



The Voicing Tool

January Chapter Meeting

The January 14 meeting will be at Joe Wisner's house, 2515 N Battin, Wichita, 7 pm. 67220:

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

1. Call To Order
— welcome, introductions, & additions to the agenda

2. Minutes of the October, and November, and December meetings
3. Officers' Reports including Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association Piano Festival collaboration (we need all the Chapter members to participate in March to promote the future of the piano); Website proposal.
4. Unfinished Business
5. New Business
6. Tech Session: Ideas for creating and managing your own business website by Kevin Gruetter.
7. Networking

Wichita PTG Chapter Meeting minutes for December 9, 2009 Meeting at the home of Marty Hess
Members in attendance: Alan Crane, Roy Howard, J. D. Hirshburger, Marty Hess, David Norman, Joe Wisner, Kevin Gruetter, and Larry Ray.
Call to order by President Joe Wisner.
Vice president Alan Crane reported that Gene Somer is getting up and around now. Roy Howard has Gene's address available if you need it. Just e-mail Roy

Howard and he will make it available to you.
Marty Hess reported the the chapter bank balance remains at \$4,519.17.
The web page format will be demonstrated at the January meeting with Kevin Gruetter giving the presentation.
The January meeting will be hosted by Joe Wisner at his home.
The February meeting will be at the new WSU shop. Our participation in the WMTA workshop at Botanica Gardens will be planned at the January meeting.

Chapter Officers

President

H. Joe Wisner, RPT

Vice-President

Alan Crane, RPT

Secretary

David Norman, Associate

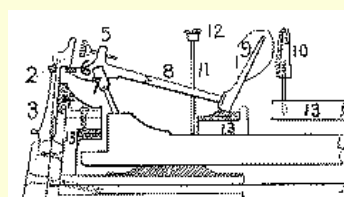
Treasurer

Marty Hess, RPT

Newsletter Editor

Roy E. Howard, Ph.D.
2rhoward@att.net

316 634 1148



Action by Andreas and Nannette (Slein), Steiner Viennese escapement
1. Key
2. Jack
3. Jack opening spring
4. Cushion limiting rebound of jack
5. Button and screw regulating escapement of hammer
6. Hammer butt and operating face 7. Hammer butt pivot
8. Hammer shank
9. Hammer head
10. Check
11. Dampener flange
12. Dampener head
13. Action rails

Quote for Today: "Hope you don't think this is Billy Joel unplugged. I'm a piano player. I'm already unplugged." -- *Billy Joel*
Quote for Tomorrow: "Go get a real estate license." -- *Frank Zappa*





Meeting was adjourned and Marty Hess conducted a tech session on Damp Chaser installation with an abundance of Christmas treats and assorted liquid refreshments.

A big thanks to Marty for his hospitality. Secretary, David Norman

FESTIVAL

The Wichita Chapter PTG will join with the Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association (WMMTA) for a spring festival: **"Back to the Future - Celebrating the Piano!"**. Dates: March 6 and 7, 2010 at Botanica. The "Back to the Future" Festival will put pianos and piano playing in historical context to help us all work toward a future WITH pianos.

The Future of the Piano

Music is NOT a Universal Language

Music would be a universal language if everyone in the world could to interpret the same music in the same way. However, appreciation of music, painting, poetry, sculpture and other arts depends on cultural understanding and experiences that are unique to communities, age groups, and individuals. These understandings are very particular and discrete. People don't even like the same music. For example, as an ethnomusicologist, I studied the Mexican heritage musicians of Texas and New Mexico. They are all very particular about their own style, not crossing over to other Mexican or Mexican American styles <http://www.cantos.org/music/mexico.html>. The Pan-Indian movement in North America has resulted in new types of Pow Wow music appreciated by all the Pow Wow fans, but I don't hear any of that on any station in Kansas. Everyone is



BACK TO THE FUTURE

Celebrating the Piano!

*A Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association Festival
with the Piano Technicians Guild*

March 6-7, 2010
Wichita's Botanica

Music IS a Universal Language"

Music is called the universal language of the world because of many reasons. First and the foremost, music is made up of 7 main notes. No matter, what part of the world you are, and what instrument you play, all the music created are one of the 7 notes. There may be different names for all 7 notes in different parts of the world, but for the performer, they are still the same. Secondly music, being a form of art can reach the deepest parts of your heart and soul. You don't have to be a patient or a psychologist to understand music. As long as any melody and rhythm make you feel yourself, it is the best doctor a person can find, and best remedy anyone can recommend. Thirdly music, like any other language can express any and every type of emotion. But where it scores more is where the words fell short of expressing, while music can go on and on vocalizing all that you ever want to say. (Sapan Shah, Buzzle.com)





very selective about music, but most don't understand how diverse the musics of the world are. Google "how many types of music" and you get 24,000,000 hits, meaning everyone has an opinion on the subject. In the first ten hits, there are more than 10 different (authoritative sounding) answers ranging from "There are four main categories of music: rock, jazz, blues, and classical", to "there are a million different types of music". Louis Armstrong claimed: "There is two kinds of music, the good and bad. I play the good kind." Mark Twain "was told that music by Wagner is not as bad as it sounds". It is clear that not everyone understands the same music in the same way.

Music is a Universal Phenomenon

Plato said that "music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." Everyone has music in their life, but as a musician, I have been painfully aware that not everyone will buy what I sell. People are very particular about the music they listen to. There are 44,000 different radio stations in the world. Most focus on a very narrow range of music. Any deviation from the expected programming will lose listeners. Check this site, and you will certainly find a station that you would not want to listen to all day: <http://www.omniglot.com/links/radio.htm>

Webster defines language as "any means of conveying or communicating ideas". Music cannot convey the same idea to people of any society or culture. "Music as a universal

language" advocates give examples of folks appreciating music of another culture, but no one really understands another culture's music in the same way. Personal expectations and assumptions influence how music is perceived. "Music is a universal phenomenon" would be more accurate than saying that music is a "universal language".

