

The Tuner's Beat

Randy Rush, editor randyrush@earthlink.net

January, 2002

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, January 21
 Board Meeting at 6:30 PM
 General Meeting at 7:30PM
Prosser Piano and Organ
 N. 185th and Aurora
 North Seattle
Technical Program:
Replacing Keytops
 by Randy Rush

Dates To Remember:

January 21, 2002
 Chapter Meeting
 6:30 board, 7:30 general

January 31, 2002
 PTG Dues considered delinquent if unpaid

February 18, 2002
 Chapter Meeting
 (Location TBA)

March 21—23, 2002
 Pacific NW Conference
 Pasco, WA

April 2002
 Seattle All Day Seminar
 (TBA)

July 26—30
 PTG Annual Convention
 Chicago

January Technical Program:

Playing Surface Resurfacing

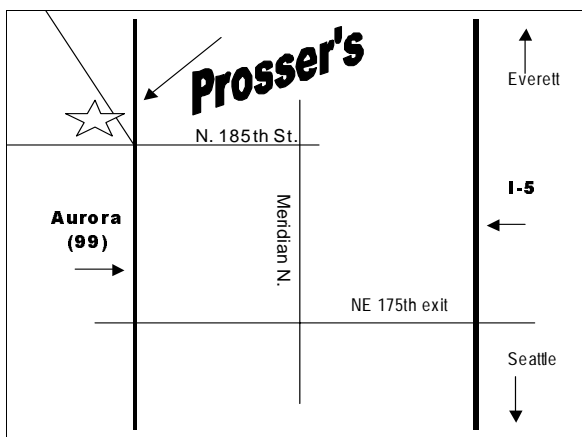
Presented by Randy Rush

Also known as replacing keytops. Or replacing old, chipped/ missing ivory with plastic keytops.

Look, let's keep this simple. We're going to talk about putting on a set of plastic keytops. Covered keytops will include: types of keytops, types of glue, repairing gouged and otherwise damaged keys (including damage you do yourself during the recovering process), planing the old keysticks, trimming the newly recovered keys, and varia-

tions on the method I use (which I did not create, by the way). Several chapter members use this type of method, so a helpful discussion among those present should ensue.

If time allows, we may also cover some ivory repair and replacing techniques: if not, hey, there's another class for another day!



If you're a keytopper yourself, if you're curious about the process or want to learn a technique, or if you've never done a
 (Continued on page 2)

Holiday Party A Smashing Success

Scandalous Photo Report on Page 3

Randy Rush

The quiet residential neighborhood on the north end of Queen Anne hill was awakened in the middle of the night on the evening of December 15th, as local members of the Piano Technician's Guild, engaging in their trade-

mark rowdy and lewd behavior, gave notice to the city of Seattle that they have no peers when it comes to trashing a house at party time.

Not.



Minutes From November 17, 2001

President Roger Gable opened the Meeting at 7:35 PM. A quorum was met with ten RPTs and two Associates.

One guest was present. The Minutes of the October Meeting were approved as published in the Tuner's Beat.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Barber reports \$2591.53 in checking, \$2968.76 in savings and \$5146.38 in the C.D.

Announcements: Joe Goheen announced that the Tuning Examiners are looking for a new Exam piano. It needs to meet Exam criteria (5'9" or larger grand, plain wire strings down to

C-3, in good condition) and should be available for Exam dates and a Master Tuning. The piano will be left in tune after an Exam. If anyone knows of such an instrument please call Joe Goheen at (425) 487-6063.

Old Business: Chair of the Seattle Chapter @ WSMTA Convention Mike Ashburn reports that the dates have been changed to June 17-23 and the location has been changed to Pacific Lutheran University. Steve Brady has been asked by the Chapter to present a class about pianos and piano care at this event. Steve is considering

this and will give an answer later.

New Business: The Annual Holiday Party will be at the home of Steve Brady and Judith Cohen on Saturday December 15 at 7:PM. Jeannie Grassi moved to reimburse Steve for expenses, Randy Rush seconded motion, motion passed 12/0. More information about this will be in the December Tuner's Beat. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Curtis Spiel, RPT

The Fine Print

The Tuner's Beat is the official newsletter for the Seattle Chapter of the Piano Technician's Guild. It is published 10 to 12 times a year at a subscription rate of \$6 (free to members and exchanging newsletter editors). All articles may be reprinted if credit is given to the Tuner's Beat, as the Seattle PTG newsletter and to individual authors, when indicated. Please address all inquiries or articles to Randy Rush, 2627 NE 86th Street, Seattle, WA 98115 (randyrush@earthlink.net). The Seattle Chapter PTG usually meets on the third Monday of every month.

"All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this Chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild."

January Program

(Continued from page 1)

set on your own, come join in the fun.

The program starts after the business meeting at 7:30 PM at Prosser Piano and Organ in Shoreline. Hopefully milk and cookies will appear sometime during the evening. See you there.



