

# GOOD Vibrations

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

NOVEMBER 2006

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Patricia Selemon, RPT*

### ***Happy Holidays!***

Good health, wealth, peace, friendship, happiness and fulfillment were offered to you thru the PTG organization all year long.

*Good health* – eat more plants than animals.

*Wealth* – charge what you're worth.

*Peace* – communicate clearly.

*Friendship* – come to meetings and laugh. We do have fun.

*Fulfillment* – learn new techniques thereby increasing your choices.

Pat

## NOVEMBER MEETING - Bruce Clark

### **Caring for the Legendary Mason & Hamlin**

–Bruce Clark, Mason & Hamlin

No matter how outstanding, even a legend needs to be regulated, voiced and maintained. Learn the appropriate factory procedures to keep the Mason & Hamlin grand piano playing its best.

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### **Business Mtg & Technical**

November 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.

### Items for sale

Note: Adds placed for members is free. All others are to be made out checks payable to the R.I. PTG and send it to our treasurer, Arthur Sacco. The cost is \$20.00 for a 3 months "For Sale" add.

**Kohler & Campbell SKG 500S Baby Grand Piano**  
Ebony Satin purchased new 03/2001, new condition.  
Asking price \$8900. **New Price**  
Contact Tom Roy 401- 232-2629 or email TRoyRPT@juno.com

**Kohler 41" Console**, circa 1985. Mahogany veneer, Queen Anne case, original bench, original owner. Asking \$1500  
Contact: Michelle Jackson, 27 Minnetuxet Way, Yarmouth Port, MA Phone: 508-362-6038

### Tid Bits.....

“An intellectual snob is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture and not think of The Lone Ranger.”

— Dan Rather (1931 - )



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### 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.

“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.”

### CHAPTER OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**Newsletter:** Mike DiDonato and Ruth Van Dine

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**Refreshment Designator:** Joyce Gindra

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

## Review of the October Technical

By David Flanders, RPT

We were very fortunate to have Scott Jones, formerly R&D director at Steinway & Sons, present last meeting's technical. Scott is a familiar face around here, and, as usual, he had a great deal of technical information to present.

As any reader of the PTG Journal already knows, Scott is heading his own company now, Pitchlock, the focus of which he spoke to us in detail. Scott took us through the initial application of the string couplers, and then into the present, more common usage: that of the voicing tool when duplex noise becomes overwhelming.

Scott took us into the piano showroom, where we had a hands-on demonstration of both applications. He taught us how to recognize the problem; how to differentiate it from other noises; and how to best apply the couplers to minimize or eliminate those duplex noises.

It was a beneficial technical, giving us one more tool in our toolbox for our never-ending job of problem-solving. It also provided me with an aid in reducing my cost of bass string replacement.

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## Tech Tip

By David Flanders, RPT

I had been resisting scheduling a bass string replacement for a client of mine because she's on the very fringe of my service area (no other clients even close), and I know that I'll have to make at least 3 return calls to adjust the sagging pitch of the string before the next 6-month tuning. Having just come away from the Scott Jones technical, the light bulb went off over my head; that with the Pitchlock string couplers, I might be able to save myself at least one trip to the fringe area.

After changing the string, I applied the coupler at the agraffe [a Walter vertical, 2006] and found that, when I tuned the new string higher than its duplex mate, I could still hear beats. I then applied one quite close to the bass bridge. Still, I heard atonality between the two strings. So, I then applied the couplers to both the agraffe and bridge segments, and achieved the desired results.

What I ended up with is a new string, stretched higher than its mated string, but not sounding offensively out of tune. Now, the string will "stretch," first down to the correct pitch; and then, it can stretch even lower, while still masked by the string couplers.

If, by this method, I can eliminate just one of my call-back adjustments, I will have saved over an hour's time, and 40 miles of vehicle expense. I'll keep you posted.

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## Tech Tip

by **Soundboard Cracks** The newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Looking for an easy to carry bottle of PVC-E Glue? Try Aleene's Tacky Glue, available in most craft stores, and the craft department of Wal-Mart. Cost less than \$2. Great for reattaching key tops, and anytime you glue felt/fabric as it doesn't tend to soak in and harden the felt. Dries clear and flexible.

Rhode Island Chapter  
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Ruth Van Dine  
62 Stokes Street  
Warwick, RI 02889



**November 16th**  
**Bruce Clark - Mason & Hamlin Factory**

*Holiday Party*  
January 6th, snow date 13th  
Ruth & Gary Van Dine's Home

*50th Annual PTG Convention & Technical Institute*  
June 20 - 24, 2007 Kansas City  
Come for the Learning! Stay for the fun!  
[www.ptg.org/conv/2007](http://www.ptg.org/conv/2007)



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