

News & Notes



Newsletter of the Boston Chapter *Piano Technicians Guild*

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*September MEETING—This Sucks the Bag - OR -
Demystifying The Vacuum Press
FEATURING David Hagberg RPT*

When: Tuesday September 13

Where: Aardvark Piano Restorations
65 Sprague St.
Hyde Park, Ma 02136
617-333-9360

georgespikecrawford@yahoo.com

Schedule: **6:00 p.m.** Gather, Converse, Eat
7:00 p.m. Chapter Business Meeting
7:30 p.m. Tech Talk "This Sucks The Bag"

Longtime RPT David Hagberg is also an educator (grade level is 7 & 8). His subject is called Technology/ Engineering and his classroom is a wood shop. One of the devices he uses in his classroom is a vacuum press.

As a piano technician David has used a vacuum press to do veneer repairs and fabricate new case parts. One such project was a new top for a Steinway B. The vacuum press made the need for a large mechanical press unnecessary.

Vacuum presses are simple devices that work by scientific principles. It's just a bag and a pump! David will explain different types of bags and pumps, as well as the pressures generated, the desiccating of glue and the possibility of gruesome deformation and death if used improperly. You won't sleep through this Science class!



"PREZ SEZ"

Doug Tybor, RPT
President, Boston
Chapter PTG

SURFACE PREPARATION: Apply three coats of joint compound....First the coarse sandpaper, then the medium, then the fine.....Prime, then paint....It's all about surface preparation.

The more time we take to build and prepare a surface properly, the better the result. A job that takes twice as long can look twice as good. A similar amount of preparation happens every summer in the form of the Boston Chapter's executive board meeting, where planning the following year is the primary agenda. Your new VP Chris Storch and I had such a meeting which included other chapter members, all of whom at one time held the office of chapter President. I want to thank Doshie Powers, Joe Morocco, Jude Reveley, Debra Cyr, and Christine Lovgren for their input at the meeting in moving our chapter forward. Attention all future chapter officers: your chapter is in good hands.

In planning the next year's budget and going over the actual expenses incurred last year, we came upon a shortfall, and therefore need to consider a modest raise in our chapter dues, for the first time in at least a decade. Over the past several years the operating expenses have been slowly increasing as our chapter has grown, and the chapter dues have not been adjusted to keep pace with the costs of operating the chapter. A \$10 increase is proposed effective January 1, 2012, making chapter dues \$40 per year.

A look at other chapters in the region still makes Boston look like a bargain. Dues in the New England states are closer to \$40, but they are significantly higher in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. We are not considering a dues increase based on comparison to other chapters; rather, we have been fortunate to keep dues from increasing due to our large membership base, and have not needed to consider increases for many years. It's now time to consider such an increase, which will be discussed and ultimately put to a vote during the business portion of the chapter meeting on September. I look forward to seeing you there!

All the best,

Doug Tybor





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Bill Trotman

From the first time I heard jazz music playing on one of my Grandfathers records, I was taken by the beauty of music. In my early twenties which is a bit late for the performing arts, I could do nothing else but be a Jazz Musician and work in the music industry to support my Jazz habit. -Music Junky I guess.

I Received a BA in Communications from Penn State University and later studied Classical music for a few years at Suny Albany. When it comes to the Piano it all began at Penn State in 1983. I remember walking one day in the music department trying to talk a professor into letting me in the guitar program - (I could not read music then) -So the answer was no -at that time anyhow. On my way out the door I glimpsed an advertisement for "Piano Technician Apprentice - 20 hours per week see Jim Coleman Jr."

Having worked in the automotive trades in High school, I thought "I could do that". I must have called the number and set up an appointment with Jim...Showing up with my tool box full of wrenches etc. What a great job it was! I was paid to learn how to work on Pianos and Jim was one of my favorite people to learn from and be with.



My music career unfolded into owning a retail music storefront in the Hudson Valley of NY and a long professional business and performance relationship with Jazz Saxophonist Sal Oliveri -another favorite individual of mine. In the Hudson Valley of NY I did the bulk of my work in retail and also as a piano technician, performing musician, guitar & bass instructor and soundman. -Back then I would do sound for bands coming through the area, such as Ben E King, Johnny Winter and a bunch of others. The store was a full line store, and I serviced and repaired band instruments as well. My performance career included work with a few famous jazz people but mostly locally known musicians, in Jazz, Rock, Country, Celtic, shows and a bit of Classical. For fun a few weeks ago I went to Jaimoe's house in Connecticut (drummer for the Almond Brothers) and played jazz with an impromptu group for the evening.

