

October 2012

# News & Notes



## Newsletter of the Boston Chapter *Piano Technicians Guild*

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**OCTOBER MEETING - Absolute Piano Restorations.**  
**FEATURING: The Movie "The AP Method"**

**When:** Tuesday, October 16th

**Where:** Absolute Piano Restorations  
 17 Lincoln Street  
 Lowell, MA 01852

**Schedule:** **6:00 PM.** Gather, Converse, Eat  
**7:00 PM.** Chapter Business Meeting  
**7:30 PM.** Technical Meeting



**"Model Your Action For Accuracy And Precision (The AP Method)."**

*There are an unprecedented number of action parts on the market. With so many options, knowing how to model a specific configuration to attain your target ideal of touch is the key to a successful and profitable future. This class will cover how to use your own action or an adjustable action model to test out calculated design parameters. We will also cover some basic concepts of action geometry.*



From the web site: <http://www.absolute-piano.com/>

### **MORE FROM [www.absolute-piano.com](http://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.





## "PREZ SEZ"

Doug Tybor, RPT  
President, Boston  
Chapter PTG

Hello Everyone -

Sometimes, unexpectedly, we need someone to pinch-hit for us.....

I want to thank Joe Morocco for running the chapter meeting last month, as I suddenly became ill and could not attend.....so, I'll catch "Pianomania" on DVD sometime.....I heard it's pretty good!

Also, I recently asked another tuner to fill in for a job that I was suddenly unable to complete.....

In both cases, everything turned out fine because the people who filled in for me did so with proficiency and professionalism. So if you find yourself needing to reach out for help, even for just a temporary situation, chances are there is someone in the chapter you know that can fill in and represent you well.

Larry Fine has generously donated 20 copies of the printed version of "The Piano Buyer" to the chapter, so the first 20 people to arrive at the October meeting can pick one up (one per attendee, please). If you haven't seen the online version of The Piano Buyer, here is the link:  
<http://www.pianobuyer.com>

Hope to see you at the chapter meeting!

Thanks,

Doug Tybor  
President, Boston Chapter PTG



*IN THE SPOTLIGHT*

# Famous Jazz Pianists



1.Cecil Taylor., 2.Thelonious Monk, 3. Oscar Peterson, 4.Billy Taylor, 5 Fats Waller, 6. Hank Jones 7. George Shering, 8. Herbie Hancock 9. Errol Garner, 10. Bud Powell 11. Earl Hines, 12. Bill Evans. 13. Bobby Timmons



## According to American culture, do I need to tip the piano tuner that comes to tune the piano in my house?

No, definitely not. I'm a professional pianist and I know many tuners and I have never even heard it discussed. **It is also likely this pianist has never heard anything he ever played, he just does not listen.**

No, that is why he charges a fee. But word of mouth advertising is a real plus for his business. **Rather than listening this one suggests using his mouth.**

No piano tuners get a fee but it is customary to give them referrals. **This one uses a bigger word than "word of mouth".**

Yes, It would be the polite thing to do. **Unusual someone wants to be polite.**

If he is a good mannered and such. And treats you as a person. And more important if YOU think he deserves one. Weather that is a part of American Culture I don't know for sure. **Very realistic and thoughtful although you may be under allot pressure for this one. Don't fart.**

No. He is self employed. You do not tip him. Even if he works for a company, you do not tip him. Only waiters, hair dressers, or newspaper delivery people get tips. **Here we go the self employed bit and now we need to bring hair and the UPS guy into it.**

It is not necessary to tip him. If he has gone above his duty in tuning the piano, such as helping you move it to a more desired location, or if you've asked advice on lessons or such, it would be a polite gesture of thanks. **The older I get the more I think just tuning a piano goes above and beyond the call of duty. We do not educate our customers well. I think the thought alone deserves a tip. This one wants you also to move it for 10 bucks without scratching his new floor..lol..good luck.**

No, I don't believe so, because he is providing a service where he/she comes and does a service for you, as opposed to going to a salon for a haircut, manicure, etc., where it would be custom to tip. Although, it would be nice to offer he/she something nice to drink, good conversation (if they are friendly) and ask for a few business cards to pass on to your friends for referral if you are satisfied with their work. **Here we go the hair thing, now nails are involved as well, conversation, yes please talk the entire time while I am tuning your piano. If you want to offer me food, please do, also tip me so I can afford to hang out and listen to the GOOD conversation...lol..**

Perhaps educating our customers on the fact the we are much like those who cut hair. We are performing a repitious task with the **biggest difference of location. We go to the customer.** B. Trotmam

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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*





oe Morocco presented the Treasurer's Report.

Joe Morocco presented the budget for the year 2012-2013

Patrick Draine raised a question about how much to pay an alternate and/or delegate and whether we need an alternate. Doshie Powers mentioned that at times in the past the alternate would go on to be the next year's delegate and thus it was a educational process. Also, if the delegate cannot attend at the last minute, airfare can be much higher for a last minute flight.

The location for the 2014 NEECSO will be the Burlington Marriot hotel.

Doug Tybor is looking for suggestions for the program.

There was a motion to accept the budget and the motion was carried.

The October meeting will be at Jude Reveley's shop in Lowell on October 18.

November 5 is Ed Foote at Steinert's and the program will be 3 different type of regulation approaches to fit client and piano.

December there is no meeting.

January will be at George Crawford's shop again.

February will feature David Stanwood at Brandeis.

David Betts asked a question of the 75/25 split in convention profits going to Steve Taylor and the Chapter, respectively. To further answer this question, the financial risk involved is that the Chapter is not paying Steve Taylor any money up front to produce the event. Mr. Taylor will receive 75% of the profit of the event, regardless of the amount of profit, and the Chapter will keep 25%.

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For those of you who know your Steinway pianos, the 7' model B is the flagship of the company. This is a spectacular piano originally manufactured in one of the the prime years, 1926. A new soundboard has been installed and all new Steinway action. This concert grand piano roars and whispers depending on the occasion. Price:



**Martin Snow**  
781-837-6531

[martinsnowpianos@yahoo.com](mailto:martinsnowpianos@yahoo.com)

\$47,500. Fully restored Steinway model M, 5'7", originally manufactured in 1933. New pinblock, strings, tuning pins; original soundboard in excellent condition. New hammer action. Fully refinished mahogany cabinet. \$26,500. This model M mahogany Steinway piano is still being made and retails new for \$67K.



Steinway console piano, 43" tall. Beautiful condition, made in the 1960s. \$3900.



2003 Yamaha grand model C1, absolutely mint condition on this Conservatory Series 5'3" piano. Retails new at \$31K. My Nearly New price: \$11,900.

There's always room for a baby grand. Very good condition on this Chickering small grand piano, walnut cabinet... \$4500.



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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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



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 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



October 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.

With Weiblers  
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.  
Crafting the best pianos at  
an affordable price is an art.*

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](http://www.bostonptg.org)



### Boston Chapter PTG Officers

Doug Tybor, President  
Chris Storch, Vice President  
Eric Donnelly, Secretary  
Joe Morocco, Treasurer

### Chapter Committees

Tom Driscoll, Tech Programming  
Jude Reveley, Librarian  
Bill Trotman, Newsletter

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## LOCATION MAPS