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Out-Of-Control Piano Tuners (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Oh well, we can dream, can't we?

In actuality, a good time was had by all, and no injuries were sustained unless you count the damage to the reputation of our esteemed president, Roger Gable (see picture below). Truth be told, Roger's



Looking for a good time, Rudolph?

entrance was a highlight of the evening, along with late evening piano solos and impromptu blues and jazz duets by many of the individuals in attendance.

Our thanks to Steve and Judy for hosting a great party and providing a fabulous spread for all to enjoy. (Sorry about the

wine collection, Steve. I'll see what I can do about getting the chapter to replace most of it.) The hospitality was superb as always, and we'll plan to show up about the same time next year. (Oh, and send the bill for extra hot tub chlorine to Jeannie, will you? She said she's sorry.)

If you weren't able to make it this year, we're sorry you missed a fun time. Start programming your PDA for next year's bash - you won't be sorry.



Tuners (and Pals) Get-Down (Photos by Jeannie Grassi)



Keva, Ed, and Mike: is this early or late?



Judy listens as Chris explains his guacamole machine.



Mary gets a kick out of Deanno's new clown outfit.



Judy (through gritted teeth): "Steve, Jeannie's in the hot tub again!"



Gordon, one of the first to arrive.



Joe G. , one of the last to leave.

Ivory And The CITES Endangered Species Agreement

Terry Smythe

*Editor's note - Some months ago, I received a call from a regular customer who wanted to schedule a tuning for her new piano - a 1928 Steinway she had purchased in Vancouver, B.C. As we talked, she outlined a horror story about how long it took to get the piano transferred into the U.S. because of the restrictions on importing items that contained ivory. I was somewhat incredulous since the ivory was on an old piano, and seemed no threat to elephants today. After I got off the phone, I did a web search and found that, indeed, there are great problems involved in bringing older pianos in from Canada, problems we as piano technicians should be aware of. The following is an excerpt from a letter to the **Mechanical Music Digest**.*

In the current issue of the AMIGA Bulletin there is a news item about a most embarrassing and aggravating incident in which a recording

artist with his 1827 Fortepiano was denied entry to Canada from the USA at Niagara Falls, for a contractual recording in the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto. It seems the instrument has key tops made of ivory, a product coming under the prohibited international trade list of endangered species.

This 1973 International Agreement, known as CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) was signed by a large number of nations worldwide, including Canada and the USA. This CITES agreement has been referenced a number of times of MMD, but some appalling circumstances have emerged which should be known by all who are considering movement of pianos across interna-

tional borders, particularly into the USA.

The CITES Agreement was signed in 1973, and it contained a provision to exempt products and species "worked" prior to 1973. For that exemption to apply for customs purposes, a Pre-Convention Certificate must be issued by the nation of export. The spirit and intent of the original agreement was that all nations should deal with its provisions in a consistent manner. It hasn't worked out that way.

I have been told in harsh terms by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services inspector in North Dakota that he will seize any product containing natural ivory, and the trailer it's in and the truck hauling it, no different than if it were drugs.....

Canada will accept a Pre-Convention Certificate of the item being imported into Canada from any of the signatory countries regardless of the date of manufacture prior to 1973. That 1827 Fortepiano did not have a Pre-Convention Certificate, which would have taken about three months to acquire from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services in Washington.

Something ominous has emerged. The US has somehow translated this principle (pre - 1973) into "antiques" only. An "antique" must be 100 years of age to be imported into the U.S. free of duty, taxes and CITES impediments. Suddenly we have a gap from the year 1900 through to 1973 that seems to have emerged only in the USA. My research suggests that most nations, except the USA, deal with this issue in a manner similar to Canada.

I have been told in harsh terms by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services inspector in North Dakota that he will seize any product containing natural ivory, and the trailer it's in and the truck hauling it, no different than if it were drugs, regardless of the presence of a Canada issued Pre-Convention Certificate, if it

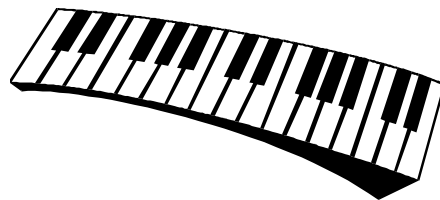
is not an "antique".

According to the regulations posted on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services web site, he's right. Only antiques are exempt. That a piano may have been originally manufactured in the USA in the first place, and is simply being returned to country of origin, with no value added, is of no relevance to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services folks.

Somehow, the process in the US of translating the principle behind a Pre-Convention Certificate into working administration and enforcement consistent with all other nations got translated into "antiques" only, without regards to the pre-1973 spirit and intent of the CITES Agreement.

What makes this further aggravating is that the Canadian issuer of the Pre-Convention Certificate is obligated to forward a copy of it to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services Administration. So, even if an inspector does not actually get involved in the actual border crossing, the copy of the certificate will be seen and provoke an order to the nearest U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services inspector to seize the piano long after its arrival in the USA, and likely fine the owner for "illegal trade in endangered species or parts thereof".

