

May 2012

News & Notes



Newsletter of the Boston Chapter *Piano Technicians Guild*

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David Kirkland RPT Steinway & Sons

MAY MEETING - M Steinert & Sons/Boston
FEATURING: David Kirkland RPT

When: Monday, May 14th

Where: 162 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

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

TOPIC: A broad overview of Steinway history that covers everything from piano detective work to the principles of "modern" piano construction. Little-known details of case, soundboard, plate, action, as well as how to identify valuable Steinways (and what to avoid) will be reviewed. David will also discuss the publication of his book and follow this presentation with a book signing.



Anyone interested in Steinway history will enjoy this class!

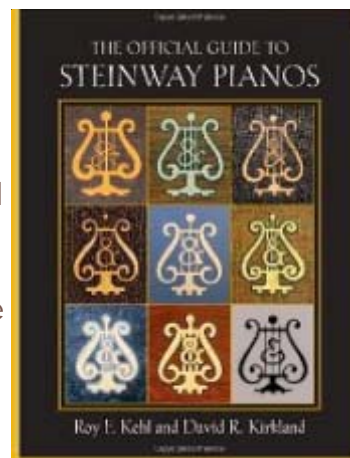
David worked closely with the late Steinway historian Roy Kehl for seven years in order to conserve and continue Roy's lifelong research. David's career in the piano business spans thirty-one years, which includes twenty years as an RPT and ten years as an employee at Steinway & Sons in the capacities of technical support, warranty administration, and historian.



BOOK SIGNING:

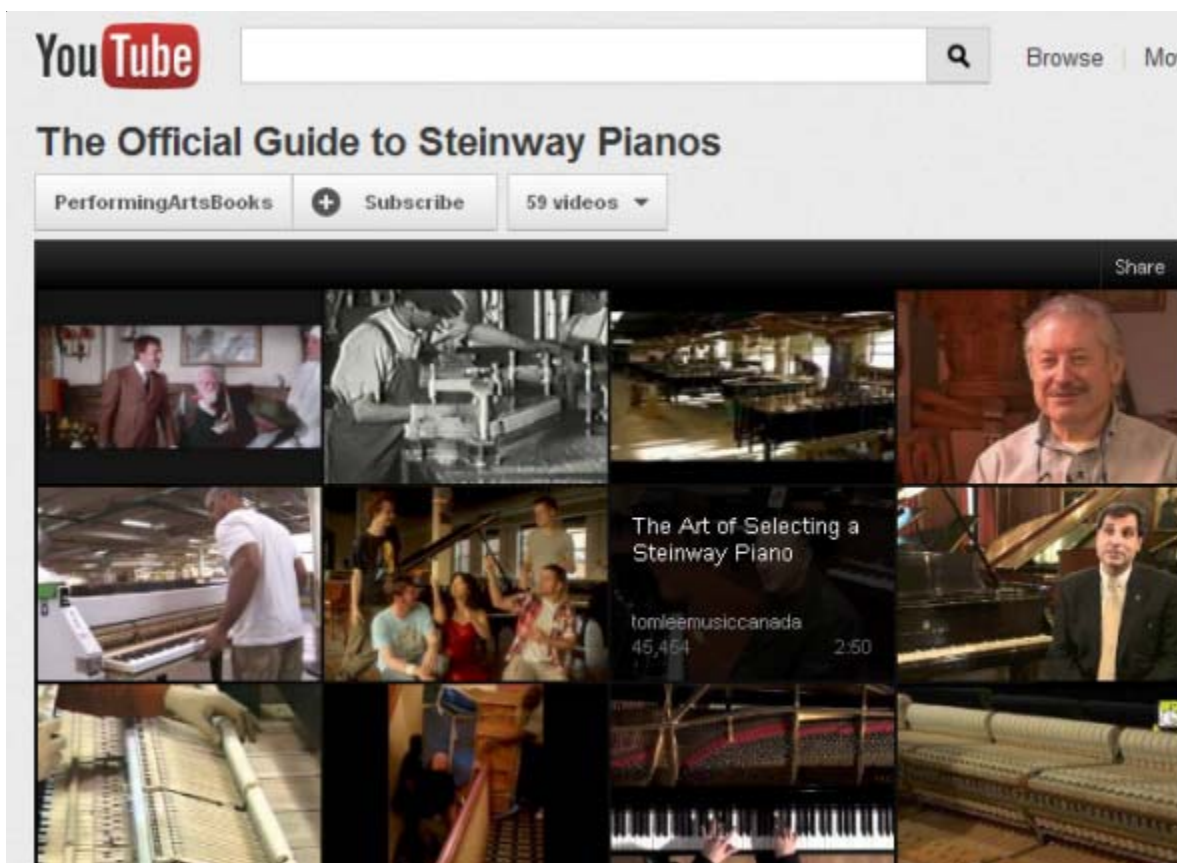
“The Official Guide to Steinway Pianos” by co-author David R. Kirkland, RPT

