

DECEMBER 2012

Chapter Meeting - November 5, 2012

Early birds enjoyed a spread of sandwiches and sides before the 7 PM meeting, courtesy of Az Piano. Eliot Lee asked for business items at which time Peg Browne gave updated info on Westpac III. She showed a copy of the flyer that will be sent out and informed us that we may register online now. If anyone is interested in any of the classes with limited seating, this should be accomplished as soon as possible before these classes fill up. Check the website: <http://www.westpac-ptg.org> or call (530) 333-9299. Peg mentioned that there will soon be a sign-up sheet for the various duties needed in order to make this event happen, so get ready! She assured us that the time and effort each of us gives will be minimal. The Treasurer's report was 'status quo' with the only expenditure being for a 'Hailun' action model. Without further ado, Eliot introduced the evening's guest speaker, Mr. Del Fandrich.

The topic of Del's lecture, 'The Art & Science of Piano Design', although generally applicable industry wide, was geared specifically to the Young Chang/Weber line that he has been working on the past 2 or 3 years. He began by comparing the aspects of science and art (modern technologies & materials, analytical tools, etc. vs. visual & aural aesthetics) and how these elements integrate to achieve the desired performance goals of each piano model. Based on that philosophy, Young Chang, with the support of parent corporation Hyundai, made the push to undertake some major changes in their product, and Del has been a major contributor in that effort. He explained some of the parameters of tooling (rim presses, etc.) that he had to work with, and to what degree he could modify some of the existing plate and frame designs, as well as some of the criteria that inspired the results he



was after. Some of the most notable features of these changes are: The elimination of 'cantilevered' bass bridges; relocating them farther forward (in effect shortening the speaking length while elongating the back scale), revised treble bridge design & placement, relocated V-bars & hitch pins to accommodate new scale designs. Soundboards also received a makeover by integrating variable crown (conic section) with improved rib layout & revised feathering. Also, the grain orientation was shifted, and a 'floating' design was incorporated. Many of these improvements are shared by all models, both grands and verticals, along with other elements specific to each model category or family.

Next Meeting-

The Holiday Dinner @ 7 PM
Purney Residence in Mesa
see page 3 & the map

Because of the WestPac III event next March, our annual Arizona seminar *will not* take place in January — **there will be a regular meeting instead**
Details TBA

*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

	PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD
PHOENIX, ARIZONA CHAPTER	
President : Eliot Lee, RPT	
Vice President: Lucas Hathcock, RPT	
Treasurer: Wendell Smock, RPT	
Recording Secretary: Lyle Cherry	
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There has also been some revision done to action geometry, and all hammers are manufactured by cold press process. All of these design elements were made to improve tone, especially through the bass/tenor transition, more clarity and more efficient soundboard response, just to name a few of the objectives. The elimination of the front aliquots in the high treble is also a welcome change (for those who have tried to



Del Fandrich (center) with Jason Sipe (left-Az Piano) and Young Chang rep Larry Fresch

achieve good unisons and felt as though their ears were bleeding!) Mr. Fandrich pointed

out the fundamental differences between the Young Chang, Weber and Albert Weber lines, and gave a pictorial tour of the factory in Tianjin, China. It is a most impressive place, with its own foundry and veneer mill! This was a very interesting presentation filled with good stories, entertaining anecdotes, and extremely useful information— a benefit for those in attendance. Thanks to Del Fandrich—a piano man who has not only been around the block a time or two, but around the world, and it was a great honor to have his presence here in Phoenix! Also, thanks to Young Chang and Az Piano for their participation and hospitality.



From the President:

This is the dawning of the age of Aquarius, the age of knowledge. It also happens to be December of 2012, the end of the Mayan calendar season 12/21/12 and a pretty scary time if you believe the movie 2012 with John Cusack (I really enjoyed it). With the alignment of the stars, I would imagine more catastrophes are likely to happen, remember this IS the apocalypse. As piano technicians, we are not a high priority. I don't think we're on the speed dial of first responders in New York or New Jersey right now because first there has to be a house to play music in and of course most people will not haul the piano up to the second floor, so the flooding caused by Sandy must have ruined them.

