

# GOOD Vibrations

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

OCTOBER 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wade Johnson, RPT

At our first fall meeting Sept. 18 in Glocester RI, David Flanders did a commendable job of explaining/demonstrating his approaches to temperament and octave tuning. There was a respectable turnout of ten members including six Associates.

There was no vote at that meeting re authorizing a NEECSO conference here in 2010...We're still working on the idea, but it has run into the twin problems of expensive Providence hotels and parking plus, of course, apprehension over the uncertainties of the future of the U.S. and world economy. We'll hope for better news by the time we meet at Larry Brown's on Oct. 16, because we'd still really like to see a PTG regional conference in Providence.

Wade

## OCTOBER MEETING

### Servicing the Yamaha Disklavier - Larry Brown

Larry will take us through the procedure of servicing the Yamaha Disklavier. From pulling the action to calibration of the player mechanism, including pedal adjustments. This fun and easy to understand class will simplify the servicing the Yamaha Disklavier! After this class, you will be confident in servicing these instruments!

Come and Enjoy!

## INSIDE

Meeting Directions.....	2
Insurance Appraisals.....	3
Piano Polishing Revisited.....	3
List of Touch-Up Items.....	4
Pianos for Sale.....	4
Minutes for Sept'08 Mtg.....	5

### Business Mtg

&

### Technical

October 16, 2008

7:00 pm

Meeting at  
Piano Gallery of Rhode Island  
238 East Main Road  
Middletown, RI  
Phone: 401-849-5333

Remember to join us for dinner  
5:30 @ Siam Square 238 East  
Main Road, Middletown  
Phone 401-849-5333

**Directions for October 16th meeting:**

**7pm - Piano Gallery of Rhode Island** 238 East Main Road, Middletown 401-849-5333

**5:30pm - Siam Square Restaurant** 238 East Main Road, Middletown 401-851-7988 (2 doors to Left of Piano Gallery)

**From Jamestown/Newport/Bridges:** RI-138 E over Jamestown/Newport/Bridges

Bear LEFT at end of Newport Bridge toward RI-114 N.

Turn LEFT 138 E at Newport Grand traffic light.

Turn LEFT onto W Main Road RI-114/RI-138. Go .8 mile

Turn RIGHT onto RI-138 East Main Road. Go .4 mile

To 238 E Main Rd Middletown Corner of Valley Road and East Main Road. (Across from Wendy's).

Other stores in plaza are Subway, AT&T.

**From Fall River:** Rte 24 South. Go 9.8 miles

Merge onto RI-114 South. Go 6.3 miles

Turn LEFT onto RI-138 East Main Road. Go .4 mile

To 238 E Main Rd Middletown

**Tid Bits.....**

“You have to have confidence in your ability, and then  
be tough enough to follow through.”

- Rosalynn Carter (1927 - )

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**Newsletter:**

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**Newsletter:** Ruth Van Dine, RPT

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**www.RI-PTG.org**

## **Insurance Appraisals (from the PTG Journal, April 1995 issue)**

*Edited for length by Agraffe Graffiti - October Issue, the newsletter of the Phoenix chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

**Q:** *David Vanderhoofven, RPT*

What methods are used to determine the value of a piano for insurance purposes?

I've recently had two requests for information concerning replacement or repair of pianos that were damaged in house fires. I am particularly interested in finding out if appraising a piano's worth is a service that many piano technicians routinely offer to insurance companies. Is there a difference between determining the market value of a piano and determining its replacement value?

**A:** *Steve Brady, RPT*

My experience is that insurance companies will sometimes contact a piano technician to determine the age of a piano. When a piano has been in a fire, one must be very careful to allow for the possibility that damage from smoke and heat may actually be hidden, that is, it may not become obvious for several years. Excessive heat and humidity, both of which are usually present when a piano is in a fire situation, can compromise every glue joint in the instrument, and yet everything may well look fine when the piano is first examined. The point is that the piano's life expectancy may have been reduced, and this needs to be reflected in the appraisal of its value. I don't have any magic figure to plug into the formula, but perhaps a 20 to 40 percent reduction in value (taken from its normal appraised value) wouldn't be far off the mark.

