

June 2012

News & Notes



Newsletter of the Boston Chapter *Piano Technicians Guild*

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Jude Reveley, RPT
Absolute Piano



June MEETING - Absolute Piano Restoration, Inc.
FEATURING: Jude Reveley RPT

When: Tuesday, June 19th

Where: 171 Lincoln Street
Lowell, MA 01852

Schedule: **6:00 PM.** Gather, Converse, Eat
7:00 PM. Chapter Business Meeting
7:30 PM. Visit with Jude Reveley

TOPIC: The Complete Grand Damper System

The damper system is too often overlooked, neglected and/or feared; and yet it is one of four major components of any complete grand restoration. Join Jude Reveley, RPT of Absolute Piano Restoration, Inc. to dispel all fears and resolve all issues damper related, so that here on out, dampers will be approached with enthusiastic anticipation not trepidation. This class will explore procedures for restoring and replacing everything from the pedals on up to the damper head, including regulation.



From the web site www.absolute-piano.com:
Design Driven Restoration™

You may encounter many terms as you search for answers about what to do with your old piano. They include repair, refurbish, rehab, remanufacture, redesign, restore, replicate; the list goes on, but what do they really mean and how do you know what is best course of action.

Piano restoration may be distinguished by three basic approaches. The first approach is piano refurbishing, whereby the piano is repaired using as much of the original piano and parts as possible. While this may be appropriate for historical instruments, it is rarely a good idea even for the budget conscience and the outcome will most likely be a disappointment.

The second approach is restoration by replication and is the most common. Here the work is generally more extensive and an attempt is made to restore the instrument by replicating and replacing various components with new ones. The downside is that no effort is placed on examining whether the design was correct in the first place; or assuming the design was correct, it is very unlikely that new parts have the exact same qualities as the original. A classic example would be replacing old hammers with new ones. Even if the new hammers are made by same manufacturer as your piano, they may have such contrasting qualities as the originals as to cause tonal and touch-weight problems. The same applies to rib dimensions and soundboard construction methods. It is imperative to understand the sum of the parts as well as the individual components if we are going to have a controlled and successful outcome.

At *Absolute Piano*, we have developed an approach of Design-Driven Restoration™. This process begins with a thorough examination and analysis of the original design; nothing is assumed nor taken for granted. Careful measurements are taken and entered into custom built programs that help us to understand the intention of the original makers. We then work with our clients to achieve a desired outcome, relying on both the mastery of traditional techniques and an understanding of piano design and innovation to reach this goal. There are always improvements that can be incorporated into a rebuilt piano. If the design is sound, the extent of deviation from the original might be moderate or even non-existent. In other cases, major design changes may be executed to make an ordinary piano extraordinary. This does not mean that every piano is a candidate for such extensive work, but it does indeed present more options and possibilities. It really all comes down to you, our client, having all the options. **It really all comes down to you, our client, having all the options.**





"PREZ SEZ"

Doug Tybor, RPT
President, Boston
Chapter PTG

Hello Everyone -

This will be the last newsletter until September. I'd like to thank my fellow officers and committee members for seeing through another year of a good round of technical programs, and to seeing to the business of the chapter. We will be having an executive board meeting sometime in late July to early August in order to map out the meeting dates and proposed technical programs to come. If there is a subject you would to see presented at a future chapter meeting, please contact me with your suggestion!

Patrick Draine (delegate) and Jude Reveley (alternate) will be representing us in the upcoming Council sessions, before the Annual Convention, in Seattle. This year's agenda has many items that are Bylaws-related, with which Patrick has extensive experience.

We also expect during the next two to three months to come to a final decision as to where the 2014 NEECSO Seminar will be hosted. Several sites have submitted bids, so the details are being waded through as we speak.....

Thanks!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jude Reveley began his apprenticeship as a piano technician in 1992 while completing his B.A in Music at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. His fascination with the piano and its inner workings soon became such a passion that it even overtook his obsession with music. In 1995, after several years of apprenticeships, factory training and certifications, Jude Reveley founded Absolute Piano Restoration, LLC, which is a full service rebuilding facility in Lowell, Massachusetts.

