and the more he heard, the more he realized it was very, very old so this lecture looked like a golden opportunity for him.

So I apologize for not putting in my normal due diligence. If you really want a golden moment in education, come on Saturday.

Kim Hoessly, RPT

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Chapter Meeting Minutes September 15, 2015

The meeting was held at Solich Piano Columbus.

Attendance:

Kim Hoessly, Ron Kenreich, Chris Burget, Bob Grubb, Ben Peters, David Stang, Ben Wiant

Treasurer's Report:

\$2931.86

Old Business:

The position Of Chapter Vice-President is still vacant.

Kim Hoessly was Delegate to Council this year.

The Fortepiano Event on Saturday, October 3 will replace the October meeting.

New Business:

Suggestions for future technicals were discussed, which included: string motion and vibration; pre-voicing; acrylic key repair; ringing grand dampers; concert prep; Ostrander grand piano mover/tilter; CA glue treatment for tuning pins.

Pre-meeting technical and tuning exam prep for associates was discussed. These sessions would take place an hour, or so, before meetings depending on the locations and facilities available.

In addition to adding another action model for technical exams, Kim suggested getting some various repair jigs since the Home Office may offer grants for additional jigs when a model or jig is purchased.

No specific plans for the January Dinner were discussed, but it was suggested that the Chapter may consider some locations other than The Worthington Inn. That has been a very fine location but it was just suggested that other options be considered, and perhaps going a little more downscale may, or may not, be desirable for some members.

For Sale

I have 3 different customers looking to sell nice grand pianos. Piano 1 is a Steinway O c.1927, ebony with bench. It was restrung, probably in the early 60s and has plastic keytops. It is in excellent condition. You can contact Mary Anne Morehart in Westerville at 614-891-9585. Her mother is now at Village of Westerville and can no longer use the piano and as none of the children want the instrument, they are looking to sell it. Piano 2 is also a Steinway, also a model O c. 1918. Ebony finish, ivory keytops, action rebuilt 2007 by me. Piano is in excellent condition. This couple lives in German Village and in the next year or so, are planning to downsize and will not be able to take the piano with them. You can contact Lynda Sudderberg at pennersuds@gmail.com, or by phone at 216.346.2818. And the 3rd piano is a Baldwin SD10 (9') grand c. 1987. I tuned it for this couple about 4 years ago; Betty Rae Smith is a retired organist and is no longer able to play, also they may be downsizing. This is a very nice instrument. You can contact Richard Smith at 614-895-1061. Below is a photo of the Sudderberg Steinway. If you know anyone who might be interested, give them a call.

Kim H



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Report from 2015 Council of the Piano Technician's Guild, Denver, CO

by Kim Hoessly

Here are the results of the ByLaws amendments

Proposal 1 on Tuning Exams **Defeated**

Majority in agreement with ByLaws recommendation and it was pointed out that this is already in the Regulations and Codes

Proposal 2 Remove 3 standing Committees **Adopted**

An amendment to this amendment to keep the Economic affairs comm. put forth by Wim Blees was defeated. These committees can be replaced by ad hoc comm. or task forces as the need arises

Proposal 3 Annual Convention **Defeated**

This generated a lot of discussion, but until some other issues are resolved (see section on Council / Board Structure), moving to a biennial convention is unlikely

Proposal 4 RVP as ExOfficio **Adopted**

Per the explanation given by the board, Council agreed that this makes it easier for the RVP to help failing chapters and simply means the RVP is a part of the chapter board

Proposal 5 Payment deadline for new member dues **Adopted with amendment**

The recommended ByLaws comm. amendment was adopted (if there are no objections to the application) Sobasically, the applicant has 90 days from the time of chapter approval to pay or they must reapply and pay an additional fee.

Proposal 6 Chapter definitions **Sent back to Comm.**

There was consensus that there was simply too much work yet to be done on this proposal

Proposal 7 Membership Application Procedures **Adopted with amendment**

Originally sent back to committee, this was brought up again and after much discussion and an amendment by Paul Adams to have the applicant, if there is a felony conviction involved, supply a prepaid, full fingerprint supported background check.

Proposal 8 Financial Authority **Adopted**

This passed with minimal discussion

Proposal 9 Ethics Violations **Defeated**

This may come back in another form, but the Council agreed with the ByLaws Comm. and Board that if chapter officers are involved in a grievance, it could be messy as the amendment is currently stated.

Election results were as follows: **President** Phil Bondi, RPT; **Vice-President** Paul Brown, RPT; **Secretay/Treasurer** Paul Adams, RPT. Committee elections results are all available on the ptg.org website.

At our regional caucus, Larry Messerly, RPT was elected as our new **RVP**. Maria Pollock may serve again, but promised her family she would take at least one year off. Larry has just moved into our region (Wisconsin) and has been serving on the board as Western RVP. Plans on in the works for another joint Regional Convention with the Central West & Central East regions to be held in Indianapolis in 2016.