Currently, when not with my 2 kids or the Hispanic Princess, I perform professionally on double bass, electric bass and jazz guitar. In addition I own Birdlandmusic.net (musical instrument retail website), Pianofix.net and doublebassboston.com (double bass repair and restoration service). New to the greater Boston Area, I am building up my piano repair and tuning business. I joined the PTG to meet all of you and to continue my education in the matter. I am also doing the newsletter this year. -See you soon!



Marketing on google: For those of you that are not aware you can list you business for free on Google Maps. If you type the following Url into your address bar <http://maps.google.com/> and follow the instructions under the link *Put your business on Google Maps* it can be done in about 20 minutes. In addition you can edit your listing at any time.

This will allow people searching the web for a piano tuner in your area to see your business, show your location and show reviews from customers.

Not a bad idea for anyone looking for more customers.

(Since I did not get a tech tip from anyone this is what I came up with)
Bill 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*



Boston Chapter's
annual summer
picnic at Nancy
Parry's



Perfect day on the Maine Coast
@Nancy Parry's!

Best of Craigslist Archives: The God Damn Piano Tuner

Tune Your God Damn Piano

For christ's sake people, just let me tune your god damn piano, do the both of us a favor. I'm the best in the whole god damn city, I swear to christ. You can ask any one of my clients at any given time, email me and ask me for a list. I'll make that fu***r SING. Hell, you pay me a little extra and I'll make YOU sing too. Na i'm kidding, that's a little joke there. Nothing sexual, just piano tuning. Email me and I'll come the f**** over, tune your f****ing piano, take your money, then be on my merry old motherf*****n way.

You want the sh**f*****in thing tuned? Fine. Call me. I'll tune it. Done. Just like that. All of Manhattan or Brooklyn. Don't f***ing call me if you're in Queens or Hoboken.

\$80 for grand and upright pianos

\$100 for spinet upright pianos (because they are way goddamn harder)



Make plans now!

2011 Southeast Regional Conference

sheraton airport hotel • sept. 29 - Oct. 2, 2011

Charlotte, North Carolina

For more info go to:

http://www.sercptg.org/SERCbooklet_2011.pdf



Steinway grand piano model A, 6'1".



Fully rebuilt and refinished in 1990 including new sound board, all new Steinway action. Art case cabinet. A few minor case imperfections. \$16,000.

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

Steinway model O, 5'10"



A fully restored 1906 ebonised cabinet New pinblock, strings, tuning pins, all new action parts. A beautifully responsive lyrical piano. \$26,500.

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

1985 Yamaha G2, 5'8".



The perfect grand piano for the home. This piano retails new for over \$35K. At Martin Snow Pianos, my NEARLY NEW price of \$11,900 includes delivery, 5 year warranty and first in-home piano tuning.

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

Kawai KG2, 5'10"



wonderful tone and a satin finish, excellent original condition from the 1980s. \$8550.

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



Steinway A, 6'1, No. 84699. Fifty-seven wound string bass, three bridge, eighty-eight note piano. Manufactured in Queens, NY. This piano has been completely restored. Restoration included: **new soundboard, bridges, pinblock, strings, and action.** All the case parts are original; the ebony case is a Victorian style with fluted, barrel-shaped legs, carved music desk, and ivory keyboard. Lovely sound / Responsive action! \$35,000

Mary P. Logue (857)
919-1532
mlogue@pianologue.com



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 Model K 1903

Doshie Powers, RPT 617-773-1223

If you or a client is in the market for a Steinway, I just saw a beauty. Model K 1903, mahogany, in excellent condition. A small crack in high treble (#83-88), otherwise board, block and bridges in excellent shape. The piano has been in one family since new and kept well all those years.

The finish is original, some chipped ivory, nickel plate worn off pedals.

Still. Has a wonderful full tone, no vertigris, not even a hint. Hammers are worn but have a lot of life left. This is a great opportunity for a client to own a Steinway and you would be happy (I would) to take care of it. Located in West Roxbury, asking \$5000.

Roslau Piano Wire

(bought as a kit from Schaff): 1/3 lb Size 13, 13 1/2, 14, 14 1/2, 15, 15 1/2, 16, 16 1/2, 17, 18, 19, 20. Brand-new, still in original packaging. They have always been in the house and are rust free.

Hold-Heet electric automatic glue pot Model G-1151, holds quart.



Claudia Cimenti tel: 508.393.7911 <tel:508.393.7911> email: cimenti@gmail.com Northborough, MA

Action Cradle and Post Extension



Home-built piano tilter



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



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 cstorch@cavtocci.com (617) 489-6436





CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

News & Notes
www.bostonptg.org



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LOCATION MAPS

