



The Voicing Tool

October Chapter Meeting

The October Chapter meeting is Thursday the 8th at 7pm, Sounds Great Music, 123 N Main St, McPherson, KS 67460, host Chuck Vetter. (I-135 and US 56, 56 miles north of Wichita).

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

1. Call To Order
welcome, introductions, & additions to the agenda (if any)
2. Minutes of the September meeting

3. Officers' Reports including Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association Piano Festival collaboration (we hope all the Chapter members attend in March); Website proposal.

4. Unfinished Business
5. New Business
6. Announcements
7. Next Meeting Date & Location
8. Adjournment
9. Technical Session and Q&A
10. Networking and snacks

Transplant Operation

(from Steve Lehr, RPT, Nebraska)

Today I performed a successful transplant operation on an old piano at Doane College, Crete, Nebraska. The piano, a Baldwin Hamilton studio, "presented" as most institutional pianos do; it had multiple insults to the cabinet and had several missing veneers. But the Hamilton is the "Flying Fortress" of the piano world and has a reputation for holding up under years of abuse and remaining a decent musical instrument. Indeed, there were no mechanical problems with the piano at all, it did have, however, a serious concern. It had a missing key. Key number 63 (B5) was gone

and that posed a real problem. I looked for it down under, but no key. I told Professor Dianne I would take the adjacent keys with me in hopes of finding someone who could make a suitable replacement. When I removed the fallboard I found that the key was not totally missing, but rather broken in half; it as only the front half that was missing.

Half a key was better than no key, but barely. I went home and emailed some colleagues asking for advice. Some suggested making a key using instructions from a book, or grafting an old key front onto the original back half. The operation was beginning to take on a medical quality to it;

Chapter Officers

President

H. Joe Wisner, RPT

Vice-President

Alan Crane, RPT

Secretary

David Norman, Associate

Treasurer

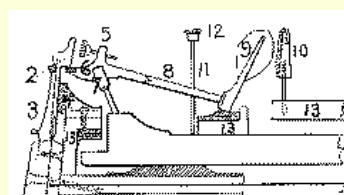
Marty Hess, RPT

Newsletter Editor

Roy E. Howard, Ph.D.

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316 634 1148



Action by Andreas and Falletto (Slein), Steiner Viennese escap.

1. Key
2. Jack
3. Jack operating 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. Damper lifter
12. Damper head
13. Action rails

Quote for Today: "When I am happy I play the piano. When I am sad, I play the piano." Fred Rogers

Quote for Tomorrow: "The secret to playing the piano is to make sure the lid over the keyboard is open" Artur Schnabel

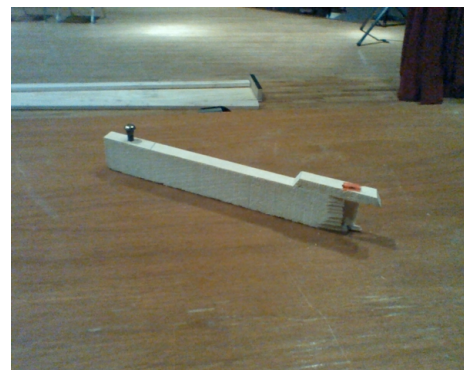




clearly some sort of surgery was in order. "Dr" Robert Marinelli of the "PianoTek Institute" offered to make a prosthetic key for \$150. However, "Dr" Alan Crane, RPT (Registered Piano Therapist), of Wichita State University, said he had a 1950 [sic] Hamilton that had died of natural causes and might make a suitable donor. What luck - everyone knows an organ donation from a relative is the most preferable, especially from an identical twin. Pianos of this era don't have identical twins, but a sibling match would be ideal. Comparing the serial numbers I found that the Doane Hamilton was made in 1959 and the donor piano in 1960. These pianos were practically fraternal twins. I contacted Dr. Crane and asked him to send the organ...er...key. The key arrived a few days later in a sterile mailing tube. This afternoon I took the key to the piano for an initial fitting. I left the adjacent keys out and put the donor key in. It fit very nicely with the capstan sitting squarely under the whippen



