

The Buckeye Backcheck

Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Volume 41 Issue 6 September 2016



Say hello to the Chapter's newest Officers!
President Mitch Staples, RPT, and
Vice-President Chris Altenburg, RPT.

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Chapter Meeting Minutes May 17, 2016

The meeting was held at Columbus Piano Leasing.

Attendance:

Kim Hoessly, Chris Burget, Chris Altenburg, Mitch Staples, Ron Kenreich, Mark Ritchie, David Stang, David Chadwick, John Schmoll, and host Mahlon Ray.

Treasurer's Report:

\$2469.60

Old Business:

Suggestions for technicals in the next year were discussed, including reviews of the National Convention in Norfolk and the Regional Convention in Indianapolis. Also, the Smart Piano Mover device was also suggested again.

Details were discussed for the Chapter Auction which took place on Saturday, June 18, 2016 at Church Of The Master in Westerville.

New Business:

Chapter Elections were held, and the slate of Officers nominated and elected were:

Mitch Staples - President

Chris Altenburg - Vice-President

Ron Kenreich - Treasurer

Chris Burget - Secretary

Kim Hoessly - Immediate Past President

David Chadwick volunteered to be the Chapter Delegate at Council during the National Convention. There were far fewer proposals for amendments to by-laws compared to previous years and, for the most part, we instructed David to vote as he saw fit. There were a few changes suggested in regard to: multiple-chapter membership being extended to Associates; background checks on new members; dues reductions for members over 65 years of age; and changes to the Tuning Exam in regard to examinees only retaking certain parts of the test that were failed.

Butts & Flanges

Kim Hoessly recently serviced a Young Chang grand with several sticking dampers. The guide rail bushings appeared to be okay, as did the wires, and lubrication didn't seem to be an issue. Upon removing the action to further investigate, Kim noticed that the leads in the underlevers were coming loose and rubbing on the neighboring levers and impeding proper travel. One could merely push them back in and hope they stay, but it is better to properly reinsert them and swage them with pliers. If the underlever holes have contracted too much, or swaging isn't an option, then a tiny drop of glue may be applied on the edge of the lead to help hold it in place. Not too much glue, just enough to keep it in place is all that is needed, and will make future removal a little easier.

David Stang brought up the topic of strings vibrating out of phase with each other and false beats. His thinking on the subject was partially inspired by the presentation Kent Swafford gave at the latest Ben McKlveen Seminar in Cincinnati, where Kent described certain beat cancelling effects of the Only Pure tuning system. David was also thinking of how this applies to unison tuning as well and how certain strings may be tuned at an ever slightly different pitch in order to mask a false beat. This spurred a general discussion of false beats and whether or not poor terminations at bridge pins and notches are as responsible as most claim. Some say that the pin being slightly loose is a problem as it vibrates back and forth with the string. Mismatched strings, especially in the bass, can be problematic. Someone then mentioned that sometimes a drop of glue on a wound string can help because the slight change in mass may lessen the beating. A few members stated that they had encountered dried drops of glue on strings thinking it was just someone being a bit sloppy. A few technicians said the trick had some success for them some of the time.

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Del Gittinger Memorial Chapter Library

Kim Hoessly is now the Chapter Librarian. These books are available for members to borrow. They can email her if they want to come by her house and get one. She will also bring them to the meetings. There will be a sign out sheet and the books can be borrowed from meeting to meeting unless someone else would like to borrow the book. This list will also be posted on the Chapter website at: <http://www.ptgcolumbus.org/library.html>

