

GOOD Vibrations

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patricia Selemon, RPT

Shawn Hoars visit last month once again solidified my observation that piano technicians are innovative and organized. Organization on a daily basis seems just as important as breathing.

Every day we make decisions about what new challenges to accept, what activities to turn down, and when to complete unfinished projects. We use pencils instead of pens so as to be able to ease and change gears if needed as we roll with the punches.

Shawn mentioned a certain degree of stress built into piano work. By staying organized we can keep that stress at a healthy level.

OCTOBER MEETING - SCOTT JONES

PitchLock String Couplers- New Applications

PitchLock String Couplers are 3 years old and used by hundreds of technicians worldwide. By "coupling" beat-producing frequencies, PitchLock Couplers clean up v-bar duplex noise and mismatched bass string zingers. Packaged as an affordable voicing kit, PitchLock couplers easily complement your current piano service.

Scott Jones

Scott Jones began his career as a piano technician in 1984, after receiving a BM degree in music composition from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. From 1989 to 2001, he was employed by Steinway & Sons, New York, where he held positions as concert technician, technical instructor and product development researcher. From 2001 to present, he developed the PitchLock string coupling system which has been demonstrated nationwide. Scott has authored 4 U.S. patents and is currently awaiting a 5th.

OCTOBER 2006

INSIDE

Humor.....	2
Tid Bits.....	2
Tech Tip.....	3
Special Notice.....	3
For Sale.....	3
Minutes for May Mtg.....	4
Treasurers Report.....	4
Horror Story.....	5

Business Mtg & Technical

October 19, 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.

Humor

From Steve, Dennis, Chris and Dick of the Detroit-Windsor Chapter, as printed in the June 1996 Newsletter for the Dallas Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild.

These are the top ten “favorite” things that customers ask of or say to piano technicians.

10. Do I have to take everything off the top of the piano?
9. I always have the piano tuned every 10 years whether it needs it or not?
8. Would it be cheaper if I didn't have the last octave tuned?
7. Do I bring the piano to you, or do you come here?
6. How are my knockers?
5. Will the vacuum cleaner bother you?
4. Can you do something about my loose stool?
3. My dog has perfect pitch.
2. Do you have to turn every one of those little pegs?
1. Do you have a regular job?

Tid Bits.....

“Do something. If it doesn't work, do something else. No idea is too crazy.”

— Jim Hightower,
The New York Times, March 9, 1986

Newsletter

Ruth Van Dine
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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Tech Tip

by Fred Bath, Baltimore Chapter

Drop Screw Blues?

Problem: You finish bench regulating a grand piano action and insert the keyframe into the keybed, but it won't fit because the drop screws are too high and are hitting the underside of the pin block.

Solutions: The first time I encountered this, I chose to plane the underside of the pin block to gain clearance. Much too much work and trouble. This time, I asked myself, why the drop screws were so high in the first place. When I looked deeper, I found that the drop screw stop felt was very thick. It was much thicker than needed. So, my new solution was to remove the hammer rail to gain access to these felts and cut off the excess felt with a razor blade. I replaced the hammer rail and re regulated the drop screws. I can't say it was easy, but it was reasonably quick and effective.

Special Notice: PTG Phases Out Associate Logo

By vote of the 2006 Council, the use of any "Associate logo" is to be phased out: "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."

Items for sale

Note: Adds placed for members is free. All others are to 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 \$9500.
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

Horror Story #333a - The Refinished Chickering:

The Portland Soundboard Newsletter of the Portland Chapter #972 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Jeffrey T. Hickey, RPT

This is an 1889 Chickering 7'5" grand. Complete horror story. Ready??

1. The customer took the piano to a re-finisher I know. He properly told them to have a technician look at the piano before he would do any re-finishing. He suggested me. The customer called someone else instead. **The 'toner' told them that the piano was in 'very good condition' and only needed 'a tuning and minor work' to be playable.**

2. The re-finisher did his job. Several thousands were spent.


3. The customer decided to go with me for the actual work. So I got called to go see this instrument yesterday. These pictures are from an hour or so after we talked.

4, Yes; I did have to explain that the first 'toner' was unqualified and had offered poor service on his appraisal of the piano, Dang hard job it is. AND trying not to curse the idiot who led them into spending thousands on a piano that requires COMPLETE re-building was difficult. You can't say; "That guy was an idiot!". All you can do is quietly point out the worst damage and offer that he 'may have missed seeing this' or 'perhaps the light was bad' or ...oh you know the drill. I really wanted to kick something, I will tell you!

5. Those are coffee beans, rat turds (...way too big for mouse), plastic bags, and all the usual detritus of a LONG lived-in grand piano, The hammers are gone; the two missing ones are now rat-poop; there was no evidence of them, no pieces of felt or wood, to find anywhere in the piano, AND they gnawed on the stubs of the hammershanks, they aren't broken, they're chewed to the nubbins. Aaaarrggghgh!!



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October 19th
Scott Jones - Dampers & update on PitchLock

November 16th
Jamie Marks - Mason & Hamlin Factory



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