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Dear Piano Teacher,

Keeping your students motivated and practicing is a key factor in seeing them progress in their musical studies. Identifying and dealing with obstacles that stand in the way is an ongoing part of your teaching. I would like to offer you some help with one key obstacle.

When students practice on pianos that are out of tune, poorly regulated or otherwise malfunctioning, they are cheated of much of the satisfaction that comes from playing. They are giving, but they are not receiving back from their instruments all that they should be enjoying.

The decisions of how and when to maintain the piano often lie in the hands of parents or caregivers. Many are largely unaware of how much the condition of their pianos influences the success of their children's musical studies.

I am in the process of preparing some information pieces that are designed to educate students and parents about the importance of piano maintenance, and about what can be done to make a piano as responsive, expressive and satisfying as possible. The information pieces will take the form of a series of newsletters, one of which I am enclosing with this letter.

Some of the topics I intend to address in future newsletters are as follows:

- Why is it important to keep a practice piano in tune?
- Can the tone of a piano be improved?
- Can the touch of a piano be improved?
- How do I clean my piano?
- What about sluggish notes?
- What do I need to know about purchasing or upgrading?
- Moving a piano
- How can I keep the piano better in tune between tunings?
- Is having a bench in good condition important?
- Dealing with damaged keys
- What is involved in routine piano maintenance?
- When the piano breaks
- Spills

It usually takes repeated exposure to the issue of piano care and maintenance to move people to

action. My present goal is to produce about seven of these newsletters over the course of this calendar year. I would be more than happy to provide copies to you in appropriate quantities for your students, or even to mail them to your students directly.

Please give me a call or email me to let me know how I can best be of service to you in this regard. I will look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,

Floyd Gadd, piano technician
Associate Member of the Piano Technicians Guild