

At the Local

What's happening at and around Local 47

New Mozart Piano Aims to Revolutionize Piano Industry

Debuting what he describes as a revolutionary breakthrough for the piano industry, musician and inventor Gregory Shir presented a special public presentation of his new Mozart Piano Keyboard in the Local 47 Serena Kay and Earl Williams Auditorium Oct. 30.

"Pianists who have played this new instrument claim they are able to perform better with less practice," Shir said. His new piano adjusts the position of the dark keys, which he says makes the instrument easier to play. He says the new design also prevents musicians from developing common back, shoulder and hand problems after long-term use of regular piano keyboards.

Local 47 member, pianist Ralph Alberstrom served as the featured performer of the Mozart Piano at the event. "I highly recommend Shir's redesigned keyboard because it equalizes the upper width of the white keys," Alberstrom said. "Because intervallic distances are more pre-

dictable, the C# (Db) and D# (Eb) keys are technically more accessible in all hand positions, irrespective of individual hand anatomy or finger patterns."

"It seems there is a manufacturing defect built into piano keyboards," said observer Reseda Mickey. "Between some white and black keys there are different distances. It's only about three millimeters, but that is a big difference when you are trying to sight-read without watching your hands." On Shir's keyboard layout, Mickey said she can now make the reaches to perform some Mozart passages that she cannot play on a standard piano.

Shir invites pianist to contact him at gregoryshir@sbcglobal.net if they would like to sample his Mozart Piano or have their keyboard adapted to the new layout. For more information and videos of the new piano in action, visit www.paganinitechnique.com/MozartsPiano.html.



Photos courtesy of Gregory Shir



Ralph Alberstrom looks on as a pianist tries out the new Mozart Piano developed by Gregory Shir (pictured below,

far right), who says the new keyboard layout improves performance because it equalizes the upper width of the white keys.



Describing the merits of Gregory Shir's new Mozart Piano, pianist Ralph Alberstrom uses the beginning of Mozart's famous "Rondo Alla Turca" as an example. "As the right hand runs through the 16th notes with the 4-3-2-1 'rosebud' sequence, it moves to the right easily until the third run in the third and fourth measures," he explains. "The slight changes in the piano key layout allows the hand to more easily be in position."