You see training is the most important purpose of our guild. Our patriarch, JC Sr. (not The JC, but Jim Coleman) told me that this will be his last year as an examiner. As far as I know he is the only CTE in Arizona, and is wanting some RPT to upgrade their skills to help our Associates who cannot always find the time to upgrade even though they know the importance.

For this reason 2 or 3 years ago in the By-laws it is written that another meeting per month should be held exclusively for Associates. I proposed it and it passed with our quorum of RPT's and Associates present. We must have separate classes specially designed for the Associates so they too can be Franchised members of PTG. As Rick Florence, the ASU chief technician had said, " Being a RPT should be the minimum requirement of being a piano technician".

In our meeting at Luke's house in October, we have decided to find a project piano to train Associates on. Unfortunately, we don't have the facility to refinish pianos yet. We need to find a more popular grand piano such as a Baldwin, Chickering, Mason Hamlin, Knabe or Steinway. The next question would be where to keep it, I know our VP has offered his place, but maybe someone with more room would like to share their space for such a project. This would be a Win-Win situation for our Associates and chapter. In addition it would be a place where we could have the monthly Associate meeting which I am proposing.

You may also not be aware that any money spent on exams and testing directly goes to our chapter. If you fail the first test, which many of us have, and pass the second test, our chapter will waive the fees for the second test. Please take this opportunity to upgrade your skills. There WILL be so much more work with the influx of disaster victims we have to work together and cooperate to bring harmony in their lives and their pianos.

Looking for a tumultuous new year,

G. Eliot Lee, RPT

✦ Christmas~time is near ✦

That means....You and a guest are invited to the annual

Phoenix Chapter Holiday Dinner

When: Monday December 3rd at 7PM

Where: At the home of Mark & Dawn Purney

➔ 3145 N. 76th Way Mesa, Az 85207

What to bring: BYOB, and if you are inclined,
your musical instrument (there *is* a piano)

Food will be catered for this event, including
vegetarian selections, dessert and soft drinks.

Please Join Us For This End-of-the-Year Gathering

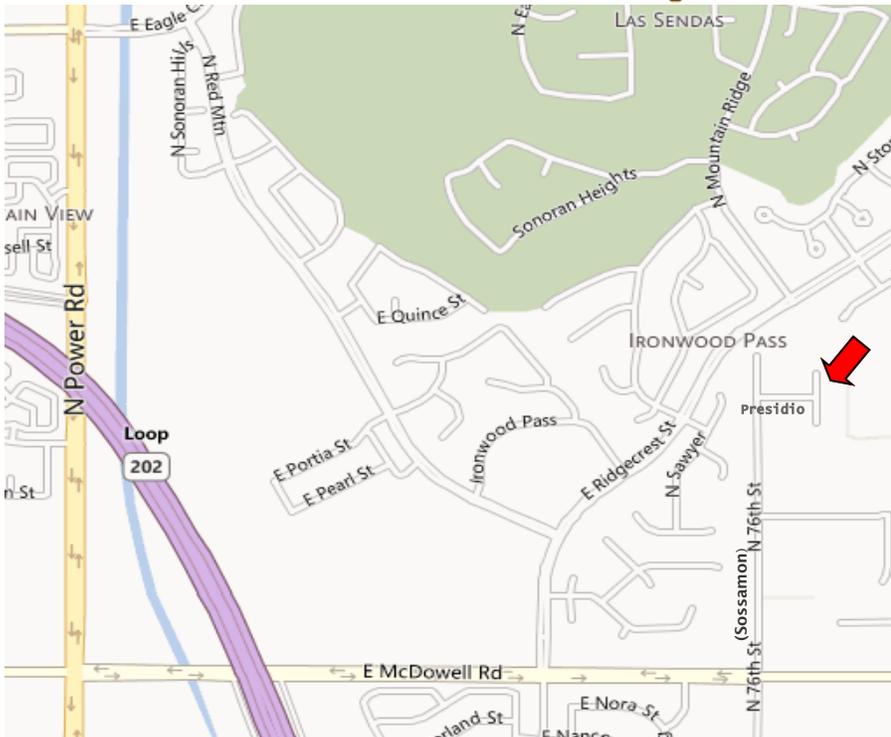


**Be There or
Be Squ~rooge!**



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Map to : Dec. 3, 7PM
the Purney Residence
3145 N. 76th Way
Mesa, Az 85207

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