The Piano as a Universal Instrument

The "King of Instruments" has survived several centuries of cultural and economic and political change. It is played in every continent, in every style of music. However, we need to be vigilant if we want it to survive. Yesterday I stepped into a "piano store" and saw dozens of keyboard instruments with nice cabinets, but only three acoustic pianos. They were on sale for up to 50% off, a sign that the dealer is not stocking up on pianos, just trying to get them off the floor and out the door. That day I evaluated an old upright that can't be removed from the basement without calling a carpenter to remodel. They decided to keep the piano (though no one has ever played it and it is a whole step flat). I will install new casters so they can move it around. The senior centers and care facilities have pianos, but few of the seniors know how to play them. Churches and schools are replacing pianos with electronic keyboards. Yesterday I tuned a piano for a full time professional piano player. He accompanies the school choir, plays in restaurants, teaches, etc. He has never owned an acoustic piano. He just bought his first home and moved his parents old console into it. His students mostly play electronic keyboards. Not even the full time piano professionals buy pianos! The piano can be used in more styles and types of music than any other instrument, but not everyone buys a new piano.

WHAT TO DO?

So what can we as technicians, dealers, and teachers do to reverse the further decline of the

piano? Carl Radford, RPT, North Shore Chapter, gives good advice: Leave the piano well tuned, voiced and regulated so that the customer will be pleased

with the tone and touch and therefore want to play.

Demonstrate the piano after the tuning for the customer so they will

"A rock band used to be four guys and a drummer. Now it's five guys sitting around reading manuals!" -- Bill Bruford





When the piano becomes a center of activity for the family, then all the family gets involved.

be inspired enough to desire to play the piano themselves.

Tune Well Temperament and use it, when appropriate, to resurrect the color in Classical and Romantic music.

Work on high quality pianos and your referral base will also be of high quality. Less is more.

Sell the best pianos possible, educate the customer and change the focus from sales at all costs to quality and inspiration of the customer at all costs.

Make sure your students understand the value of a quality piano, a proper tuning, voicing, and regulation. Don't allow students to purchase poor quality pianos, and educate them to recognize the difference. Make sure their piano is in a different room from their TV. <http://www.radfordpiano.com/future.html>

Everyone claims to like music, but there is yet much we must do to educate people so their musical participation can grow. "Men profess to be lovers of music, but for the most part they give no evidence in their opinions and lives that they have heard it" (Henry David Thoreau).

Music is not a "universal language" nor any type of language. "Music expresses feeling and thought, without language; it was below and before speech, and it is above and beyond all words" (Robert G. Ingersoll).

Music is a part of every life. The piano is certainly the "King of Instruments", and a very fine way that people of all cultures and musical traditions can find expression to their deepest feelings. Let's do all we can to promote and encourage piano playing in the homes and schools and churches. Let us support and encourage the use of pianos in performances and recordings and new compositions. "Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy. Music is the electrical soil in which the spirit lives, thinks and invents" (Ludwig van Beethoven).

Calendar

January 14, 2010

January meeting and tech session, 7 pm. at Joe Wisner's home
Submit your dues

Arizona State Seminar

January 9
www.phoenixptg.org

Grand Action Rebuilding

Home Office Feb 4-6
www.ptg.org/conv/grandaction.pdf

March 4 - 7, 2010

PNWC 2010 Hyatt Regency, Bellevue, WA
<http://pnwcptg.org/>

March 6-7, 2010

Back to the Future Festival at Botanica
Hosted by our Chapter and the WMMTA. to promote the future of the piano.





•<http://ptg.org/conv/2010/>

June 26, 2010 to

June 30, 2010

**PTG CONVENTION &
TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

**Bally's Resort & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada**



To you it is an "old upright", but to my family, it is a center of family activity and interaction. Mama plays and everyone sings. All four children enjoy playing, as does Dad. The kids also study guitar and violin. They get really excited about my other instruments as well. I got a lot of hugs when my grand daughter discovered a harmonica in her Christmas package. Regular tunings and a Damp Chaser keep it going.



Theater restoration in McPherson inspires Chapter Members. There is hope for live performance in Kansas!



**Contact: Sandy Roady
4444 Forest Avenue, Kansas
City, KS 66106
Phone: 913-432-9975**

THE BUSHMASTER

The Bushmaster allows the technician to install new key bushings professionally with complete accuracy and efficiency.

First, it "pushes" the cloth to the exact depth, and secondly with a simple push of the knob, cuts the felt with surgical precision. This guarantees that the length of the cloth in the mortise will be exactly the same for every single key. The guesswork

usually involved with this procedure is virtually eliminated. Along with accuracy, the Bushmaster will greatly speed up the task of bushing making the process more profitable for the technician.



FEATURES

- Machined in solid brass and aluminum.
- Light duty spring for extremely fast plunging.
- Easy blade replacement.
- Disassembles quickly for fast clean up.
- Easy blade replacement.
- Lifetime warranty.
-

www.pianoteksupply.com



Would you promise a customer you could fix this Kimball console?



The piano was dropped, landing on the top corner of the left side panel, pushing that panel out of alignment with the back of the

piano.

Since the keybed is attached, and the action sets on the keybed, therefore, the action is out of alignment to the strings. The piano cannot be played in the current condition. The side panel must be realigned to the back.



There is damage to the veneer and finish. The strings are low in tension requiring a pitch raise before tuning.



Repairs involve clamping and forcing the side panel back into position.

glue and screws to ensure a solid connection

veneer repairs and touch up to the finish

pitch raise and tuning



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