

GOOD Vibrations

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wade Johnson, RPT

I hope you are doing well or at least ok (as this old man seems to be, so far) in the midst of the current economic disaster. It seems as though at least two things might work in piano technicians' favor as we go forward: 1) As people spend less on travel and vacation and spend more time at home they are more likely to use (and maintain) their family piano; and 2) a Democratic Administration and Congress are more likely to be more receptive to government support of the arts than a Republican dominated one would be.

Meanwhile, the ad hoc CT/RI committee exploring possibilities for a NEECSO 2010 spring seminar is still at work, and seems to have narrowed their site consideration down to two possible hotels on Post Road in Warwick...I'll stop there and leave it up to David Flanders (committee chairman) to report further if and when he's ready.

Hoping to see you on the 19th at the Philharmonic's new headquarters and Carter music-education center in East Providence!

Wade

FEBRUARY MEETING

Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School

Tour at the new facility of the Music School of the RI Philharmonic in East Providence. The Carter Center for Music Education is located at 667 Waterman Ave, East Providence.

FEBRUARY 2009

INSIDE

Meeting Directions.....	2
The Ethicist, NYTimes Magazine.....	3
Tid Bit.....	3
Tech Tip	3
Tid Bit.....	4
Vintage Electric Piano Repair..	4
The Piano Deconstructed.....	4
Minutes for Oct & Nov'08 Mtg..	5

Business Mtg

&

Technical

Feb. 19, 2009 (snow date 2/26)
7:00 pm

Meeting at
RI Philharmonic Orchestra & Music
School

667 Waterman Ave
East Providence, RI
Phone: 401-248-7001

Remember to join us for dinner
5:30 @

Gregg's Rest., 1940 Pawtucket
Ave, E Providence 401-438-5700

Directions for February 19th meeting (or snow date, 2/26th):

Meeting 7pm: R.I. Philharmonic Orchestra and Music School, 667 Waterman Ave, East Providence (phone 401-248-7001)

Dinner 5:30pm: Gregg's Restaurant 1940 Pawtucket Ave, East Providence (phone 401-438-5700)

From 95 North or 95 South

- Take 195 East (Exit #19 on the I-Way). · Take Broadway Exit (Exit #6).
- Turn left at the end of exit ramp onto Warren Avenue, go .4 miles.
- At first traffic light, turn left onto Pawtucket Avenue. · **Gregg's Restuarant ahead on right .8 miles.**
- At first traffic light, turn right onto Waterman Avenue.
- RI Philharmonic is the second building on the right, across from Providence Country Day School and the East Providence Police Department.
- Please use first driveway for main entrance and visitor parking.

From 195 West - Heading toward Providence

- Take the Barrington/Seekonk Exit (Exit #1). · Bear right at the end of the exit ramp.
- At light, turn left onto County Street. · At the next light, bear right onto Waterman Avenue.
- RI Philharmonic is on the left approximately one mile down, across from the East Prov. Police Dept.
- Please use second driveway for main entrance and visitor parking.
- **Gregg's Restaurant:** Continue north on Waterman Ave .2 miles, turn Right onto Rte 114/ Pawtucket Ave. Proceed .5 miles straight thru traffic light on Rte 44, Gregg's is on Right.

Newsletter:

Ruth Van Dine, RPT

62 Stokes St., Warwick, RI 02889

Email – ruth@vandinedesign.com

Free to R.I. Chapter members, certain National PTG officers, and reciprocally to other newsletter editors.

Non-members may subscribe for \$8.00 per year.

Advertising: Free to members, non-members \$20; three months listing in this newsletter and on our website.

CHAPTER OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE BOARD

President.....Wade Johnson, RPT

Vice President.....Ruth Van Dine, RPT

Immediate Past President.....Pat Selemon, RPT

Treasurer.....Arthur Sacco

Secretary.....David Flanders, RPT

Examining & Testing Committee: David Flanders, RPT (chair), Tom Roy, RPT & Kirk Russell, RPT

Librarian: Joel Levine

Newsletter: Ruth Van Dine, RPT

Nominating Committee, Patricia Selemon, RPT (Chair) & David Flanders, RPT

Publicity and Public Relations: Executive Board

“All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the editor as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild.”

www.RI-PTG.org

The Ethicist, New York Times Magazine – 11/30/08

By RANDY COHEN

I own a small shop in which I restore pianos. Months ago in an empty house I was shown a badly damaged Steinway and told it would be trashed if I didn't take it, no charge. I have expended 80 hours of labor and \$2,000 in parts working on it. Recently I was visited by a woman who wept and said it was her piano, removed while she was in the hospital. Her driver's license matched the address from where I got it. What is my ethical obligation? CLEM FORTUNA, DETROIT

I, too, enjoy piano music but am seldom reduced to tears by even the most magnificent Steinway. Which is to say that your visitor raises questions of psychological problems or con-artist designs as much as questions of property rights.

You accepted the piano in good faith. Now it is up to your visitor to prove ownership. A driver's license alone is insufficient; counterfeits are not unknown. Even if she sincerely believes the piano to be hers, that doesn't necessarily make it so. The house's owner could have claimed it in lieu of back rent, for example. Perhaps I could get you and your visitor together, threaten to cut the piano in half, and . . . oh, forget it.

If the lachrymose visitor can prove her claim, you must return the piano to her, and she must reimburse you for parts and labor, an obligation of both ethics and law. Marianne Jennings, a law professor I consulted, explains that you have "accession rights" to be compensated for the expenses you incurred when you reasonably acquired the piano.

Tid Bits.....

"An unmodified tool is an unfinished tool."

- Jim Busby, RPT

TECH TIP

By Christine Lovgren, RPT from *News & Notes* the Newsletter of the Boston Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

With winter cold and dryness, I often get tiny cracks at the ends of my fingers. They hurt and take a long time to heal.