A Guide To Restrunging	Travis, John W.
A History of Midwestern Piano Manufacturing	Greenfield, Jack
Calculating Technician, The	Roberts, David
Five Lectures On The Acoustics of the Piano	Askenfelt, Anders
Glimpse into Montal's Paris, A Celebration of Claude Montal, A	video
House of Bechstein: Chronicle	Bechstein
How To Tone Regulate Newly Installed Hammers in A Grand	Travis, John W.
How To Tune A Piano	Woodman, H. Staunton
Let's Tune Up	Travis, John W.
Men, Women & Pianos, A Social History	Loesser, Arthur
Modern Organ Tuning	Smith, Hermann
Piano Action Handbook, The	Mason, Merle
Piano Owners Guide, The	Schmeckel, Carl D.
Piano Servicing, Tuning & Rebuilding for the Professional, the...	Reblitz, Arthur A.
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Piano Tuning and Allied Arts	White, William Braid
Piano, A Piano Technician's Guide for the Piano Owner, The	Gurlik, Philip
Pianos And Their Makers, A Comprehensive History of...	Dolge, Alfred
Player Piano Servicing & Rebuilding	Reblitz, Arthur A.
Principles of Player Action Operation	???
Professional Piano Tuning	Howell, W. Dean
Rebuilding The Player Piano	Givens, Larry
The American Reed Organ & the Harmonium	Gellerman, Robert F.
The New Tuning, Equal Temperament with Perfect Fifths	Mason, Lucas
The Reed Organ: Its Design & Construction	Milne, H. F.
Theory and Practice of PianoForte Building	White, William Braid
What Is Your Piano All About and Allied Subjects	Kresge, Don U.

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Grand Damper Troubleshooting

Thanks to Columbus Piano Leasing for hosting the May meeting and providing food and refreshments; and thanks to David Chadwick for offering his insights into working with grand dampers.

David offered many useful tips and showed us how he goes through the process of troubleshooting grand damper problems, and how to address them. He also talked some about wholesale damper system regulation and touched on rebuilding. Following are just a few of the tips he offered. He described his process as three circles, or rounds, of refinement, which ultimately comes down to "being very finnicky" about everything. He also said, as with many techniques and procedures, that the more of these jobs you do, the more confident you are about going in there and making the adjustments needed.

On this piano, he started out by looking for consistent 1/8 inch damper lift. Then he began looking for "walking and/or twisting" dampers, or dampers that lean further one way than their neighbors or twist when rising. He also lifts the dampers with his fingers and lets them drop back onto the strings to get a sense of how light or heavy they are. He demonstrated how he might use various wire bending tools and pliers to execute a series of bends often consisting of a "pressure" band and a "travel" bend. The pressure bend is usually made lower on the wire and will orient the wire so that it favors one side of the damper guide rail bushing. Bass dampers typically would favor the treble side of the bushing while treble hammers favor the bass side. This may not be universal for all makes. The second bend is the travel bend higher up on the wire and this bend moves the damper head to and fro, or back and forth, as needed. When checking and adjusting the dampers, David places a mirror on the strings so he can see what is going on with the damper felt on the side furthest away from him. The mirror is a type often found in drug stores that has a flip cover that doubles as a stand. He files of a portion of the stand so that the mirror faces up at a slight angle making it easier for him to see what is going on.

He also demonstrated using the Spurlock damper regulating jig and, perhaps one of the more clever "why didn't I think of that?" repurposed items of recent memory, the ubiquitous Chip Clip! The clip is used when a damper has been removed and is being placed back into the damper block on the underlever. The clip is placed on a group of underlevers at the front, which holds them all together in a straight line making it easier to match the replaced damper to its neighbors. You can also lift them all up and down simultaneously to see how the dampers are traveling in relation to each other, and make changes as needed. He then stressed looking at how they travel in pairs and individually afterwards because sometimes groups of dampers may look straight when together, but they may all be swaying one way or another. He also demonstrated the use of the Renner damper wire bending tool, but as clever as that is, is generally only used for making wholesale wire bends during rebuilding when replacing full sets of damper wires.

That was just a small sample of what he had to offer as he covered several other topics, like polishing wires instead of using lubricants, burnishing damper guide rail bushings, damper guide rail position, and variations between brands among other things. He shared some stories from Steinway factory training and then eventually came back to stressing that making several passes throughout, with further refinement each time, is worth the effort.





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

Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, September 20
7:00pm

Mark Ritchie's Shop
6262 State Route 605
Westerville, OH 43082
614-855-7704
ritchiepianoservice.com

Topic: Review of National
and Regional Conventions

Map Link:
goo.gl/maps/cPW376NDyf22

Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, October 4
7:00pm

Not 3rd Tuesday of the month!!

Solich Piano
6370 Proprietors Rd
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 8883441
solichpianocolumbus.com

Topic: Yamaha Disklavier
Inspire

Map Link:
goo.gl/maps/5ddSHcLCh4F2

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

Disclaimer:

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

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