

GOOD Vibrations

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

MAY 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wade Johnson, RPT

Congratulations to Larry Brown for the show he gave us at his impressive new piano showroom in Middletown, for our April meeting! It drew a record turnout of 16 Chapter members plus 6 guests including the speaker, George Litterst, a consultant for Yamaha, who put a Disklavier Mark IV piano through some of its more sophisticated tricks for our benefit. It was a good and informative time, and we wish Larry much luck in his new venture.

This month, we have the Chapter's Annual Meeting and election of officers for the coming year. The Nominating Committee, Phinehas Valenti (Chair) and Patricia Selemon, will present a slate. Ruth Van Dine has agreed to host the meeting at her place in Warwick – appropriately, since her husband Gary will be giving us a preview of the program he'll present in June at the PTG Convention in Anaheim CA, about Websites for Piano Technicians.

Do come, exercise your vote, and enjoy the program!

Wade

MAY MEETING

Website Design That Work and Why You Need One - Gary Van Dine

A business website is not a luxury anymore. Learn about the tools you need to get your business on the web and provide a conduit for your neighbors, and other technicians to contact you and discover the services you provide.

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Business Mtg

&

Technical

May 15, 2008

7:00 pm

Meeting at
Ruth Van Dine's Home
62 Stokes Street
Warwick, RI
Phone: 401-921-2456

Remember to join us for
dinner 5:00
Chelos Bar & Grill, 2225 Post Rd,
Warwick RI 401-737-7299

Directions for May 15th meeting:

Meeting 7pm: Directions to Ruth's piano shop & home: 62 Stokes Street, Warwick, RI 02889

Phone: (401) 921-2456

Rte-95.

Exit-13 for TF Green Airport, Warwick RI. 2nd Exit (just before airport) onto Rte 1 - Post Road.

Turn Left under overpass, go .7 mile.

Turn Right at Mobil station onto Airport Road, go 1.5 mile. (This road goes thru the north end of airport.)

At big intersection, continue straight onto West Shore Road, Rte 117 (not 117A). Dave's Supermarket was on your right, Walgreen's was across the intersection on the left.

Go 1.9 miles, (2 flashing lights & 1 traffic light) thru Conimicut village.

Turn Left on the far side of the Valero gas station onto Stokes St., across from big vacant parking lot.

#62 is a 2-story Tan house with green door and shutters on Right a few houses down. It is across the street from a single story brick building (the Avalon Nursing Home).

Google Maps: <http://tinyurl.com/es4xs>

Dinner 5pm: Chelos Hometown Bar & Grill 2225 Post Road Warwick, RI 02886

Phone: (401) 737-7299

Rte-95.

Exit-13 for TF Green Airport, Warwick RI. 2nd Exit (just before airport) onto Rte 1/Post Road.

Turn Right onto Rte 1/Post Road & go to next light 0.1 mi Turn Right into Chelos Restaurant.

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.

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CHAPTER OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Corresponding Secretary.....Ruth Van Dine, RPT

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Newsletter: Ruth Van Dine, RPT

Nominating Committee, Phinehas Valenti, RPT (Chair) & Patricia Selemon, RPT

Publicity and Public Relations: Executive Board

Refreshment Designator: Joyce Gindra

www.RI-PTG.org

Tid Bits.....

“Music is what feelings sound like.”
- Author Unknown

AGENDA FOR ANAHEIM: BYLAWS PROPOSAL DOUBLES THE FEES FOR TECH AND TUNING EXAMS

By Wade Johnson, RPT

The agenda book for the June meeting of Council in Anaheim, and the supplement you received with your May issue of the PTJournal, includes a detailed rewrite of the PTG Bylaws pertaining to the Examinations and Test Standards Committee and the administering of the RPT exams. It includes increasing the fees, from \$90 to \$180, for the full Technical Exam, and also for the full Tuning Exam. It also requires that the fee in each case be paid in advance by the examinee directly to the Home Office, which will pay half of it back to the exam-sponsoring chapter (or other sponsor) after receiving required paperwork from said sponsor. As is now true, examiners can be reimbursed for expenses but not for their time. This Bylaws rewrite is recommended by the Bylaws Committee and the Board and appears likely to receive Council adoption and be effective immediately on passage. Meanwhile, of course, the fees remain at \$90 per full exam.

Also included is the CT Chapter’s proposal for a new “Allied Tradesman” membership category, which we have discussed at past meetings of our Chapter. The PTG Bylaws Committee and Board have both recommended defeat of this proposal. I have made a number of suggestions to the CT Chapter, and we are awaiting word as to whether they plan any followup before or during Council.

The supplement you received also includes the proposed PTG budget and a recommended increase in the annual PTG national dues to \$205 a year.

Ruth Van Dine is our Delegate to Council...We invite discussion of these and any of the other proposals at our Chapter meetings this month or next.



“Siamese twin” piano made by Grotrian for duo-piano performances.

The identical grands are joined at the hip, come apart for shipping, and share a common lid (which must be lifted and supported by a crane). The JB Piano Company uses this instrument(s) in their San Rafael, CA showroom for performances and rents it out to other locations.

Tech Tip

In-Field Grand Hammer Shank Repair

By Duncan Peterson, RPT from Sound Advice The newsletter for Utah Valley Chapter of the PTG April 2008

I got a call from a client of mine who complained of a note that didn't make any sound, and she thought the hammer had broken. Well, the shank had broken right where it goes into the hammer tail. I had to figure out what was the proper way to proceed.

I first bored out the hole with my combination handle hammer shank bit. Then I took my shank splice cutting jig (which I had made out of a very hard piece of plastic I got at a hard-wood laying store). This enables you to cut two pieces of hammer shank so that they mate together at such an angle that when they are glued together the shank turns out straight. Before making the cut I made sure that the cut was oriented properly to achieve the optimal long-term strength, and least potential of re-breaking on a hard blow. Then I applied CA glue to the angled end of each of the original hammer shank and the replacement shank that I had cut, wrapped them around and around with a piece of small string and set them aside to dry. When the newly spliced shank finished drying I then glued the hammer onto the over-length shank, making sure it was gluing up at the proper angle, relative to its neighbors. I set it aside and finished tuning the piano (except for that one note). By the time I was done, the glue (I used yellow wood glue) had cured enough to install the hammer back into the piano. I finished up by sanding the excess CA glue off of the newly spliced hammer shank, to make it look as original as possible. I trimmed the over-hanging shank (so the hammer would check properly), screwed it back onto the hammer rail, and VOILA! A playing note once more...

The short of the long is when you've got a broken hammer shank you need to fix it. If you don't have the right replacement grand shank? SPLICE, SPLICE, SPLICE! Having a prepared hammer shank repair kit helps a great deal.



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



Upcoming Meeting Dates:

May 15 – Website Design That Work and Why You Need One - Gary Van Dine @ *Ruth Van Dine's Home, Warwick, RI*

June 12 – Grand Action Preparation and Installation - Chris Brown, RPT @ *Wade Johnson's Home, Glocester*

No Meetings or Newsletters: July or August



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