In 2006, Absolute Piano was selected to participate in The Rebuilders' Gallery of the National Piano Technicians' Guild Convention, "an invitational format for a number of the world's finest rebuilders..." [PTG Journal, May Issue, 2006]. In addition to supplying custom made Sitka Spruce soundboard panels and belly supplies to the trade, Absolute Piano specializes in a design driven approach to restoration. Jude has taught a myriad of classes for the PTG at the local, regional and national level



MORE FROM www.absolute-piano.com:

The Damper System is to the piano what the brakes are to a car and it is integrally connected to the action and strings. While everything else in the piano is designed to produce sound, directly or indirectly; the dampers allow us, through our hands or feet, to sustain the sound or shut it down, quickly and efficiently at will. It is important that the dampers are sufficient enough to extinguish the vibrating string without adding too much weight to the back of the key lever. They must also operate with as little noise as

possible. There are several parts to the Damper System listed as follows from the bottom up:

The Pedal Lyre: Pedals, cushions, pedal lyre guide rods, lyre braces.

The Trapwork: Levers attached to the bottom of the piano that connect the pedals to their functions of sustain, sostenuto, action shift (soft pedal), and sometimes bass sustain.

The Backaction: A system of second-class levers that are lifted individually by their corresponding keystick or as a whole by the damper tray. These underlevers may contain tabs that can be lifted individually by the sostenuto blade which in turn allows the player to sustain selected notes with the sostenuto pedal while playing staccato on top manually.

The Guide Rails: Wooden rails fastened to the belly rail that guide the damper wires with felt bushings so that the dampers may be accurately centered over the strings, travel vertically, and suspend over the strings without wavering while the key is being depressed.

The Dampers: Damper wires, heads and felts. Connects to the underlever at the bottom of the wire and sits upon the string with a strip of felt that is glued onto a wooden block. The felts must be of the correct density, size and placement to prevent the string from sympathetically overringing, and to shut the sound down after the key has been released.

At **Absolute Piano**, every detail of this entire mechanism is meticulously inspected and addressed. Our process is listed below but in short our goal is to replace or restore every part so that everything not only looks or is brand new but works efficiently without squeaks or malfunction and remains so for years to come.



I recently bought some tuning hammer pouches. They are handmade and really nice so I thought I would share. You can find the shop owner at <http://www.etsy.com/shop/TwoDieFour>. - Mariana



Thomas Driscoll Piano Service, 26 Walnut Street, Marlborough, MA 01752
Business 508-485-0369 Cell 508-954-1251

Tom is making these voicing tools. Great bargain, better get one before he raises his price. -Great quality tool! Bill T



My ex-husband used to tune this piano. Why when he left me for another woman he also left for another piano. I mean, I suppose...as he never asked for it. Ahhh...if he only tuned me like he used to tune this piano....boy ohh boy they'd be some apples. You're a good tuner, right?

B Trotman



ASSIST WITH THE TUNING EXAM—We have been doing quite a few tuning exams lately. Any RPTs out there willing to help out? The tuning exam requires one CTE (Certified Tuning Exam-iner) and two (or more) RPTs. Recently I asked several RPTs to help out and both were under the mistaken impression that one had to be a CTE to take part in a tuning exam. Not so. Any RPT can help. It's a good way to give back to our organization, have fun and probably learn something. Plus you have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping uphold the high standards of PTG! There is no monetary reward, but you might get a sandwich and cup of coffee, and reimbursement for parking.

Another reminder—the pool of CTEs nationwide is shrinking. If any RPT is considering becoming a CTE, the first step is to take the full tuning exam (entirely by ear) and pass all categories at 90 or above. THE TEST FEE IS WAIVED, whether or not your scores are all 90 or above.

The Boston Chapter does testing on a by request basis. So, if anyone is thinking about taking the tuning exam, it usually takes a few weeks to set up a time. Testing is done at North Bennet St. School on one of three approved pianos: A Steinway L, a Mason & Hamlin BB or a Kawai RX2.

Questions? Call or email me. - *Christine Lovgren*

“Congratulations and best wishes to the newest RPTs!



Names, starting at the bottom, Left to right

Front Row - Nowell Gatica, Michael Turano, Jason Fronk

2nd Row - Matthew Banks, Mika Toia,

3 Girls - Pamela Ely, Jennifer Holmes, Liao Liu

Back Row - Ka Chun Ng, Scott Ness, Paul Dickson



Joe Morocco presented the Treasurer's Report.

