

GOOD Vibrations

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wade Johnson, RPT

Warm thanks to Ruth and Gary Van Dine for their very hospitable hosting of the Chapter's post-holiday party on January 12. Due to colds or to preparations for their own Patriots-watching parties that evening, several people sent regrets, but we still had six members, two spouses, and a prospective member, and it just couldn't have been a nicer time, on an unseasonably mild Saturday afternoon.

The prospective member who came is Michael Shaw, of Cumberland, RI, whose paperwork I had just received last week from the Home Office. He is a second-year student of piano technology at the North Bennet Street School. This is a second career for him — his first having been the Priesthood. Last summer, under School sponsorship, he tuned pianos at the Aspen Music Festival. He grew up in Rhode Island, knows Kirk Russell and Tom Roy, but was absent from our state for a number of years. He is looking forward to attending our February meeting, at which I hope we can welcome him into the Chapter. He was a most congenial guest at the Chapter party.

We are also indebted to Richard Hundley for agreeing to host us for the upcoming meeting at Avery Piano. Hope to see you there!

Wade

FEBRUARY MEETING

PR-1 Piano Recording System by Kawai -

Richard Hundley

Richard Hundley, of Avery Piano Co. will be introducing us to Kawai's latest technical innovation: the PR-1 piano recording system. It is also used for amplification when the piano is up against loud electric, amplified instruments. The key to it is the clarity and strength of the signal that it projects.

FEBRUARY 2008

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Business Mtg & Technical

February 21, 2008
7:00 pm

Meeting at
Avery Piano Co.
256 Weybosset St.
Providence, RI

Remember to join us for dinner
5:00 Trinity Brew House before the
meeting. Trinity Brew House is at
186 Fountain Street on the corner
of Empire Street.

Tech Tip

Spinnet Hammer Shank Repair

By Allan L. Gilreath, RPT - The Atlanta Action January 2008

I recently ran into a case of a broken hammer shank in a spinet piano. Now in most cases, I would simply pull the butt, extract the broken piece of shank and extract the other piece from the hammer then install a new shank cut to length. The other option would be to glue and wrap the broken shank in place. Over the years, I've seen a number of methods involving soda straws, metal sleeves, dental floss, etc. but I think I ran across a more expedient method to get the job done.

First, select a piece of heat shrink tubing (commonly used in electronic repair and available at suppliers such as Radio Shack, etc.) just large enough to slip over the shank and long enough to fit to the butt and cover the break. Apply glue to the broken section still in the hammer. Slide the broken portion down into the tube and apply heat. I found the heat gun was the easiest method for shooting a stream of hot air across the tubing. As the tubing contracts, it locks the shank into place and allows it to dry. You can then remove the tubing once the joint is dry or just leave it. A quick, simple repair that takes care of the customer and gets you on to tuning very quickly.

Reminder for Associates:

After July 1, 2006, Associate members shall not print any new materials that include the PTG logo and shall cease to renew current advertising utilizing the logo. Associate members shall have until December 31, 2007 to use up and/or distribute any existing supplies of printed materials (business cards, letterhead, envelopes, invoices, etc.) that include the PTG logo. After December 31, 2007, Associate members shall cease to use any remaining stock of printed material that includes the PTG logo.

Associates are still encouraged to advertise that they are "Associate Members of the Piano Technicians Guild" but the graphic is no longer available for use after December 31, 2007.

Newsletter:

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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.

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Tid Bits.....

“Science may set limits to knowledge, but should not set limits to imagination.”

— Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

“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.”

Unusual Finish For An Old Piano

By Ruth Van Dine

I recently received a call from a client asking if it would be ok to paper maché their piano case. After thinking about this particular piano, I said, "Why not, go for it, but leave the area around the keys and fallboard alone to allow work on the action when needed".

I had first been called to their home after an interior designer told the family that they should think about purchasing a grand piano for their new family room. He knew of one that was just the perfect size. His friend had enjoyed playing it and the price was very reasonable. So, into the home came the 1916 HC Bay grand piano.

After some work I told the family that this piano was now as good as it was going to get. The piano is able to hold a tune, most of the time. The action has a bit of spunk to its play and their son loves playing it. The case was just old and ugly situated in their newly decorated room. That was when the interior designer came up with the idea of paper maché for the piano.

Here is how the client said it all came together: First step, was to seal the old finish with white primer. They next layer added was simple wallpaper paste. Then tissue paper cut to different shapes was applied in single or double layers. Finally the whole piano finish was sealed with polyurethane. This family project proved to be fun to do and added an artsy item to their new family room.



PIANOS FOR SALE

David Sylvester (401-941-6816) pianos for sale.

VOSE GRAND \$500, needs pinblock & minor repairs to the veneer

STEINWAY M 1940's \$17K Mahogany case with few dings, tight pinblock, original action parts-but repined all center pins, soundboard no cracks.

Personal Collection of Piano's being Liquidated!!! Call: 401.949.8094

CONOVER GRAND \$4,000 Gloss Black, New Condition, 4'-11" long with bench

KIMBALL STUDIO UPRIGHT \$1,200 1974 s/n 850594, Walnut brown color, with bench

TOM THUMB PIANO \$500 **PLAYER** Walnut brown color, 66 keys, with bench

AUTO PLAYER PIANO \$3,000 S/n 186375 Walnut Brown color with bench, restored, plays well

CHICKERING CONCERT GRAND \$2,500 S/n 15334 Satin Black w/ mirror at keybed 8'-10" long with concert bench, no lid

WINTER GRAND \$1,000. 1933 s/n 113734, 4'-6" long, needs some action work, nice starter piano, plays well, fair case

CONOVER GRAND \$4,000 Gloss Black, new condition 4'-11" long with bench

MASON & HAMLIN GRAND \$7,500 1935 s/n 42600, refinished in 2007, 5'-4" long with bench great shape

MASON & HAMLIN GRAND \$13,000 1934 s/n 42146, Satin Black refinished, new strings, hammers, 6'-2" long with bench

Ruth Van Dine
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Rhode Island Chapter
www.RI-PTG.org



Upcoming Meeting Dates:

**February 21 – PR-1 Piano Recording System by
Kawai – Richard Hundley, Avery Piano Co.**

March 20 – Key Button and Mortise Replacement - Mike Morvan

April 17 – TBA

May 15 – TBA

NEECISO: April 25 – 27, 2008
ART, CRAFT AND INNOVATION
Nashua Radisson, Nashua NH



Rhode Island Chapter
www.RI-PTG.org

51st Annual PTG Convention & Technical Institute
June 18-22, 2008 in Anaheim, California
www.ptg.org/conv/2008