

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild
Volume 35 Issue 6 September 2010



PTG Columbus Summer Picnic

Saturday, September 18, 2010

4 pm

Blendon Woods Metropark

Please RSVP to
Mark Ritchie ritchiepiano@gmail.com
or **Chris Purdy** purdy@ohio.edu

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



September has always been a time of new beginnings for me. Probably all of us experience this. A new school year, business picks up as piano students begin lessons, church choirs start their season and discover that leaving the AC off in the sanctuary all summer probably wasn't a good idea for the piano, etc. For me personally, this summer has brought a lot of changes with my job at Ohio University. Becoming part time after almost twenty years here has not only changed the way I do my job here but has set off a chain reaction of changes, affecting everything, professional and private.

But new beginnings are also new opportunities. And one new opportunity I now have is to represent you as chapter president this year. Thank you for the confidence you have shown by asking me to take on this responsibility. The rest of the board and I have been busy planning for the coming year and I'm very excited to share some of these plans with you. Mark Ritchie has arranged for Wessell Nickel & Gross to present a technical in May to show us their line of piano action parts and demonstrate proper installation and service. Also, Dean Reyburn will be coming in March to talk to us about the Reyburn Cyber Tuner and their latest developments. Plus, Dean's son Nate will be showing us their new line of tuning hammers. We'll also have a technical with Kim in November on hammer filing and a few other surprises that are still in the works.

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President's message cont'd

So I encourage you to accept all of these new beginnings and take full advantage of them. Make a new commitment to take an active part in the guild.

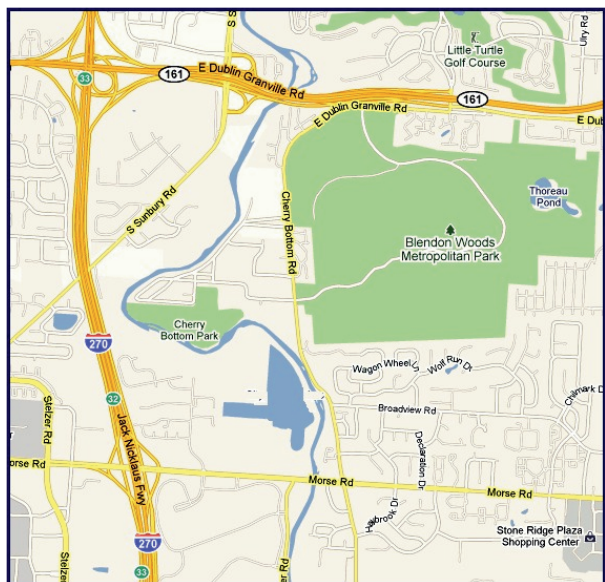
Consider presenting a technical to share a new tool or technique.

But first of all, join us for the chapter picnic on September 18. Reconnect with friends and colleagues and let's take an afternoon to relax and enjoy the season.

Please RSVP to Mark Ritchie or me by Sept. 15 so that he can purchase meat for the grill. In that RSVP, please suggest what side dish that you would like to bring with you so that we don't end up with a lot of duplicates. Everyone should bring folding chairs and if possible, a card table or two would be nice. We will be finding a shelter in the section which is the first road to the right as you enter the park. (In case you can't find us, my cell # is (740) 590-3842, and Kim's is (614)537-8596)

Hope to see you there!

Chris



Blendon Woods is near the intersection of 161 and 270. Take Morse Rd. E. of 270, then turn left on Cherry Blossom Rd. You will see the entrance to the park on the right.

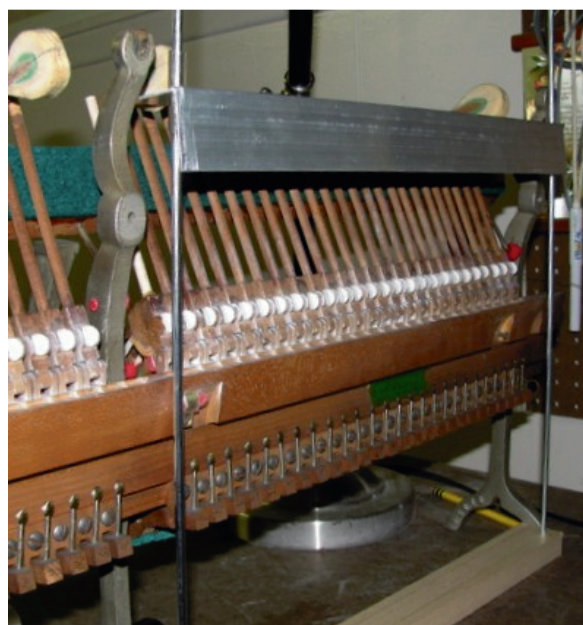
Technical Tip: A Hammer-Hanging Jig

by Kim Hoessly

Ever wonder what to do with those extra rods from the damp-chaser kit? They make a great vertical hammer hanging jig. Take a fairly substantial piece of scrap wood for a base and drill holes at the appropriate distance (using the action as your guide).

