

Attachment C – 01/07/20

Piano Soundboard Repair Bid Analysis

By Sharon Montague

Our Kawai grand piano has several cracks in the soundboard. These cracks appeared because of the fluctuating humidity level in the Community Room where it is housed. Originally just a cosmetic issue, the cracks have started to affect the sound, causing a buzzing during usage with low humidity in the room. In addition, the sound board is no longer attached to the ribs that are supposed to keep it stable. For these reasons, it is prudent to get it repaired at this time.

We received four bids ranging in price from \$4,200 to \$8,250. It is recommended that we drop the bid from *American Music World* since they were unwilling/unable to inspect our instrument. The three technicians that did come out and examine the piano said that it was a very valuable instrument and it was worthwhile to fix it. Purchasing a new piano of the same quality would cost somewhere in the \$25,000-\$40,000 range.

Each of the four bids includes transportation of the piano to and from the workshop, removing the strings, dampers, tuning pins and plate, repair and refinishing of the soundboard, and the installation of new strings and tuning pins.

NOTE: The lowest bid from Alden’s Piano does not include a Pianosaver humidifier system which has a cost of \$600-\$800. Ron Alden of Alden’s Piano, LLC does not recommend the Pianosaver system. He feels the Pianosaver humidifier system does not work effectively because it only humidifies some components and thus could be detrimental to the piano. He recommends affectively monitoring the room humidity level to 40-60% humidity to maintain the well-being of the instrument.

Company	Estimated Repair Time	Pianosaver Humidifier System	Warranty	Company Reviews	Bid Amount	Notes
John W. Koelle, Piano Technician, Inc.	4 weeks	YES	5 years	varied	\$6,600	good testimonials on website, mixed reviews on Yelp
Alden's Piano, LLC	3-4 weeks	NO, does not recommend	5 years	very good, few reviews for repairs	\$4,200	concert tuner, good reputation for moving, does not recommend Pianosaver system
Chicago Piano Restoration, Inc.	8-12 weeks	YES	NONE	good, few reviews	\$8,250	longest amount of time for repair/no warranty
American Music World*	unsure	YES	10 years	good, few reviews for repairs	\$6,400	*Did not inspect piano

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board accept the low bid of **Alden’s Piano, LLC** for \$4,200.