David Kirkland grew up in Utah and Wyoming, maintains avid interests in piano, painting, and poetry, and is fluent in Castilian Spanish and French. His career in the piano business began in 1981 as an apprentice with Kasimoff-Blüthner in Los Angeles. Since 2001, he has worked at Steinway & Sons in the capacities of technical support and warranty administration.



For some great pictures you may want to visit the YouTube listing for this.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci50BWnv8Mk>





"PREZ SEZ"

Doug Tybor, RPT
President, Boston
Chapter PTG

Hello Everyone -

I just returned from the bi-annual NEECSO Seminar, and hats off to Allan Day of the Vermont Chapter and Gordon Large of the Maine Chapter and their fellow chapter members for all the work they did to host a very successful event! There was something for everyone in the wide variety of classes, the exhibit hall was filled, and it was great to spend an evening aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen III for the sunset dinner cruise.

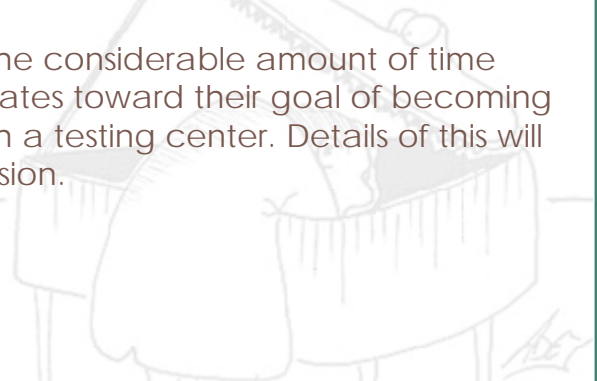
For me, one of the lasting impressions from the Seminar happened in the form of the bartender at the host hotel....he told me he has seen many different groups of people come through the hotel's convention center, mostly corporate, and was amazed at how our varied group spoke and acted like people truly expert in our craft. It was a proud moment, and everyone associated with PTG deserves a share in that pride.

You are welcome to put in a request for a topic you might like to see in a future chapter meeting and/or the next NEECSO Seminar, which the Boston Chapter will host in the spring of 2014. Some of the organizing is already underway..... there are several sites we are considering, and I will be doing a preliminary walk through on each of them on Monday, May 14th during the day. To date, the potential sites are in Marlboro, Framingham, Waltham, Burlington, Dedham, and Lynnfield. Contact me for details - everyone is welcome to attend.

Every year at this time we must vote to keep the current slate of chapter officers, so if anyone is interested in running for any position, please email me ASAP. The current group of officers have all agreed to stay on for another year. We will also be voting on reimbursing travel expenses to Patrick Draine and Jude Reveley, who will represent us in the upcoming annual Council sessions.

In light of an ongoing concern regarding the considerable amount of time donated by very few people to test Associates toward their goal of becoming RPTs, there's an effort underway to establish a testing center. Details of this will also be part of our business meeting discussion.

Thanks!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Spring 2012 issue of Acoustic & Digital Piano Buyer (Boston chapter member Larry Fine, publisher and editor) has a feature article, Upright Cabinet Styles in American Piano Manufacturing, 1880-1930, by Martha Taylor, that will bring familiar sights to Boston-area piano technicians, who are used to encountering older pianos with fancy cabinets. The article is a pictorial overview of upright cabinet styles and how they were influenced by social and economic trends during the heyday of American piano manufacturing. Twenty-five years ago, author Martha Taylor, a piano re-builder in Portland, Oregon, came across an abandoned warehouse with 500 pianos, and has been busy ever since.