The June meeting will be at Jude Reveley's Shop with a presentation on grand dampers which will be Tuesday, June 19.

Doug Tybor mentioned he and Debbie Cyr had talked during the recent NEECSO Seminar about the idea of setting up a Regional testing center for PTG exams as the donation/cooperative arrangement with North Bennet Street School. Further research will need to be done on how other testing centers in Pennsylvania and California were set up.

At 7:10pm there was a motion to nominate new chapter officers. Since there were no nominations, there was a motion to retain the current chapter officers. The motion was seconded and carried.

There was a motion to vote to delegates to the national convention. Patrick Draine volunteered as the delegate and Jude Reveley as the alternate and the motion to approve was carried.

Patrick Draine made a presentation about the proposals to amend the bylaws. The most notable of the 22 proposals were the last two. Proposal No. 21 was essentially not to bar any one individual from PTG activities without just cause relating to recent national events, and this was rejected. Proposal No. 22 was a proposal to limit the percentage of the increase in dues over 3.75% no more than 2 times over a certain year period.

David Betts brought up the issue of adjusting the reimbursement cost to the chapter of sending a delegate and an alternate to the national convention because it is the chapter's single most expensive item at \$2,600. Much discussion followed. This included that in the past, there were years where no delegate from the chapter would attend because of cost, and that the reimbursement rate gradually rose over these years because of this. Joe Morocco suggested of amending the reimbursement rate for this year to \$1,000 per delegate. The motion to amend was seconded and it carried.

Steve Taylor made a brief presentation to reintroduce himself to the chapter and explained about his previous career in both the piano industry and the hotel industry. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Tybor looked at 6 hotels, and ruled out 3 of them immediately for the 2014 convention. The final three are the DoubleTree in Bedford, the Marriott in Burlington, and the Sheraton Colonial in Wakefield. All three of these hotels have enough breakout classrooms and the NEECSO would be the only large event in the hotel at that time. The last Boston NEECSO convention had 170 total attendees, and Mr. Taylor is hoping for over 200.

Post-meeting note The Coco Key Resort in Danvers has become a recent contender - more information about this as a potential site is being researched.



Chickering and Sons 5'9" grand piano 19,900.00



Steinway grand piano model, M 5'7", in a mahogany cabinet. 26,500.00



Martin Snow
781-837-6531
martinsnowpianos@yahoo.com



Yamaha upright piano model U1
1990s \$5200.00

Yamaha grand model G2, 5'8". \$11,900.*
Yamaha grand model G3, 6'1". \$13,500.*
Yamaha grand model G5, 6'5". \$15,900.*

Yamaha upright piano model U1, 48" tall. \$4600.*
Yamaha upright piano model U2, 50" tall. \$4700.*
Yamaha upright piano model U3, 52" tall. \$4900.*
Yamaha upright piano model UX, 52" tall. \$5300.*
Kawai upright piano model KS2, 49" tall. \$4500.*



Steinway grand model M, 5'7".
Originally manufactured in 1926. \$26,500.00

*All these pianos are factory reconditioned in Japan to a Like New condition.



Kawai RX-3 Professional Piano purchased new in Feb of 2000 from a large Kawai dealer in Boston. This piano is in excellent condition, near mint and has been tuned regularly. It's 6-feet 1-inches long and classified as a Grand Piano, not a "Baby Grand." Its has the sound necessary for a professional concert or for a recording artist. If your shopping for a high-end piano research this model, its one of the best for talented players, students and professionals. Before purchasing this we studied the famous green Piano book which has rated the Kawai pianos one of the best in the world because of its sound, quality and craftsmanship. I just had this piano tuned, so it sounds beautiful. Additional pictures available upon request. Located in Salem MA - \$13,500.00. If your interested, email me to set up an appointment to come by and play it: fredcma@comcast.net



Steinway Console, serial number P322641, dated 1947. One owner, well maintained. Asking \$4000.
Please call Susan for more info at 617-721-7036.

For Sale: Samick Grand Piano with working, fully functional Pianocorder P100 player system. Piano model is G-1A (5' 1"), serial number 820225 (30 years old), walnut polish finish. Original owner, properly tuned and maintained. Bench is included. Also included are Pianocorder user manual and 22 tapes. Can also provide contact information for service professionals familiar with Pianocorder systems. Additional photos available upon request. \$5500.