I spoke with a commercial customs broker in Pembina, ND, who almost immediately observed that, "I guess by now you have learned there is absolutely no consistency with regards to documentation requirements, with far too much resting on the whim and call of the customs officer on duty at a particular moment of time."



Mr. Piano Guy Returns!

(OR, How To Do A Newsletter Quick And Dirty - Reprints!)

Editor's Note - Yes Mr. Piano Guy is back, if only in this reprint from January, 1992. With any luck, next month he will return from his exile in Tahiti and start writing some new stuff. But don't hold your breath. RR

Dear Readers: This month, Mr. Piano Guy presents a special feature design by Mr. Piano Guy Enterprises staff psychologist Vinnie Libido. He has devised a personality inventory for you, the tuner-technician, to help you assess your suitability for this exalted profession and decide whether to continue your work or apply for a position at McDonald's. Answer the following questions carefully, score yourself at the end, and then make some career choices.

Tuner-Technician Personality Inventory (TTPI)

SITUATION 1: After the customer has let you in and shown you to the piano, she announces that she has to go to work and will leave you alone with a check for the tuning. After she leaves, you:

A) Spend extra time and do a superfine tuning, expecting her to be much more critical of your work since she wasn't around to watch you.

B) Whip through the tuning in fifteen minutes, grab your check and leave, knowing that you'll have time for a couple of lattes before your next appointment.

C) Close up the piano, turn on the TV and watch Oprah and Jerry Springer for two hours before grabbing the check and leaving.

SITUATION 2: As the customer lets you in the front door, the family schnauzer introduces himself by straddling your leg and fantasizing you're that cute little French poodle down the street. Then, he follows you to the piano and persists in dropping a wet, gooey tennis ball in your lap. You:

A) Say "What a charming little pup you have, Mr. Jones."

B) Ask the customer if you can try out your weighted voicing procedure on Fido's rear end.

C) Wait until the customer has gone into another part of the house, then drop kick the mutt into the wood stove.

SITUATION 3: While you are tuning, the customer's four-year-old insists on showing you how he can play

"Chopsticks" with both fists. You:

A) Say "I'd love to hear you play, but how about waiting until I'm done tuning?"

B) Say, "Would you like to see how this shank reducer works? Just put your little finger right in here."

C) Slam the fallboard down on the whippersnapper's sticky fingers, say to the customer as she responds to the shrieks of agony, "Gee, you know, this company's been having a problem with these things not staying open."

SITUATION 4: As the customer shows you to her vintage birdcage upright that has been in the family for 500 years, she asks you what you think of it. You:

A) Say "I'm sure it serves your family very well."

B) Say, "Oh, geez, this is gonna cost you."

C) Drop a few choice epithets, walk over to the piano and hock a big looney on it, then stomp out the door, leaving a bill as you go.

Give yourself one point for each "A" response, two for each "B", and three

for each time you answered "C". Then compare your score to the following scale:

4-6: Total Wimp - start selling off your tools.

7-9: Colorful character - sure to be recommended to other customers for their enjoyment.

10-12: Certified Lunatic - Especially suited for dealer work.

Well, how did you do? Ready to start looking for another job?



The Guy

Get your Beat Fix On The Web

Hey you - Yes you!

Tired of picking up those heavy pieces of paper? Sick of having to open up newsletters just so you can read them. Does the sight of newsprint ink on your fingers make you want to scream?

Well, your troubles are over. Just pick up that mouse and click on <http://users.iglide.net/dpetrich>, the Seattle Chapter PTG home page, courtesy of Dean Petrich, webmaster. There you'll find not only this month's edition of the Beat, but past issues, too.

So, what are you waiting for? Exercise that right index digit. You'll always know where all the chapter info is, even if you can't find the hard copy on that mess you call a desk.

The Tuner's Beat

*Newsletter of the Seattle Chapter of
The Piano Technicians Guild*

The Tuner's Beat
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Loose Ends.....

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.
~ Red Auerbach ~

There are two golden rules for an orchestra: start together and finish together. The public doesn't give a damn what goes on in between.
~ Sir Thomas Beecham ~

Composers shouldn't think too much -- it interferes with their plagiarism.
~ Howard Dietz ~

A good composer does not imitate; he steals.
~ Igor Stravinsky ~

Country music is three chords and the truth.
~ Harlan Howard~

Jazz will endure just as long people hear it through their feet instead of their brains.
~ John Philip Sousa ~

All my concerts had no sounds in them; they were completely silent. People had to make up their own music in their minds!
~ Yoko Ono ~

Classifieds

Advertise now - Free classified ads for chapter members. Randy Rush, 206-525-7601.

1948 Steinway L - Looking for a home. Excellent condition. New hammers, shanks and flanges, bass strings. Contact Randy Rush, 206-525-7601.

Hammer shanks - Both full size and spinet shanks available. Bulk pricing. Call Roger Gable, 425-776-1717.

