

Suffolk Soundboard

November 2005

Next Meeting
Tues Nov 15th

Our presenter for this month is a motivational speaker who will help us to market and sell ourselves and our businesses. This man normally makes the "big bucks" on the lecture circuit. However because this month's speaker happens to be a friend of Gerry Gravina's, he will speak to us for the "paltry sum" which we pay in comparison to what Fortune 500 companies regularly compensate him . Lucky US !!!



I have been concerned about the state of affairs in the piano business. Right now, quite frankly, I could use a positive, motivational talk packed with useful information. This type of presentation is exactly what so many of our members have said they would like to see. Please show your support by attending this meeting. Your support will be encouragement for us to work harder for you, the members, which in turn, will make membership in the Suffolk PTG a tremendous value. To be held at Frank & Camilles Melville 8:00 pm

President: Lee Dobrins (631) 499-6989
Vice President: Matt Wynne (631) 969-3473
Secretary / newsletter editor : Bill Maguire
Treasurer: Joe Logan

CA Glue and Wood

By Bill Maguire

CA (cyanoacrylate) adhesive has been seemingly touted by everyone as the ultimate cure-all for just about everything. Without thinking about it we reach for the CA glue right away. CA glue repairs I have examined years after they were done has led me to the belief that CA glue should not be relied upon and that other adhesives need to be considered. I have seen ivory keytops fall off a few years after being glued on with CA glue. I sanded and cleaned the surfaces and believe surface preparation was not the main cause of failure. My experience with keytops and quickie shank repairs has led me to wonder what will become of some action and bridge repairs done with CA glue.

Wood, by its nature expands and contracts due to changes in temperature and humidity. CA glue on the other hand has no "give" to it. CA glue seems to become more brittle crystallizing as it ages and loses strength. Old hide glue fails as it crystallizes and becomes more brittle, but that process takes more than 50 years to occur. Acetic acid when applied to the old hide glue makes it less brittle and more resilient so it has more flexibility and can deal better with the expanding and contracting of the wood.

For ivory keytops, I like to use glue wafers with key clamps for shop work. For now, I am using five minute epoxy as an adhesive for ivory keytops on the road. Acetic acid, a glue pot and some hide glue are good to have. The most "honest" repairs in my view are historically accurate, reversible and "time honored". I still love CA glue but not for every purpose. CA glue should not be over used.

Moving Tips

By Frank Davis

- Before lifting the lid of a grand piano, always check that the Lid Hinge Pins are present, and that the hinges are secure.
 - When removing grand piano leg and lyre systems involving locking plates, use a rubber mallet covered with one or two thick socks, because the hard rubber could damage the exterior finish when hit with a strong blow.
 - Mark the direction of force needed to remove a grand piano leg on the bottom of the rim near each leg. It is often not obvious which direction to hit it.
 - Also, if screws are present, check to make sure that odd screw sizes go back the same holes. This usually indicates a stripped screw hole necessitating a larger diameter / longer screw.
 - Never move a grand piano on a hardwood surface without first placing soft fabric or carpet under each wheel to slide it into position.
 - Never move a grand piano without first checking the integrity of the legs, especially with French Provincial and Dual-leg styles. Always take as much weight off the legs as possible when sliding or wheeling a grand piano around.
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From the Editors Desk

This chapter was in need of a newsletter and the great news is once again we have one. Anyone who has ever put together the newsletter will tell you it is a heck of a lot of work. Rich Goldberg, Frank Davis, Joe Kadlec, Myself and Ed Dowling have taken on this task single handedly since I've been involved in the chapter. Ed Dowling put out the newsletter for 10 years with a type writer and a bottle of white out addressing many mailings by hand.

What we have now is a newsletter committee. I will write and edit. Matt Wynne will do the layout and mailings. Regular contributions were promised by Lee Dobrins and Frank Davis and Gerry Gravina. I would like to see contributions from all our members. You will receive credit and appreciation for items sent in and published.

Send newsletter contributions to: Bill Maguire, 146 Broadway Greenlawn 11740, mbillmaguire@aol.com

Meeting called to order by President Lee Dobrins

No Treasurers Report

Minutes were accepted as read

There was a discussion on our Chapters financial status and what our need for money will be in consideration of future chapter expenditures. Several different future endeavors were discussed including a possible grand rebuilding, Certifying several RPT members as CTEs, bringing in talented technicians to give seminars on tuning.

A motion was made by Lee Dobrins and seconded by Matt Wynne to lower chapter dues from \$85 to \$50. The motion passed

Lee Dobrins proposed the idea of speaking with Camille about the availability of a good quality grand for a possible chapter rebuilding project and to see if Frank & Camille's might be able to provide aid in other ways for a chapter rebuilding project.

There was a discussion about the fact our chapter needs a newsletter and how we might solve that issue. Jerry Gravina, Matt Wynne, Frank Davis and Bill Maguire all offered to help out with a newsletter. The chapter decided Matt Wynne would do the mailing, Bill Maguire would write/edit, Gerry Gravina, Frank Davis and possibly Lee Dobrins would contribute items. Gerry Gravina will look into the feasibility of outsourcing the newsletter. We will make a decision at a later date about whether to have our news letter done "in house" or if it can be done more professionally and at a reasonable cost outside.

VP Matt Wynne brought up what he sees as an urgent need to upgrade our Associate members to RPTs for the well being of the chapter.(Matt continued) "If our chapter offered testing more associates would take the tests". "We would need RPTs to be certified as CTEs in order to administer the RPT tests". Matt Wynne, Jerry Gravina, Lee Dobrins and Chris Young offered to take CTE tests if the chapter would reimburse their expenses.

There was a discussion on how the chapter might increase turnout and many issues were brought up. Frank Davis offered to call the members before meetings. Members will receive an email about the meeting as well as a newsletter. Lee Dobrins agreed to notify the Nassau Chapter.

Pres Lee Dobrins started a discussion on the possible benefit of allowing all associates collectively to have 1 vote in chapter matters which they are currently unable to vote on.

Frank Davis proposed our chapter cover one aspect of the tuning test each month.

Matt Wynne proposed our chapter make a date and time to administer the written test written test.

Chris Young Proposed the "Lucky Buck" (a fun tradition) be a part of our regular meetings once again. The idea received enthusiastic support.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Halloween has just passed and November is upon us and so is our next meeting. This is the first President's Message I have ever written and I hope it inspires everyone of our members both RPT and Associates to attend the next meeting.

I have some important things to discuss and I need all our RPTs to vote on several proposals. Of course we will receive input from our Associate members on these proposals, since it will affect them as well. I hope no one will find an excuse, reason or rationalization for not coming. The health of our chapter is at stake and it behooves everyone to attend. We are having a motivational speaker at this meeting, a departure from our usual fare. It should be very interesting.

I am of the opinion that we are in business to first make money and second to learn how. If we can combine these two things we will have the best of both worlds. Our speaker and some of the things I propose to discuss will attempt to make this "Best of Both Worlds" to occur.

I would like to introduce the speaker almost immediately at this meeting and hold our business meeting after he has finished. I hope this meets with everyone's approval.

In December, I have asked Mike Miccro to give a technical. He is a Certified Tuning Examiner (CTE) and works for Yamaha in New York City. He asked me to canvas our chapter on a topic and he will try to cover it. So put your thinking caps on and bring your suggestions to the next meeting.

Lee Dobrins, RPT