Located in Beverly, MA.
Doug Tybor:
cybertybor@comcast.net
or
617-645-3519





Bill Fucito at 978-692-3293
(Westford, MA).
Barry Rosenberg, RPT



I have a customer who must sell his 5'2" Knabe grand by the end of this month (August). It is in very good shape for original parts (I replaced an agraffe, the two strings that went through it and one hammer head). He wants \$4000 or best offer.



Yamaha M402 Upright Piano - Includes Delivery, Tuning .- \$1599.00

service@pianofix.net
866-446-4135



Boston grand piano for sale.
GP-193 6'4". 10 years old. Polished Mahogany Finish. Pristine. Comes with M.Steinert trade-up guarantee.

Claudia Cimenti
email: cimenti@gmail.com Stowe, MA

Steinway L for sale. Serial #225837. Made in 1924. Has a stunning, highly figured/ribbon mahogany case. Piano has been completely rebuilt with a new soundboard and pinblock. It has new Renner shanks and flanges, Hamburg repetitions, N.Y. hammers and N.Y. damper backaction. It also has a Stanwood™ action rebalance. Has a big, sweet sound and very even touch. \$36,000. Piano is located in Bedford, MA.



Ken Prescott

781 687-9181k. prescott@comcast.net



Steinway B from around 1900. Completely redone in the mid 80's at Camaleri in NY. Spade legs (not original), black case. Authentic Steinway parts used throughout. Plastic keytops. 88 notes. Well maintained. Piano located in Cambridge. Asking low 30's. Call Christine Lovgren 508 733 2935

Original owner of an upright Charles R. Walter (1999) Traditional Console Model 1520, serial # 524283, with a Cherry Finish and Bench. The piano is in excellent condition, has been regularly tuned, and played only by our daughter. \$2,400 or Best Offer. Boston Tel: 617-620-8651.

Steinway 45 upright, Serial #553473 (circa 2000)
Mahogany "Crown Jewel Collection"
Dampp-Chaser installed
Owned and played by an RPT, second owner
Hammers recently filed, action recently regulated, tuned regularly,
tight pinblock, perfect soundboard
Middle pedal is true sostenuto mechanism
Asking \$14,500.00

Christopher A. Storch
(617) 489-6436



June 2012
Steinway M - \$10950
(Allston)



Beautiful tone 5'7" baby grand from the '20's, Steinway's golden age. As far as structural work, it has replaced pinblock, strings, dampers, which generally costs at least \$6000. The action has had the hammers, shanks and flanges replaced, which are the parts that wear and have the dreaded "vertigris" found in most older Steinways. We are regulating it now, which is the fine action adjustment to make the touch feel like new. This action work is normally at least \$3500.

It has been refinished in an open grain walnut worth \$4000. Adding all the work done, the piano is less than free at this price. We are paying you to buy this piano!



Classic Knabe 5'2" baby grand in original condition; thoroughly regulated and voiced. \$2000.

Chris Pleim
119 Braintree St Rm 511
Allston MA
617-783-1030
chrispleimpiano@me.com

2 Ivers and Pond Full Sized Uprights - \$1650 (Allston) and \$1950



The final evolution of the full sized upright; deep rich sound surpassing most baby grands. Uprights this good are mostly no longer made, and when they are they cost well over 10K. Original mahogany finish in good shape. Includes complete Life Saver System (humidity control which costs \$600 installed). This piano is fully tuned, regulated, and guaranteed.

Mason & Hamlin "A" 5'8" Grand Piano



Unique, customized instrument with many design improvements resulting in a very special, one of a kind piano. \$35,000.

2001 Steinway grand piano Model M Serial # 558545 in ebony satin. This piano is in excellent condition, like new, and has been lovingly maintained and regularly tuned. It has beautiful rich sound. It has had little play.



Victor Belanger:
617-484-4678
vbela@mit.edu



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For more information, contact
E. J. Buck & Sons Piano
171 Lincoln St ~ Lowell, MA 01852
978-458-8688
larry@ejbuckpiano.com



CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

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www.bostonptg.org

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Jude Reveley, Librarian
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LOCATION MAPS