cushion. The front of the key showed a tilt to the right, so I thought the best approach would be to straighten the key. Fortunately, the piano was on the stage and the scene shop was right through the double doors in back. It was a well-equipped shop, and I clamped the key into a bench vise and attached a heavy wooden clamp to the front to give it a counter twist. As I applied my heat gun to the key to induce it to straighten out, I heard a ripping sound and watched as the key "cleaved" under the weight of the clamp. I quickly picked up the pieces and placed them on the operating table.



I made use some of the many spring clamps in the shop to piece the key back together and left it on the table to heal. I then went across the hall to tune the piano in room CM21. When I returned, I also tuned the Hamilton and found it to be surprisingly close to pitch. After setting nearly two hours, the key was healed enough to put back in. It went back in place OK but still had the slight twist. This time, however, I tapped the balance rail pin to the left to straighten the front. The capstan moved a little, but was still acceptably under the whippen cushion. I removed a few balance rail punchings and bent the front rail pin a little to the right to square and space the front. When I put key 62 (A#5) back in, I found that the tail ends of the two keys were very tight against each other, effectively locking the two of them together. I took the two keys back into the now deserted shop and to my delight found the perfect tool for the job - an industrial belt sander. The sander easily removed material from the back sides of the keys and they went back in without interfering. I had a similar situation with key 64 (C6), only this time the key buttons were being squeezed together. A trip to the belt sander solved that problem as well, and the newly transplanted key is working perfectly in its new host. It's not a perfect match, as it protrudes about 1/32nd of an inch, but still leaves plenty of space for the key slip. The B natural is in its new place on an older keyboard. As of this writing there have been no signs of rejection.





Barbara Renner, Christopher O'Riley's technician, is selling these posters and donating the proceeds to a favorite charity, The Potter League for Animals, a local animal shelter near her home in Rhode Island.

The poster is approximately 11"X 17" printed on heavy stock with a glossy UV coating and comes rolled in a cardboard mailing tube.

Prices:

1 poster \$10 + \$6.50 S&H = \$16.50 (the shipping and handling



includes U.S.P.S. Priority mail continental U.S.A. only)
2 posters \$17 + \$6.50 S&H = \$23.50
3 posters \$24 + \$6.50 S&H = \$28.50 (i.e. the price per poster doesn't diminish after the second poster)

Up to four posters can be sent in one tube for \$6.50.

Checks payable to "Barbara Renner" should be mailed to her at:

Barbara Renner
391 Indian Avenue
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Online payment through PayPal can be arranged by contacting

Barbara FIRST at:

BARBARA RENNER

<bjprenner@cox.net>

This isn't a tax-deductible donation since the money is paid to Barbara rather than the animal shelter but, for those of you who want that deduction, here's

how to go about it:
If you prefer, you may donate directly to the Potter League at <http://www.potterleague.org/WaystoGive/DonateOnline/tabid/196/Default.aspx>.

You would be sending them \$7 for the first poster, and \$4 for each additional

poster. Since Barbara has no formal arrangement with them to actually sell posters, you will still need to remit to her the shipping and handling, plus \$3.00/poster, as well as a copy of the receipt for the donation. It would be best to arrange all that with Barbara in advance.

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". There will be recital presentations by the students of the WMMTA teachers, Early Dance demonstrations, presentations about the history of the piano, and student piano activities conducted by members of our chapter. We are called upon to create and man several informational stations. There will be seven sessions of about 15 minutes each between recitals, when students will rotate through our stations. We expect up to 140 students grades 1 through 12, and their parents. Dates: March 6 and 7, 2010 at Botanica.



Celebrating the Piano!