A 3/64" drill bit makes a nice snug hole. Use the same drill bit to make a couple of holes in a piece of 1 1/2" angle aluminum. Keep the aluminum at the proper height with a couple of pieces of 1/4" rubber tubing (or you could come up with some other tubing of the appropriate diameter and maybe a set screw, but the 1/4" tubing seems to stay in place just fine. Okay, so it's not real technical with measurements to the nth degree. Guess I make jigs the same way I cook and that comes out pretty good.

Bill Spurlock could probably make this better and prettier. I realize you will no doubt have to drill new holes and cut some new pieces of angle aluminum for different actions, but if you hang enough hammers, eventually you'll have enough pieces to fit whatever you need.



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REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION COUNCIL

by Evan Bingham

Proposal 1: (Graphics Standards Manual) In favor unanimously

Proposal 2: (Allied Piano Trades Category) Defeated by large margin

Proposal 3: (Addition to Missions and Principles) Defeated by large margin

Proposal 4: (CAUT Endorsement) Scrapped due to lack of support in the PTG long term goals.

Proposal 5: (Exam and Test Standards Committee) In favor by large margin

Proposal 6: (Application Review Committee) In favor unanimously with a time limit amendment added

Proposal 7: (Bard Report to Bylaws Committee) In favor unanimously with no debate

Proposal 8: (Canadian Chapter Rebate) After much debate, in favor with a 90/10 split

Proposal 9: (Elimination of Visually Impaired Committee) After much debate, defeated with a 60/40 split

Proposal 10: (Elimination of Marketing Committee) In favor by large margin

There was also a vote to increase the dues 10 dollars next year. Since this was not discussed in our meeting, I did not vote on the issue. It was passed by an extremely large margin though. Some members even said that they wanted to increase dues even higher, in order to decrease registration fees for the national convention.

OPINION

Critic in the Courtroom

by Terry Teachout, *The Wall Street Journal*

Franz Welser-Möst, a well-known Austrian conductor, took over the Cleveland Orchestra in 2002. Don Rosenberg, the Cleveland Plain Dealer's classical-music critic, soon soured on the new conductor. Most of his reviews were unfavorable, in some cases quite sharply so. Susan Goldberg, the editor, told the critic that he would no longer be reviewing the orchestra's concerts. He wasn't fired, nor was his salary cut, but he was reassigned to write about other cultural matters and his byline no longer identified him as the Plain Dealer's classical-music critic.

In the tight little world of high-culture journalism, Mr. Rosenberg's demotion became a cause célèbre. Other critics accused the Plain Dealer of bowing to pressure from the Cleveland Orchestra. Ms. Goldberg ignored them and stuck to her guns. Then Mr. Rosenberg upped the ante by suing the paper and the orchestra's management for defamation and age discrimination. Two weeks ago, a local jury ruled against him on all counts.

I don't think there's any chance that it would be reversed: So long as Ms. Goldberg doesn't fire Mr. Rosenberg without cause, she has a near-absolute legal right to [put him in any position] should she see fit to do so.

[However] Mr. Rosenberg is a trained musician, a French-horn player who later took up newspaper criticism, and he is respected by his peers. Does that mean he's right about Mr. Welser-Möst? I don't know. Mr. Rosenberg was the man on the firing line, and so his adverse view of Mr. Welser-Möst's conducting deserves to be taken seriously. Yet it is not shared by all of his fellow critics. Some agree, others don't, an awkward fact that put his editors, none of whom claims to be a musical expert, on the spot.

Criticism is not an exact science, and the paper would have done its readers a service by regularly publishing contrasting points of view on the city's No. 1 cultural venture. Instead, the editors came off looking like a bunch of spineless small-timers who let the Cleveland Orchestra roll them.

Read the Complete article at: www.wsj.com



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www.ptgcolumbus.org

Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

President	Chris Purdy, RPT
Vice-President	Mark Ritchie, RPT
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Imm. Past Pres.	Kim Hoessly, RPT

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

- David

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010, 4:00pm
Chapter Picnic and Meeting
Blendon Woods Metropark
(Time and date published in the Summer Newsletter were incorrect)

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010, 7:30pm

"Hope you don't think this is 'Unplugged'. I'm a piano player - I'm already unplugged."

- Billy Joel

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

Disclaimer:

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

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