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Dear Piano Teacher,

What kinds of instruments will your beginners or your youngest students be practicing on this fall? Will they be pianos that delight the ear and stimulate the imagination? It really does matter!

I grew up playing a 50 year old upright piano that had been reconditioned about 10 years before I was born. It had a beautiful rich tone, and was tuned regularly. When repairs were needed, they were done. Unfortunately, as a young child, I was usually the one who had inflicted the damage. The piano still plays beautifully, and is providing inspiration for a new generation of learners.

My wife grew up playing a piano that had been manufactured at about the same time by a reputable company. That piano had been much loved and much played, but by the time she came to it, it was very much in need of repair and reconditioning. It was a piano that really did not offer her a lot back for her effort in practicing, but she liked playing, and got on as best she could. As far as I can tell, the piano was serviced by itinerant tuners who did their work skillfully, but were not prepared to tackle the tougher issues that beset this instrument.

You may well have students whose situations compare to the both scenarios described above. This latest edition of the *Piano Perspectives* newsletter is designed to help parents think about keeping their pianos tuned well so as to encourage their children as they practice. It will also serve to highlight the problem of underestimating the needs of a beginning student when it comes to the choice of an instrument. I would be more than happy to supply you with as many laser-printed copies of this as you need for your students. It can also be freely downloaded and printed from my website.

You may also have students that are practicing on various kinds of electronic instruments. I'm also enclosing a pair of resource sheets from the Piano Technicians Guild website. They are designed to help students (and parents) explore the differences between electronic and acoustic instruments. They will also raise awareness about the difference between the more rudimentary electronic keyboards and their more sophisticated digital counterparts. These resources can be freely downloaded and printed from www.ptg.org.

I trust these newsletters are helpful to you in your communication with their students and their families. In the next couple of issues I would like to explore in a little more detail the "why" of keeping a piano in tune, and outline some factors to keep in mind when an upgrade to a better piano is being considered. Please let me know if there are some other specific issues you would like to see explored in future newsletters.

I wish you all the best in the coming teaching season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Floyd Gadd". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Floyd Gadd
Piano Technicians Guild Associate Member