There is a difference, for insurance purposes, between "market value" and "replacement value." Market value of a piano means what the actual, used instrument is worth right now, in its present condition. Replacement value usually means what a new piano of similar type, size, and quality would cost if you were to "total" the insured piano and replace it with a new one. Homeowners insurance policies will specify whether the coverage is for replacement value or not. When you do an appraisal for insurance purposes, you should include both an "appraised value" and a replacement value."

## **Piano Polishing Revisited**

*From the Keybed, newsletter of the Connecticut chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*

After reading your recent article in The Keybed about piano polishers I felt I might help shed some light on this term. As you had guessed, it is a person who does case prep for a piano before it goes out for sale or delivery. We still use this term in Boston at M. Steinert and Sons. Much of our correspondence with Steinway in New York (where it is also still in daily use) involves this very term. There are often requests to "send a polisher" out to a customer's home when there has been a ding or scratch that took place during the delivery.

A piano that has been in place for several years can be "re-polished". This is essentially cleaning the piano and rubbing or buffing out any scratches that may have occurred. Obviously this is not meant to replace a complete refinishing but it can be a helpful service for pianos that are still in good repair. This term is mostly associated with pianos finished in either varnish (from back in the olden days) or more currently, lacquer - though it may also be applied to pianos with polyester. It usually involves the use of steel wool, cheese cloth, pumice, burn in sticks, some type of glazing compound (i.e. "polish") and lots of elbow grease. The modern day term for this would be "case repair-person". You can always tell the polishers in the case department at the Steinway factory - they are the ones with HUGE right (or left as the "case" may be) arms.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Tetzlaff, RPT - Director of Technical Services  
(617) 426-1900 x241 - jonathan@msteinert.com

## List of Touch-Up Items

By Chuck Cohen, RPT for the 7/0 Pin newsletter of the Baltimore chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

1. 4/0 steel wool
2. Assorted touchup markers, felt tip: Med Walnut, Dark Walnut, Mahogany Brown & Red, Light Oak or any neutral light color
3. Super glue thick & thin
4. 2-4 small hand clamps
5. Assorted sandpaper (220, 400, 600 grit)
6. Various pieces of veneer in assorted colors
7. Razor lade or sharp knife
8. Epoxy stick in assorted colors: Walnut, Mahogany, Beige or any light color
9. 5 Minute epoxy
10. About 6 rags
11. Some mixing cups for epoxy

## PIANOS FOR SALE

**Steinway Model M 5'7" grand piano**, Manufactured in 1926  
Mahogany case refinished in satin lacquer approximately 15 years ago.  
Price: \$27,000 Call 401 787-5210 for more information



**Mason & Hamlin Model A 5'8" grand piano**, made in Boston 1921..  
Mahogany case, refinished early '90s...New Renner blue hammers  
installed late '90s...Regularly tuned and maintained by Wade Johnson  
RPT in whose opinion it's a desirable instrument in very good  
condition...Asking \$13,000... May be seen by appointment on  
Providence's East Side.

Contact George Leonard 401-272-8526



**Knabe studio upright**: Serial number: 194126 (1980).  
Height of 45 inches, Ebony w/bench. Original owner.  
Asking price \$2,500 or best offer. Contact Francis Scalise at  
[scalisef@cox.net](mailto:scalisef@cox.net) or Cell 401-447-4765.



**Fischer upright piano circa 1920 located in Little Compton, RI.**  
Lovely cherry finish. 54 inches high; 58 inches long with matching bench.  
In excellent condition; I gave piano lessons on it for many years.  
Asking price \$500. Contact: Claire Johnson email - [sckwjohn@cox.net](mailto:sckwjohn@cox.net)



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## Upcoming Meeting Dates:

**Oct 16th – Servicing the Yamaha Disklavier - Larry Brown @  
*Piano Gallery of Rhode Island, 238 E. Main Rd, Middletown RI***

**Nov 20th - Jude Reveley, RPT - Soundboard Designs @ Ruth's home in  
Warwick, RI**

**No Meetings or Newsletters: December or January**



**Rhode Island Chapter  
www.RI-PTG.org**

**October 16, 2008—October 19, 2008**

*SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE*

Koger South Conference Center, Richmond, VA [www.sercptg.org](http://www.sercptg.org)

**October 30, 2008—November 2, 2008**

*SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE (SCRC)*

Riley Center, Fort Worth, TX [www.ptg.org/scrc](http://www.ptg.org/scrc)