



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chapter Delegates

It is the time of year again when we start thinking about our annual convention and institute. Every year we send two representatives to the council as our Chapter delegate and alternate. This is an elected position and should be voted on at the April chapter meeting.

The Registered Piano Technician that we send should be a person who reflects the chapter intents on matters that are presented in the council. There are always other issues brought up in the council that will need attention. Not all of the agenda items are in the council book. The delegates will need to address these items and vote accordingly to the chapter's sentiment.

The Chapter will reimburse the delegates for the two days they spend in the council session. The compensation is one day of travel, two nights in the hotel and three days per diem.

Being a delegate has its rewards, such as, seeing how your vote counts and making a difference to all of the organization. It's a great experience seeing first hand how everything works to better the Piano Technicians Guild.

MEETING NOTICE

Monday March 7, 2005

- 6:30 - 7:15 Applied Skills**
- 6:30 - 7:30 Board Meeting**
- 7:15 - 7:45 Food Served**
- 7:45 - 8:00 Business Mtg.**
- 8:00 - 9:30 Main Technical**

Applied Skills:
Dan Harteau, RPT
Main Technical:
Scott Jones, RPT

Meeting will be hosted
at The Piano Place
444 W. Maple
Troy, MI 48084

Directions:
North on Maple between
Livernois and Crooks,
next to Thunderbird Lanes.
Phone: (248) 269-6155

CHAPTER PROJECT will be on
Saturday March 19, 10:00 am.
It will be held at Mark &
Charmaine Haas' shop, located
at 3925 Fort St., Lincoln Park.
East side of Fort St. North of
Goddard Street.
Phone: (313) 381-7799. Bench
construction and cabinet
refinishing will be the focus of
the next Baldwin Hamilton
project session. See you there!

Your President,

Richard Bittner, RPT

What's Inside

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>The Mystery of the Squeaky Pedal</i>	2
<i>Main Technical - Scott Jones, RPT</i>	3
<i>Chapter Project for March 2005</i>	4

Detroit-Windsor Chapter Officers

President

Richard Bittner, RPT
richardb@atdial.net
(248) 398-3876

Vice-President

Dennis Penney, RPT
dpenney1441@comcast.net
(248) 545-7812

Secretary

Zen Reinhardt, RPT
diskladame@provide.net
(734) 971-6143

Treasurer

Clem Fortuna
cfortuna@earthlink.net
(313) 527-8863

Past President (ex-officio)

Rick Bowen, RPT
rbowen@wideopenwest.com
(248) 524-4713

Chapter Chairs

Newsletter Editor

Larry Young, RPT
pianoman@young-piano.com
(734) 930-9227

Social Chair

Roberta Brown
rlbrown417@aol.com

Program Chair

Jan Bittner, RPT
jano@provide.net
(248) 398-8720

Tuning Examiner

Zen Reinhardt, RPT
(734) 971-6143

Technical and Written Exams

Richard Bittner, RPT

The Mystery of the Squeaky Pedal

Recently, I was doing a routine tuning on a Reiger-Kloss Studio piano and the customer said those often dreaded words "there's a squeak in the sustain pedal". Now, this could be many things: squeaky pedal rod brackets, damper springs collectively squeezing in their slots, squeezing from the pedal itself, even the bottom board coming loose or being split. First things first. Clearly define the nature of the noise. The noise was actually more of a groan than a squeak, so I did suspect the bottom board, but it seemed very secure. The dowel from the trapwork to the pedal rod ran through a wooden felted slot rather than connecting with a pin through a hole in the rod and that seemed suspect. I lubricated the bushing with Teflon Powder, a good all purpose and dry lubricant, but that did not eliminate my mystery noise. I went ahead and applied some ProTek to the hanger brackets as long as the action was out and thought maybe that was it. When I put the action back in and worked the pedal, the noise was gone, however, when I replaced the bottom panel, unbelievably, the noise was back. Hmmm. Sherlock Holmes always said something like, when you've eliminated all the other possibilities, whatever is left, no matter how improbable, must be the answer. Could the innocuous bottom panel be the culprit? If it's a high gloss polyester finish, you bet! So I again whipped out the Teflon Powder and brushed it liberally all around the edges of the panel, around the edges of the aperture where the panel sits and in the holes for the dowels in the panel. Replaced the board and viola, noise begone. So, watch out for those high gloss finishes, the Teflon Powder will no doubt eliminate squeaking benches, too.

*by Kim Hoessly,
from the Buckeye Backcheck newsletter, Columbus Chapter.*



MAIN TECHNICAL
- Intro to Pitchlock String Couplers & New Applications -
by Scott Jones, RPT

A breakthrough in the field of piano technology! Don't miss this chance to see and hear the property of coupled harmonic oscillation applied to piano strings. Pitchlock couplers significantly extend unison tuning longevity by connecting pairs of string frequencies. The product is inexpensive and the opportunity for technicians is enormous.

PitchLock String Couplers do increase tuning longevity. Now there is more to this fascinating new story! By "coupling" beat-producing frequencies, PitchLock Couplers clean up false beat distortion, V-bar duplex noise, and even mismatched bass string 'zingers'. Hear and see for yourself how PitchLock couplers can improve piano performance.

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 North Carolina. From 1989 to 2001, he was employed by the piano manufacturer, Steinway & Sons, New York, where he held positions as concert technician, technical instructor and product development researcher. Scott is now President of PitchLock Inc. Scott has authored 4 U.S. patents and is currently awaiting a 5th. Scott and his family now live in State College, Pennsylvania.

Applied Skills

- will be presented by Dan Harteau -

UNDERSTANDING FRICTION

Dan Harteau will discuss the working parameters within which a piano action works reliably. This class serve as a prelude to May's applied-skills session in which Dan will present suggestions for dealing with too much or too little friction.

Larry Young, Editor
4379 Walden Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105



March 2005

March meeting will be at The Piano Place in Troy, MI !

Disclaimer:

"All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this Chapter or the Piano Technicians' Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild."

visit our website at:
<http://ptg-ch481.org/>

Please Note !

Next Chapter Project Session is Saturday March 19th!!

Work is in progress on the Baldwin Hamilton piano at Mark and Charmaine's shop in Lincoln Park. Cabinet work is in progress and the March session we will be:

- constructing piano bench
- lacquer and clear coat finish application to cabinet.

Directions to Mark & Char's - take M-39 (Southfield) South past I-75 to Fort Street,, turn right. Go approx. 1-1/2 miles and the shop is on the East side of Fort St., before Goddard. Parking available on Fort or directly behind the shop.

Please note that fallboard decals for the piano project were donated by DECALS UNLIMITED, INC. We would like to acknowledge this donation and say 'thank you'!