I have copies of all the financial reports if anyone would like to see them. I did, as instructed by the chapter, voice the chapters objection to annual dues increases. I also spoke to Barbara Cassady about having salaries published (as opposed to just one figure for all the staff). She said she would be happy to publish her salary, but not the other staff. She did not feel that was fair to them. Since her salary was the one we were most interested in, I thought that was fair.

Under Chapter/Member activity, Council voted to accept chapter sustaining membership for Nick Titakis of the NYC Chapter. Also, the Minnesota/ North Iowa chapter requested a name change to better reflect its membership area. The new name is WisMinnla.

(Continued on next page...)

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(...Council Report continued)

There was considerable discussion about current and upcoming ivory legislation. Apparently it is quite strict in New York and New Jersey (you can incur an huge fine just for replacing an ivory keytop as the legislation currently reads). Gerry Paluck from Cleveland and Jon Ralinovsky and I talked about looking into what Ohio legislators might be thinking. Gerry said he would look into that and perhaps I, being in Columbus, would go down and talk to whoever that might be. It does look like that is something we will want to stay on top of. I have some handouts if anyone is interested. The Council did pass resolutions put forth by the NYC chapter.

Be it resolved that: The PTG supports efforts to end international trade in illegal ivory. The PTG supports efforts to update and clarify domestic and international protocols to address this ongoing crisis.

Be it resolved that: 1. The PTG has an interest in preserving legally obtained and installed ivory on pianos. 2. The PTG requests that any new regulations include a protocol whereby RPTs can issue a statement which can be used to verify that the transport or sale of existing ivory on a specific piano is permitted under any proposed certification process.

Be it resolved that: The Executive Board shall select one or more duly authorized representatives of PTG to engage in the public comment period for any proposed ivory regulations. Any Statement by PTG which claims to represent official PTG policy regarding proposed ivory regulations must include all resolutions on the subject pass by the 2015 Council.

Be it resolved that: The Council of PTG recommends that the Board shall create a special (or ad hoc) committee for the purpose of formulating a coherent statement of the organization's position, with regard to current efforts by Federal and State governments to establish and implement effective measures to curtail distribution of illegally obtained elephant ivory. In addressing the complexity of this issue, the resulting committee recommendations should reflect the diversity of views to be found among the organization's membership. This objective would be best served by ensuring that such diversity be adequately represented in the composition of such a committee.

Also discussed was the observation that several large supply houses were again absent from the exhibit hall (notably Schaff, Pianotek and a Renner). These companies have stated that they simply do not make enough money at convention to justify the expense of coming. The council discussed various ways to change that and make the exhibit hall more of a gathering place during the convention, such as having a food court in the hall. I, myself, found plenty of interesting exhibitors, but I did miss the opportunity to look at items first hand from the supply houses. It was not part of the discussion, but generally, recent attendance at conventions is almost half of what it has been in the past and fewer buyers automatically means fewer sales.

Outside of Council, I will say that the Denver location was very good. You had to walk a little bit from the hotel to find dining outside the venue, but there were several good options. Very easy to get to from the airport by shuttle (within the next few years, there will be a connector to the city's light rail system from the airport which will be even more convenient).

You couldn't beat the view of the mountains from the convention center. The venue had good convention facilities and the staff were helpful. I had to put up with some water pressure issues in my shower, but otherwise, it was nice. Next year, the convention will be at the Norfolk Waterside Marriot in Norfolk, VA which promises some beach visits for attendees.

I helped administer Technical Exams for part of the convention and was recertified to give the exam. I learned as much doing that as I did in the classes, but I think that is always the case when you are in a teaching role.

There were a lot of good classes, some I got to and some I missed because of the exams and because I spent Saturday with family that lived just south of Denver. I will go over some of those classes during the meeting this evening. I did acquire some great tools which I will also share.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Hoessly, RPT
2015 Delegate to Council

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Pictures From The Convention



