

Notes regarding the purchase of West Presbyterian Church's Chickering Grand Piano

Mark Olson, Elder of West and New Castle Presbytery Trustee, and Doug Gerdts, Pastor of First & Central and New Castle Presbytery Treasurer, have been authorized to sell the former West Presbyterian Church and its contents. Included is the grand piano that was used in the worship space.

An appraisal of the Chickering piano was recently completed and a copy of it is attached along with a current photograph.

If you are interested in buying the piano, please submit a bid to:

Mark Olson at MOlson@morrisjames.com

If you would like to see the piano or have questions, please contact:

Doug Gerdts at gerdts@fandc.org

**Time is of the essence and bids need to be submitted
no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 30th, 2009.**

David B. McDowell Piano Services

23 Ketcham Court, Landenberg, PA 19350-1047

302-655-7477 voice

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June 3, 2009

West Presbyterian Church
Attn: David Schelat
500 W. 8th Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

**Re: Chickering Grand SN 144363 and
Yamaha U3 Upright SN 2316388**

Dear David,

I have inspected and evaluated both of the above pianos and the following are my thoughts:

Chickering Grand

The Chickering was made in 1927 and sometime in the intervening years has had some work done on it. It appears that the piano has been restrung including new hammers, new dampers and larger than original tuning pins. It also appears that the action has been regulated when the other work was done.

Chickering was an above average brand of piano. In my opinion it was better than a Wurlitzer, Kohler & Campbell or Lester piano of the same vintage but not quite as good as a Sohmer, Mason & Hamlin or Steinway of that time. Today Chickering is owned by Gibson guitars which also owns Baldwin and Wurlitzer. From my research so few are sold that the name doesn't appear in the 2008-2009 Larry Fine reference book The Piano Book except for the reference "see Baldwin." The piano is in good condition for its age because of the work that has been done. I did a sample tuning unisons in the bass, mid-range and treble and the tuning pins were tight in my sampling. The piano is very close to A440 (concert pitch). The hammers are still basically new and show very little wear. The piano also has a climate control system (DampChaser) installed.

As we discussed, at some point the piano will need further rebuilding to replace the sound board, bridges and pin block. The cost to rebuild the piano would be between \$20,000 and \$30,000.00 and in my opinion exceeds the value of the instrument. In my search of the Internet, prices for similar completely rebuilt Chickering were below \$20,000.00. This particular piano has not been completely rebuilt and I would estimate its value at between \$4,000 and \$6,000.00.

The perfect blend of art and craftsmanship!