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

March 6-7, 2010
Wichita's Botanica



The Digital Divide

Here is an example of why it is to your "advantage" to have a web site where people all over the world can find out about your business. Here is a great spam email I received recently from someone who wants my identity information.

Dear Owner,

I am Mr Paul Brown and i am sending this Email in regards to Order some (Pianos) and i will like you to email me back with the Type,Sizes and with their Prices you have in stock for me to choose the type i need to Order and also let me know the type of Credit Card you accept for Payment charges and can you email me with your contact full name and phone number that i can call to place the Order...Awaiting to hear from you soon..

Best Regards

Mr Paul Brown

Do all the people appreciate your work? For example, some mothers just can't believe that the rhythmic sound of the piano being tuned would be soothing to the sleeping baby. If she would let me tune, I could demonstrate...



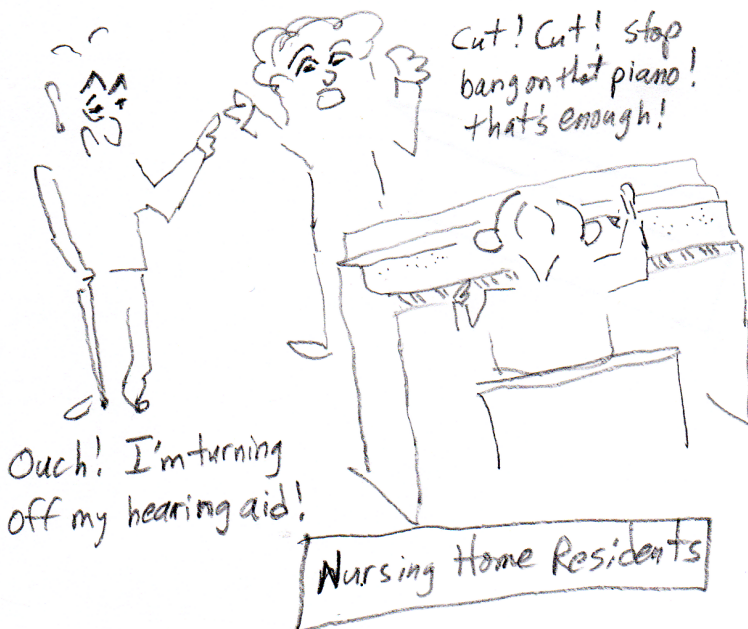
Isn't he wonderful?
I wish I could play like that,

Cut! Cut! stop bang on that piano! that's enough!



(Hallway of banquet storage of the hotel)

Your piano playing is wonderful, but could you please wait an hour, we can't hear the banquet speaker, over in the next room.



Nursing Home Residents



Minutes

Wichita Chapter PTG September 2009 Meeting

- Thursday, September 10, 2009, at Joe Wisner's residence. Members attending: Alan Crane, Joe Wisner, JD Hershberger, Marty Hess, Don Sloper, Larry Ray, Chuck Vetter, Roy Howard, and David Norman.
- The August meeting minutes were read and approved.
- Joe Wisner applauded Roy Howard and the newsletter. Roy made suggestions for various ways to send the newsletter to the members. Creating a new web site for the chapter was discussed and Pres. Joe Wisner asked Roy to research the possibility of creating a web site.
- Treasurer's Report: A \$50 disbursement to Roy Howard for stamps and supplies was subtracted from last month's total leaving a balance of \$4,819.98. Marty Hess moved that the chapter dues remain the same, seconded by Alan Crane, motion carried.
- Alan Crane reported the possibility of a new member being assigned to our chapter.
- Alan Crane showed the chapter a new poster that was created about piano voicing. The picture was that of a kitty gnawing on a piano hammer. Some members offered to buy one. The proceeds will go to an animal rights organization.
- Joe Wisner read a letter from the Nebraska chapter hosting the seminar next March. The letter congratulated our chapter on the quality of the classes and entertainment at our seminar.
- Joe Wisner read a letter from the national office confirming Larry Ray's membership. Larry has accepted the position of Piano Technician for the Wichita School District.
- Joe Wisner announced that the tool set offered for \$1,500 had not been sold. Another set of tools for sale was also mentioned. Contact Joe for information about tools.
- Announcements:
March 18-21, 2010, Central West Regional Seminar in Lincoln, Nebraska.
June 26 - July 1, 2010, national seminar in Las Vegas.
Alan Crane announced a showing of *Note-by-Note* on September 14 on KPTS at 9 p.m.
- After delicious treats by Kathy Wisner, Sally Buxton joined us to talk about the *Back to the Future Festival*, March 6-7, 2010 at Bontanica with our Chapter and the Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association. Sally gave an enthusiastic presentation and several suggestions were made for us to