Dale Probst receiving the Golden Hammer Award



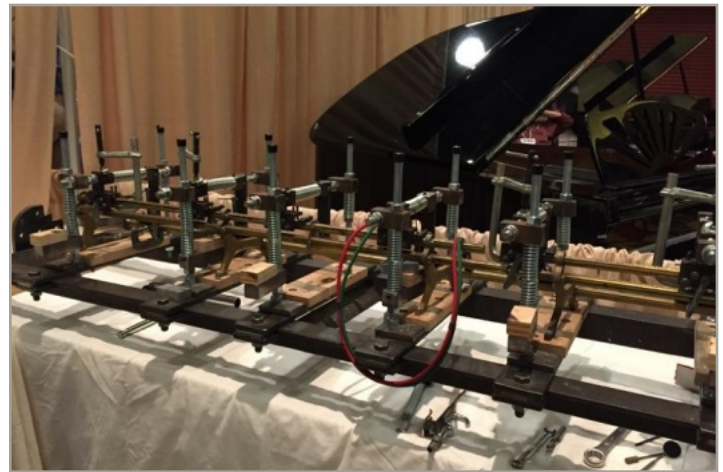
Exhibit Hall



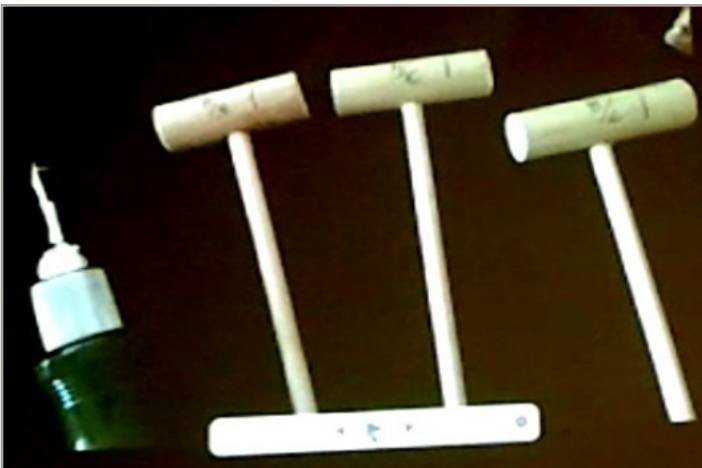
KTT Smart Move Grand Mover



Council proceedings



Too many clamps? ...Never! Grand action rail repair.



DIY distance jigs



LaRoy Edwards Action Caddy

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Pianos: Beyond The Steinway Monoculture

By Anne Midgette

Classical music critic/The Classical Beat - The Washington Post

(Excerpts reprinted from The Washington Post)

A piano, it's said, can emulate an entire orchestra: Its range extends from thunderous fortés to streams of liquid notes. Yet the majority of people who talk about piano sound today are talking about the sound of a single manufacturer: Steinway.

For several generations of musicians and music lovers, Steinway has come to represent the acme of piano sound. Like Kleenex or Xerox, the name stands for a whole class of object. More than 98 percent of concert pianists choose to perform on Steinways, according to figures collected by, not surprisingly, Steinway itself.



The supremacy of Steinway is no accident. It's the result of focused hard work: on the pianos and on the brand. The company aggressively woos artists and institutions with the strategy and tenacity, some say, of a car salesman. Appearing on the Steinway Web site as a Steinway artist is a valued imprimatur; straying from the fold can earn censure. (The pianist Garrick Ohlsson was banned from using Steinway instruments for a period in the 1970s after he praised Bösendorfer in public.) Being a Steinway school, the company argues, attracts donors and students.

This year, Wolf Trap became a Steinway institution after decades of association with Yamaha. "I've played Yamahas I love and hate, and Steinways I love and hate, and everyone else has, too," says Kim Witman, the head of the Wolf Trap Opera. "I think from a branding perspective, a lot of folks on our board and folks here always would have loved to see us aligned with Steinway."

Institutions that want to remain independent, such as Florida State University's College of Music, have to work hard to resist. The school believes that its students are best served by being exposed to a variety of instruments. Yet when Anne Garee, the director of the piano technology program, is trying out new pianos for possible purchase, she often sees evidence of Steinway's power. She covers up the manufacturer's names when musicians are testing out the instruments; when she uncovers the names after they've played, some change their minds.

"If you walk on stage," Garee says, "and see a Brand Something and a Steinway, no matter what, [most performers] will forgive the Steinway. People are not listening as freely and honestly as they could."

The classical music field, with its devotion to maintaining traditions, has been fertile ground for the development of what Ohlsson has referred to as Steinway's "monoculture." Like most of the instruments of the modern orchestra, the piano hasn't fundamentally changed since the late 19th century. Steinway's ascendancy dates from the same period, and every time the company changes hands — most recently in 2013, when it was purchased by the hedge fund Paulson & Co. for \$512 million — there are ripples of anxiety in the classical music world.

"Some people might argue that there are categories of tone that are particular to brands," says FSU's Garee, "but it's been my experience that the stereotypical sounds have not always been there. I've played Yamahas that sounded like Schimmels, Schimmels that sounded like Hamburg Steinways; I've heard so many that defy the rules. Unless you're playing dozens and dozens of pianos, most of us don't have the perspective" to identify which manufacturer is "best."

"When the piano responds on all dynamic levels, from pianissimo to sforzando and fortissimo, and gives the pianist tonal palette, you never want to leave that piano bench," says Garee. "It's when that particular instrument went together, when all the stars went together, material science, geometry, engineering, and the resilience of the piano hammer to respond to its soundboard. When all that comes together, it doesn't matter what brand it is. It's magic."

For more, go to: https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/music/the-piano-keys-of-the-future/2015/09/03/9bbbbfee-354c-11e5-94ce-834ad8f5c50e_story.html



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www.ptgcolumbus.org

A little something that Mr. Brandt reeled in....



Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

President	Kim Hoessly, RPT
Vice-President	John Schmolli, RPT
Treasurer	Ron Kenreich
Secretary	Christopher Burget
Imm. Past Pres.	Bryan Hartzler, RPT

*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

Chapter Event
Saturday, October 3
9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Church of the Master
24 N. Grove St.
Westerville, OH 43081

Fortepiano Event
with Robert Murphy

This event will be in place
of the normal third Tuesday
meeting for October

Map Link:
goo.gl/maps/68Q4ZtufA7x

This newsletter was created using the open-source program Scribus running on the Linux Mint operating system.

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