



MEETING NOTICE

Monday April 5, 2004

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:
Bruce Carter, RPT
Main Technical:
Don Mannino, RPT

Meeting will be hosted
at Evola Music
7170 N. Haggerty
Canton, MI
phone: (734) 455-4677

Directions: I-75 to Ford
Rd. exit. West to Haggerty
Road. North about 1 mile
on East side of Haggerty.

CHAPTER PROJECT will be on
Saturday April 3, 10:00 am. It
will be held at The Piano Place,
444 W Maple, Suite E, Troy.
North side of Maple between
Livernois and Crooks, next to
Thunder Bird Lanes. This
month's main focus will be on
key easing and hammer voicing.
Soundboard and bridge repair
will be covered in the near
future. See you there!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Plenty of Opportunities

In the field of piano technology there are many positions available to pursue. We are known by the general public to be only piano tuners, but we are much more than that. Many wish to set goals and learn as much as possible about the instrument we work on. Being only a piano tuner is like wearing blinders, not able to see what is beyond the tuning pins.

Open up your world and see the opportunities that are out there. In our field there are many possibilities of becoming more than just a tuner. Learning how to regulate an action will show customers that they can play the piano easier and with less effort.

Voicing the piano can display to the customer that you are capable of making that bright and tinny sounding piano a warm and mellow instrument.

There are many other elements to our trade than just tuning. Satisfaction is knowing that you can make the piano perform and sound better. Learn as much about our trade and accomplish something that no one else can do.

My advice to you is to experience all the opportunities that piano technology can give you. Being a well rounded technician will give you more fulfillment in knowing that you can make a difference.

Your President,

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Technical and Written Exams

Richard Bittner, RPT



MAIN TECHNICAL - Introduction to the Shigeru Kawai Piano - by Don Mannino, RPT

This class begins with a short history of Kawai, giving the background of Shigeru Kawai and how these pianos came to be produced. This is followed by a description of the technical details of the differences between the Shigeru Kawai and Kawai RX pianos, and finally concludes with some service tips drawn from the Shigeru Kawai one week 'Technical Academy.' Discussions of Kawai's R&D developments and Kawai's new ABS-Carbon action are also included.

Don Mannino, RPT

Don began an apprenticeship with a piano rebuilder while completing his studies at San Diego State University as a piano performance major in 1979. As an independent piano technician in the San Diego area Don divided his business between normal tuning, concert piano preparation, rebuilding, and providing warranty work for dealers and manufacturers. He held the position of National Service Manager for Young Chang Pianos from 1990 - 1995, then was Manager of Technical Support for Kawai Pianos in the US and Canada, and now serves as the Director of Technical Training for Kawai and Shigeru Kawai Pianos. Don and his wife Patty are the editors of the Southern California Combined PTG newsletter. He teaches regularly at regional technician seminars, PTG Annual conventions, PTG chapter meetings, and is known for his clear presentations with visual aids, using a practical approach which can be applied to servicing all brands of pianos. Mr. Mannino has had articles on a variety of technical topics published in the Piano Technicians' Journal, including Action Center service, a series on grand action regulation, and the use of plastics in piano actions. Don resides in Cypress, CA with his wife and daughter.

Applied Skills

Bruce Carter will demonstrate a method to repair chipped or cracked ivory keys using the AcryliKey II ivory key repair system. The method yields a nice looking and feeling keyboard. Bruce will show how easy it really is to make a quick, good looking key repair - even for a novice!

Minutes from the March Meeting of Detroit-Windsor PTG Chapter 481

The Detroit-Windsor Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild met the evening of March 1, 2004 at Hammell Music in Bloomfield Hills. There were 18 RPTs, 15 Associates, and 2 Guests for a total of 35 attendees. A quorum was established. The guests were Charmaine Haas and Lynn LaPlante.

The Minutes of the January 2004 meeting were approved by general consent as printed in the March 2004 edition of The Bridge. The Treasurer's Report was read aloud by Treasurer Dave Foster.

Delegates to represent the Chapter at the Annual Convention in Nashville were selected. They will be Richard Bittner and Zen Reinhardt. Motion made by Bruce Carter. Seconded by Terry Peters. Motion carried. Specifically, Zen Reinhardt will be the Delegate and Richard Bittner will be the Alternate. Motion made by Bruce Carter. Seconded by Terry Peters. Motion carried.

Francis Adams, a longtime member of the Detroit-Windsor Chapter has had a stroke and is unable to work. Motion to have Chapter pay a one-time membership dues for Mr. Adams of \$54 made by Bruce Carter. Seconded by Greg Boyd. Motion carried.

Richard Bowen reports the sale of Frank DiMeglio's tools resulted in a total of \$850 for Mr. DiMeglio's widow. Still available for sale are a Peterson strobe tuner and other "odds and ends." The strobe tuner will likely go on eBay or be sold on a consignment basis.

Upcoming programs:

- April 5 - Evola Music (Canton). Applied skills to be given by Bruce Carter on Acrylikey. Featured technical to be given by Don Mannino of Kawai USA on the Shigeru Kawai pianos.

- May 3 - Field trip to the Charles Walter factory in Elkhart IN. A preliminary sign-up sheet has 23 names on it. Most of the people signing up plan to drive to Elkhart the day before and staying overnight. Details on available accommodations will be forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned by general consent. Mini-Technical was presented by Paul Hornberger, RPT, on string splicing and making hitch pin knots. The Featured Technical was presented by Hugh Gullede on determining the need to replace action parts. Hugh expertly guided the attendees through the decision-making process along with stories about his "young and foolish" days of when he found himself in over his head on exactly this kind of work. Hugh had a wonderful example of an action that had been thoroughly messed up by an attempt at rebuilding it by someone who really didn't understand action geometry.

Zen Reinhardt RPT

Larry Young, Editor
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April 2004

April meeting will be at Evola Music in Canton, 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/>

**Monday, May 3rd Trip
to CharlesWalter Piano**

The Chapter is planning a tour of the Charles Walter Piano factory in Elkhart, IN. Drivers are needed to carpool for what will be an approximately 4 hour drive - anyone who has a vehicle to drive and carpool for the trip please contact Richard Bittner for details.

THANKS !!