Calendar

October 13, 2009

7pm Chapter Meeting and technical session, Sounds Great Music, 123 N. Main St., McPherson, Kansas

November 1, 2009

Plan Ahead. Membership Dues invoices are sent for 2010. National dues = \$225. The invoice will list the options for manner of payment.

March 3, 2010--March 7, 2010

PNWC 2010

Hyatt Regency
Bellevue, WA

March 6-7, 2010

Back to the Future Festival at Botanica

March 18-21, 2010

Central West Regional, at the University of Nebraska

June 26-30, 2010

PTG Convention & Technical Institute, Bally's Resort, Las Vegas, NV
www.ptg.org/conv/2010

participate in the program. Pres. Wisner appointed Roy Howard, Marty Hess, and Joe Wisner to the festival committee.

- Alan Crane's tech session presented different types of containers available from Schaff, Pianotek, and Mother Goose Tools for liquids used by technicians. Also Spurlock key bushing cauls from Spurlock Specialty Tools were displayed.
- The October meeting will be Oct. 8, 2009, at Chuck Vetter's shop in McPherson.





What is it?

Last week I was in Nauvoo, Illinois. The tour guide said, This is a piano from the early 1800s that would typically have been in a home like this. Of course, we could not touch the piano. So, I looked at the top and the bottom and started wondering, if this is a piano, where are the strings? They are not vertical. If they are horizontal, they must be very, very short. In the early 1800s, the manufacturers of harpsichords and clavichords all switched to pianos. Please reply with a speculation or pontification about what is it.

The guide said: this piano was built in 1810, and was the type that Beethoven played. All I can say is, no wonder he had to improvise so much during a concert, as the strings and hammers started breaking. In those days, the players did a lot of repairing and tuning, just like when they had a harpsichord.



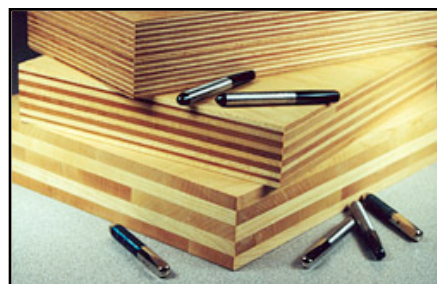
<http://ptg.org/conv/2010/>
June 26, 2010--June 30, 2010

PTG CONVENTION & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Bally's Resort & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada
Contact: Sandy Roady
4444 Forest Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66106
Phone: 913-432-9975





AMERICAN PIANO MANUFACTURING

In 2002, the US Census Bureau reported NINE US piano manufacturers, employing 1,410

**U.S. International Trade Commission
Washington, DC
Pianos: Economic and Competitive Conditions
Affecting the U.S. Industry
Investigation No. 332-401**

On December 4, 1998, at the request of the Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. International Trade Commission instituted investigation No. 332-401, **Pianos: Economic and Competitive Conditions Affecting the U.S. Industry**, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)). As requested by the Committee, the Commission's report is a factfinding investigation of the current conditions affecting

the domestic piano industry, and it includes the following: an overview of the global market; a profile of the U.S. piano industry; profiles of leading manufacturers in Japan, Korea, China, and Indonesia; and a comparison of the competitive strengths and weaknesses of U.S. and foreign producers.