The article can be found on the Piano Buyer website: <http://www.pianobuyer.com/spring12/69.html>

You may also find it interesting to visit the web site: <http://www.immortalpiano.com>. This site offers a more in depth profile of the author Martha Taylor and how she got into all of this. Apparently it began in the pile of pianos portrayed in the picture to the left.



While you are checking out Martha's article you may also either wish to re-familiarize yourself or learn about Larry Fine's website. This online resource can be a simple and effective way for you as a Piano Technician, or for your customer as a resource to consider with the multitude of questions that may arise when on the Job with a customers Piano or in the event you are helping them buy or sell a piano. Further, should a customer wish to find out more about pianos I can't think of a more comprehensive place to send them.

Pianobuyer.com is easy to navigate and includes all the modern website bells and whistles. The site includes interesting articles from professionals in the industry, a database for searching out digital and acoustic piano classifieds which you may list your piano on or refer a customer to. Not to mention, Larry's book which can be read online, in flash, HTML or purchased in a print edition. Information is always key in so many things, so remembering a simple detail on where to go is easier than trying to remember everything. Unless of course you have a large hard drive in your head that never crashes.

For those of you whom operate on a national market, the advertising and links section may prove to be a great funnel to move stuff or acquire stuff outside your normal channels. The problem with marketing and marketing channels in our world is that they change so quickly. We all get comfortable with the what and how we do things only to yet again fall behind.

So don't fall behind! Visit Larry's site, in a few minutes you will catch up to Larry because he has made it easy to do so for you. He works very hard at this!



"Don't Try This At Home"

For those of you who buy and sell inexpensive pianos to flip quickly the cost of obtaining them is always tricking. One major road block is getting them out of the customers home. Many times I am confronted with a choice of should I call the "regular guys" to come help me move the piano and invest another \$100.00 - 300.00 into the piano, or can I get by with showing up with my rig and have a willing customer help.

Getting a piano out of a house as long as the steps go down is easier typically than getting it in. If you can manage to get the piano up in the air so the customer can place the dolly you are half way there. You can always use the kick the dolly under method, but that can be tricky and hard to practice. The result is like going to the gym more than you want to. Next you need to explain how to push as you gently lift over the threshold and down the drop to the porch. If you have a strong person some may be able to help lift there side over the threshold as well. If not a quick dash to another entrance and change of positions will allow you to do the hard work while the customer guides it onto the porch or landing. If you are skinny like me, you can sometimes squeeze through and just do this part yourself. Climbing under always amuses the customer.

Blankets are key at this point. If you lay a few good thick moving blankets at the base of the steps and have the customer push the piano you can carry the one end down the 2 to 4 steps until the piano is well coming down. At this point you need to make a judgement call on when to set it down so that the steps are taking the load remembering your legs are the muscle group to rely on here. After that gravity will do the rest as it will slide on the dolly to the walkway surface. Some steps also are good to blanket. The piano will slide easier, and damage is less likely to the steps or piano.

At this point lifting the piano up on its side is fairly easy which is the next step. Finally a quick spin so the bottom of piano is facing the length of the walkway is key. Here you need to be careful. Typically I have the customer push on the top of the piano on his or "her" side and guide it down to the ground, sometimes with the dolly right underneath if I can get away with it. Otherwise it is the situation of lifting on side again so the customer can put it under for you. Or if you are up for it, another dolly kick.

After that it is wheel it away. Low trailers with drop gates are typically best for this sort of thing as one person can get the piano in and out.

I think this qualifies as a "don't try this at home" type of thing. However for those of you out there that can handle it or think you can it is not a bad way to shave the bottom line when the situation allows. You really need to understand your customer and the task at hand in this case. I would not recommend trying this with a customer that just doesn't get the situation on most levels in a few quick sentences or a home with problem obstacles.

But when you can do this it is a beautiful thing, you save on the bottom line, and the hassle of coordinating others in the mix. Unfortunately, the dregs of the piano business is in the labor. The bottom has less room for the bottom line.

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*



Well I Believe I found the problem. It appears the legs are no longer stable. Would you like an estimate for replacements?



Joe Morocco presented the Treasurer's Report. According to Mr. Morocco, last month, the Boston Chapter took in some revenues, paid some expenses, and had some money left over for next month in what appears to be a trend that will continue for some time.