Test blows are painful! So, to keep from getting this condition in the first place, try using "rubber fingertips" on your primary test blow fingers. This rubber fingertip looks like a sewing thimble made of brown rubber. They come in three sizes: s, m, and l. A box of a dozen is about \$2.50 at Staples. Another option is the Leather Thimble made by Dritz. It's designed for quilters and can be found in fabric stores like JoAnn Fabrics or Fabric Place. One size fits all and it costs \$4.99.

If you do get fingertip cracks, try Nexcare Skin Crack Care. It looks like clear nail polish and you apply it directly on the cracks. It acts like a sealer, mainly to keep water out. And of course, wear rubber gloves at the sink or anytime you're working with cleaners or polishes.

Tid Bits..... It was so cold we had to chop-up the piano for firewood. Oh, how many cords did you get out of it? Just one, but it was flat. - Anonymous

Vintage Electric Piano Repairs by Jay Natale

From *News & Notes* the Newsletter of the Boston Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Pianos by Jay www.pianosbyjay.com, 978-223-5673

I would like to throw my hat in the ring as a piano technician who specializes in vintage electric pianos. If any of you techs ever get asked if you work on Rhodes, Wurliitzer, Pianet, Clavinet, Yamaha CP70's, etc - feel free to steer them in my direction. The shop is in Somerville, MA and I love the work.

From *Jay's Overview* at www.pianosbyjay.com:

First and foremost I consider myself a musician and music lover. After graduating from Berklee College of Music with a B.A. in Music Production and Engineering, I became an audio engineer where I honed my critical listening skills. I had been playing the drums for practically my whole life but somehow had known that some day I would learn to play the piano. That day came a few years ago when I bought my first piano from East Cambridge Piano in Somerville from James Nicoloro.

Long story short, he was kind enough to take me under his wing and teach me the time-honored tradition in piano craftsmanship. I promptly enrolled at the North Bennet Street School in the North End of Boston where under the direction of master technicians Jack Stebbins, Chris Lovgren, David Betts and Debbie Cyr, I received my piano technician's certification. I then became a member of the Piano Technicians Guild (PTG).

I have built (and continue to build) long term relationships with each and every customer - one customer at a time.

The Piano Deconstructed

By Nicolas Guerlet, The Richmond *Update*, newsletter of the Richmond chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild, January 2009

"The piano deconstructed" is a very interesting and interactive website. You click on a piano part, and you can understand exactly what its use is by seeing it in action, and getting a definition of what it is. Just get the flash player Macromedia for free, available on the site, and you are good to go. It is basic, intermediate and fun and it might even fill some gaps in your knowledge of how an action plays. The best: click on a grand action and see it working, half way or completely, in slow motion and all in color. Even better, the action puzzle: you have grand action parts all over the screen. You need to put it back together. It took me some time to find the correct place for the spoon. So, if you are preparing for the RPT technical exam, this is a nice game.

Just go to: www.piano.christophersmit.com/index.html

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2008 MEETING, R.I.P.T.G.

Location: The Piano Gallery, Middletown

Present: Barbara Rener, RPT; Ruth VanDine, RPT; Wade Johnson, RPT; Patricia Selemon, RPT; Tom Roy, RPT; David Flanders, RPT; Dave Dragone, Larry Brown, Joel Levine, Arthur Sacco, Michael Shaw.

Call to Order: 7:05 P.M.

Quorum: Present

Minutes of the Sept. 18th Meeting: Approved and accepted

Old Business: David Flanders reported on the status of NEECSO 2010 and his waiting for a proposal from the Marriott Providence.

New Business: It was established that there would be an Executive Board Meeting, to be held on October 18th.

Adjournment: 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
David Flanders, RPT - Secretary

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2008 MEETING, R.I.P.T.G.

Location: Ruth and Gary Van Dine's home, 62 Stokes St., Warwick

Present: Wade Johnson, RPT; Ruth Van Dine, RPT; Patricia Selemon, RPT; Arthur Sacco; Michael Shaw; Mike Morvan, John Harris

Guests: Jude Reveley, RPT and Gary Van Dine

Call to Order: 7:20 P.M.

Quorum: not established

Opening Remarks: Wade thanked the Van Dines for hosting the evening's program

Minutes of the October Meeting were not approved.

Reports:

NEECOS: the exploratory committee of the CT & RI chapters will be meeting next on December 8th.

Programs: the upcoming meetings for the spring were reviewed; Mike Morvan offered to host the "Glue Guy" at his shop.


Communications and Announcements: Wade received a phone call from Bob Tomassone re: MENC eastern conference being held on March 12-15 at the Providence Civic Ctr. Wade will ask PTG home office if they are hosting a booth.

Good of the Order: Ruth will send a condolence card to the family of Dr. Al Sanderson, RPT.

Meeting adjournment: 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Van Dine, RPT - Vice President

Rhode Island Chapter
www.RI-PTG.org
Ruth Van Dine, RPT
62 Stokes Street
Warwick, RI 02889



Upcoming Meeting Dates:

**Feb 19th (snow date 2/26) – Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra
& Music School in East Providence**

March 19th – Patricia Selemon, RPT & her Verituner

April 16th – William Tandy Young – Author of The Glue Book @ Blackstone Valley Piano

May 21st – To be announced

June 18th – Harpsicord Clearing House, Rehoboth MA



Rhode Island Chapter
www.RI-PTG.org

February 19, 2009--February 22, 2009
CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE, Burbank, CA

March 19, 2009--March 22, 2009
CENTRAL WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE, Wichita, KS

April 23, 2009--April 26, 2009
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONVENTION, Harrisburg, PA