

# GOOD Vibrations

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE PIANO TECHNICIAN'S GUILD, INC.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patricia Selemon, RPT

Best in 2006!

Interaction of members with our guest speakers during a meeting is still one of my wishes. It livens the evening!

Read up on the speakers topic beforehand. Ask a question, make a comment, even jokes are allowed.

The brainwaves do change for the better when speaking aloud in public.

Come join the fun!

Pat

## February Technical Review

**David S. Mishkin, Ph.D.** is a clinical psychologist/neuropsychologist in private practice on Cape Cod for many years specializing in evaluating students of all ages with learning and attentional problems, adults who have experienced strokes or sustained traumatic brain injuries as well as older adults concerned with their memory and processing. Dr. Mishkin has also consulted to a number of businesses regarding improving communication and enhancing cooperation and problem-solving. He also was a member of a team that provided a 10-week workshop to the city of Newport, RI to help improve interdepartmental communication and problem-solving.

As professionals, whether psychologists or piano technicians, providing services to the public, we can occasionally be caught up in our clients'/customers' issues, on the receiving end of their misunderstanding, anger or illogical communications. Dr. Mishkin's talk for the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will provide practical strategies and suggestions to piano technician members for dealing with the difficult, argumentative, overly talkative etc. clients based on the situations that members have confronted in the past which they share with the group. Handouts summarizing some of the main issues and strategies based on systems theory, family therapy and communicational psychology will be provided.

FEBRUARY 2006

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## Technical

**David S. Mishkin, Ph.D.**

February 16, 2006

7:00 pm

Meeting at

Avery Piano Co.  
256 Weybosset St.  
Providence, RI

Remember to join us for dinner 5:15 Trinity Brew House before the meeting. Trinity Brew House is at 186 Fountain Street on the corner of Empire Street.

**Well Well - Reply from the article in our November Newsletter**

Ruth Phillips, RPT

The current Damp-Chaser system is laid out as a basic, one-size-fits-all system which works extremely well for the average climate condition. However, your climate in Rhode Island is anything but average. As you mention, your humidity was extreme this year. But extremes are par for the course in your ocean environs, with dampness pervasive, and your cold winters and indoor heating systems bringing the relative humidity to the opposite end of the spectrum as a regular seasonal event.

If a piano with a full system installed is going sharp with high humidity, it is not that the humidifier is causing it. It is that the dehumidifying side is not sufficient to contain it. To stabilize pitch, the dehumidifying side must bring the R.H. down to a level that the humidifying side can bring R.H. up to in the winter.

(Another thought is that the installation may be favoring one side over the other, but if it is laid out so that the parts are giving feedback to the control equally that wouldn't be an issue.)

Emptying the humidifier in the summer will affect the system somewhat, by altering the cycling of the two sides. Although possibly detrimental, it won't make a big difference with the dramatic humidity you experience. But, it requires a lot of extra maintenance that is not necessary.

The important thing is that the humidifier will not raise the humidity level when the system is calling for drying power.

In very damp climates, my answer would be to add a third or even fourth dehumidifier, and perhaps another under the keyboard. The wattage and layout would be determined by the beam structure and size of the piano.

Adding a room humidifier into the mix with such extreme dryness is a great idea, to supplement the DC humidifier. There is a limit to what a room humidifier can do on its own due to possible structural problems caused by excessive indoor moisture when the outside temperature is much colder than inside temperature. The two used together can provide the best possible environment for the piano and the homeowner.

One more note - the string covers from Judi Edwards make extra good sense in your area, especially to prevent salt air from settling on the strings, but just to stop any loss of benefit from the system into the room air.

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## Librarian's Report

Ruth Van Dine

The library is accessible via the RI-PTG.org web site. On the home page there is a link at the bottom of the page that will take you to the library. You can also see what items are available or checked out. Donations are accepted at any meeting.

### Books

But you can feel it by Emil Fries  
Country Piano Tuner by Howard Chase  
Educated Piano by Edward McMorrow  
My life with the Great Pianists by Franz Mohr  
Piano on the Left Bank by Thad Carhart  
Pianos And Their Makers by Alfred Dolge  
So you want a piano? By Paul Lynn, RPT  
Steinway Regulation by F.R. Dietz  
Temperament by Stuart Isacoff  
The Equal-Beating Temperaments by Owen Jorgensen

### Tid Bits.....

"You know you've achieved perfection in design, not when you have nothing more to add, but when you have nothing more to take away."

— Antoine de Saint-Exupery  
(1900 - 1944)

### Video

The Making of Kawai Pianos

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## Tech Tip

from *The Buckeye Backcheck, Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild - Sept 2004*

If you have ever had a problem replacing a bass string on a vertical piano due to it getting tangled up on the action, or keyed or the treble wire this little tip might work. Use a safety pin through the loop of the string to be replaced and then snap it closed over the adjacent string. You can slide the replacement down to the hitch pin without a problem.

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## QRS Training

By Ruth Van Dine

I recently attended and received certification for installation and servicing of the QRS Music Technologies' Pianomation® systems. The intensive three day seminar in Seneca, Pennsylvania covered the installation, operation, set-up and troubleshooting of the QRS systems. Training was held right at the QRS factory where the systems are put together and installed in the Story & Clark pianos. The instructors were first rate, helpful and very knowledgeable. I would recommend this training to any technician who has customers with a Pianomation® system installed.

We reviewed the CD2000+ a wonderful solid state system that uses CD's. The Petine CD/DVD has new Sync-Along series feature. The audio of the original artist's CD is passed through the speaker as the piano plays along from a MIDI file located on the Compact Flash card. The Ancho CD/DVD is their newest recording system with a wonderfully easy to read display. A few of the new Nickelodeon systems were there. They now use a CD as well.

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**February Meeting Technical: David S. Mishkin, Ph.D.**

February 16, 2006 at 7:00 pm

No NEECISO or Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention's this spring.

**June 21- 25, 2006**

**PTG 49th ANNUAL CONVENTION AND INSTITUTE**

Rochester, NY



Rhode Island Chapter

[www.RI-PTG.org](http://www.RI-PTG.org)