There are three new chapter members: Pamela Ely, Michael Mathwig, and Hilary York

There will be no meeting in April because of NEECSO, and NEECSO registration is currently open.

The next meeting will be May 14 at Steinert's, and will feature David Kirkland presenting about his book "The History of Steinway Pianos".

There will be a presentation, free and open to everyone, featuring Bill Shoal on Saturday, May 12. Details will be announced as they become available.

The deadline for submitting articles and ads for the June newsletter is May 31.

Patrick Draine and Jude Reveley will be representing the Boston Chapter at the nationals to help with rewriting of certain bylaws.

If anyone who attends and observes this year's NEECSO has ideas for the 2014 NEECSO that will be hosted by the Boston Chapter, please contact one of the officers.

There was a motion to look into forming a small committee to look at speaker compensation and to further define who presents at chapter meetings as a sponsor verses someone with a strictly instructional focus.

Jude Reveley brought up an issue about possibly setting a precedent of cooperation with Steve Taylor to help put together the 2014 NEECSO, and to schedule around the 2014 Music City Event in Nashville if it is in fact happening.

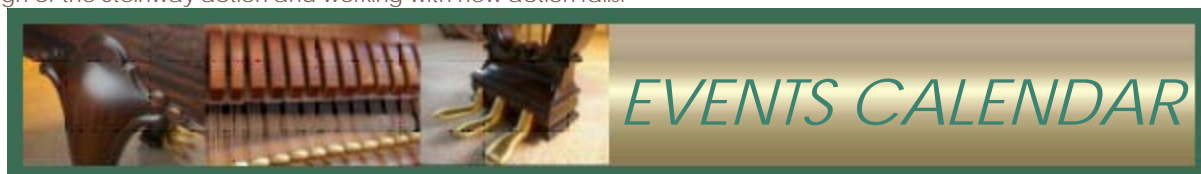
Mr. Reveley also asked about possibly presenting his copies of the 1920's PTG Journals to the national office for scanning and searches.

The program then turn over to Jim Ialeggio, who had prepared a presentation on his work with installing new Steinway action rails. He talked about the challenges he faces when installing including the bowing and crooks in the rail, how few new rails lined up with the original rails, how there were often twisted and sometimes with a 3/16" difference in action spread from bass to treble. Benefits of the Steinway rails include that they do not twist like wooded rails, resulting in a more solid overall mechanism, and how the action rail cloth helps in maintaining proper hammer flange placement when screws get loose.

With a rather small attendance, there was then an interesting back and forth between Mr. Ialeggio and John Von Rohr about the craftsmanship and the need for compromises in the factory while manufacturing each Steinway.

There was then a brief discussion about how to avoid inhaling soldering fumes and the meeting was adjourned.

Thanks to Mr. Ialeggio, Dr. Evan Ewing, and everyone in attendance for a very insightful presentation and discussion into the design of the Steinway action and working with new action rails.



May 12 The Early Steinway Piano
with Bill Shull, RPT Pianos
E.J Buck & Sons Pianos
171 Lincoln St. Lowell, MA 01852
\$45.00 Registration, Lunch included
RSVP : larry@ejbuckpiano.com

May 14

DAVID KIRKLAND from
Steinway, talking about his
new book The Official Guide
to Steinway Pianos



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

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

Steinway grand piano model M, 5'7".
Originally manufactured in 1926

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.



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

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

617-645-35 KEYNOTE PIANO SERVICES

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Need a high quality piano Microphone?
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call or email me
Bill Trotman 866-446-4135 or
service@pianofix.net





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



May 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



 Wilh. Steinberg
 The Piano
 Made in Germany
 since 1877

WILH. STEINBERG
WST

Fine pianos. Made in Germany.
 Since 1877.

Crafting the best pianos is an exacting science.
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This has been, and always will be, the hallmark of Wilh. Steinberg Pianos. Unifying the expertise of modern German piano construction with 130 years of experience and tradition in manufacturing, the result is a unique blend of tonal quality, attractive cabinet design and affordable prices.

Mozartstrasse 3 - D07607 Eisenberg

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



CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

News & Notes
www.bostonptg.org



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LOCATION MAPS



M. Steinert & Sons
162 Boylston Street,
(617) 426-1900