The products of interest to the Committee are acoustic pianos, which are designated as vertical and grand pianos. Demographic changes and competition from digital pianos have caused the U.S. acoustic piano market to contract for most of the last 20 years, although consumption grew moderately in 1997 and January-September 1998. During this period, the U.S. industry also has seen reductions in shipments and in the number of producers,

suppliers, and dealers, although during January-September 1998, there was a small increase in piano shipments.

Data gathered from questionnaire responses indicate that imports, by quantity, supplied 46 percent of U.S. apparent consumption of vertical pianos during January-September 1998, up from a 35 percent market share for the same period in 1997. Imports of vertical and grand pianos from Japan, Korea, China, and Indonesia accounted for 93 percent, by quantity, of total U.S. imports of pianos during January-September 1998. U.S. producers are major importers, buying foreign-produced pianos to complement their product lines.

In foreign developments, the growth of Chinese production and exports in the 1990s has been notable, both from independent Chinese producers and operations established in China by other Asian producers. During January-September 1998, the quantity of U.S. vertical piano imports from China

more than tripled compared with the same period in 1997, increasing China's share of U.S. apparent consumption from 6 percent to 16 percent.

U.S. piano producers faced numerous competitive disadvantages during 1994-98: Japanese and Korean producers' operations in Asia were more automated than operations in the United States; Asian producers, with the exception of Japan, have considerably lower labor costs than U.S. producers; the East Asian financial crisis drastically curtailed piano sales in the home and regional markets of principal Asian piano manufacturers, and it appeared that pianos were redirected from these markets to the U.S. market; and the national currencies of three of the four principal Asian competitors significantly depreciated in real terms against the dollar during the period under consideration. U.S. producers, however, have the following advantages: close proximity to wood resources, more experienced labor force in making furniture-style pianos, and lower transportation costs when selling in the U.S. market.



The Korean Piano Industry began in the mid 1950s with *Chung Eum* and *Soodo*, which both closed in 1971. *Young Chang* was founded in 1956, importing components from England, German, US, and Japan. After technical assistance from Yamaha from 1967 to 1975, Young Chang became independent and in 1987 they acquired the Weber brand name from Wurlitzer. *Samick* began in 1958, also producing *Horugel*. *Handok* started in 1972 making components such as actions and hammer heads. From 1976 to 1986 they made *Schimmel* uprights for the German company, then continued on their own until 1995. *Saujin* began building pianos in 1979, and added *Royale* grands in 1983, exporting under the brand names *Sojin*, *Royal*, and *Daewoo* until 1998.

Korean piano production in 1971 was 5,722. In 1990 it was 243,000. In 1991 Young Chang built a foundry in Tianjin, China, and in 1995 completed plants for full production piano manufacture in China. Approximately 400,000 vertical pianos and 60,000 grand pianos were sold globally in 1997. Korea was the largest single market for vertical pianos, followed by China, the United States, and Japan. The United States was the largest single market for grand pianos, followed by Japan. By 2001 Young Chang was also producing Weber,

Bergmann, and *Pramberger*. Samick was producing *Kohler & Campbell*. Competition with Chinese and Indonesian manufacturers moderated Korean production in the 21st



Century. On September 11, 2004 Young Chang filed for bankruptcy, and Samick (which survived a 2002 bankruptcy) acquired control their North and South American marketing. In 2003 Samick began producing *Knabe* as a high end product. They also produce *Sohmer* and *Remington*. Young Chang also makes *Wurlitzer*, *Cline*, *Schafer & Sons*, *Nakamichi*, and *Essex*. In 2003 *Pramberger* technology stayed with Young Chang, but the name was licensed to Samick. As of 2009, Young Chang employs 2000 full time workers, and controls 50% of the Korean piano market.

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