

"The Grand Piano Specialist"



Exclusively Grand & Baby Grands Bought • Sold • Restored

A Complete Piano Restoration Facility & Showroom

About Our Company

Michael Sweeney has been working in the piano restoration business for nearly 30 years. Having sought private apprenticeship with established technicians as well as academic studies at Temple University, Michael and his staff have established themselves as the premier piano craftsmen in the Delaware Valley.

4th Year in a Row!

Voted
Best of the
Main Line
2002–2005

By the Readers of
Main Line Life

Besides piano technology, at Sweeney Piano we also appreciate not only the simple, elegant beauty of the grand piano, but also the way pianos gather families and friends together. Pianos are intrinsically inviting. They suggest sociality, participation and holiday cheer. In fact, the piano -- especially the grand piano -- reflects what is perhaps most unique about humanity: the sophistication of art and the refinement of human cultural achievement. But even on an everyday level, as many customers have testified, pianos have the amazing ability to transform houses into homes.



Michael Sweeney is a Craftsman Member of
the Piano Technicians Guild &
the Master Piano Technicians of America





OUR CUSTOMERS LOVE US... ...AND FOR GOOD REASONS!

At Sweeney Piano Company, we are dedicated to excellence in grand and baby grand pianos only and exclusively. We do more than we need to, before we are asked to, not because we have to, but because we want to. Our commitment to this philosophy is best evidenced by the things that our customers say. Here is a sampling of the kind words that our customers routinely express. These complimentary comments, among many others, wallpaper our showroom and are available for your review.

"Doing business with you restored my faith in humanity. I would recommend you to any of my friends. Thank you! "

Edward B. Weinstein

Elkins Park, Pa.

"To the folks at Steinway and Sons:

I wish to advise you how pleased I am! Mr. Sweeney is an excellent craftsman and his attitude is refreshing and reflective of his devotion to his work. I commend you for having such a fine associate. Thank you for sending Mr. Sweeney to repair my piano. I've been very fortunate!"

Helen D. Armstrong

Glassboro, N.J.

"I had to take a moment to tell you how pleased we are with the restoration of our piano. The quality of your work, your caring and courtesy are most difficult to find in this era. We are glad there are still people like you around."

Harvey Voron Esq.

*Gerson Capek & Voron
Philadelphia, Pa.*

"Our piano, thanks to your excellent workmanship is in fine shape. We think of you often and am constantly reminded of your excellent repair of our grand piano. Best wishes!"

Margaret A. Merriman

*Piano Teacher
Hatboro, Pa.*

"The piano is beautiful. Thanks for the excellent craftsmanship."

Mary G. Heller-Cope

Bend, Oregon

"Nice rebuilding job on the Scott's piano."

Ronald L. Berry, R.P.T.

Berry Piano Service

"I Love my piano!!!

Tommy Conwell

"For so many months I've been meaning to write you to tell you how much joy & pleasure the baby grand brought to our home. Kind regards."

Donna White

Wenonah, N.J

"I thank you for creating an absolutely beautiful piano."

Lenore Boccia

Media, Pa.

"We truly made the best decision. We love the piano!

Thanks for bearing with us and guiding us so gently & generously. You certainly lived up to all the fine things that we heard before hand.

Alan, Marilyn Mauer & Kids

It's so very rare to find people who care as much after the sale as before. Thanks.

Pat Eleersold

Philadelphia, Pa.

"Just a note to thank you for all the careful work in restoring our Steinway. It surely sounds great!"

The Henderons

*White Horse Village
Newtown Square, Pa.*

"I want to tell you how thrilled we are with the piano we bought from you last year. We really appreciate you and your company."

Gary Molholt

*Director, West Chester University
West Chester, Pa.*

"It certainly is a refreshing experience in today's market to deal with a person who puts so much of himself in his work. I would be happy to recommend you to other potential customers."

R.A. Rogowski

Thorton, Pa.

MICHAEL SWEENEY PIANO CRAFTSMAN, INC.

610-688-6155

www.sweeneypiano.com

Wayne, PA



OUR CUSTOMERS LOVE US... ...AND FOR GOOD REASONS!

"Thank you! This is long overdue for the superb restoration on our beloved baby grand. We remain very impressed."

Claudia & David Steckel
Allentown, Pa.

"Wanted to let you know how happy-ecstatic I am with the piano. You do excellent work and the piano is restored far beyond our expectations."

Rhoda Joseph
Buckingham, Pa.

"Best regards and many thanks for your wonderful work on my Steinway."

Deborah Dever
Glenmoore, Pa.

"It's rare this day and age to meet people who clearly love their job and take personal pride in the finished product. You are one in a million!"

Jackie and Eric Maller

"I have been very appreciative of the excellent rebuilding job you did for my Steinway "B". Your follow up is prompt efficient and courteous. It's a pleasure doing business with you."

Diana Post
Belmont Hills, Pa.

"I cannot describe how much I love my baby grand. Thank you so much for the gift of music in my home and heart."

Jamie VanBuskirk
Boothwyn, Pa.

"Thank you for finding us a super addition to our family. We couldn't be more thrilled with our piano."

Bonnie & Jon O'Neil
Berwyn, Pa.

"Thank you for all of your help in procuring both pianos for St. Mary's. I'm thrilled with both instruments! Thanks for your excellent work."

Neil Troutman
Philadelphia, Pa.

"It was a pleasure meeting with you at your shop yesterday. I believe we have truly found a treasure."

Carl E. Dranoff
Dranoff Properties
Philadelphia, Pa.

My personal thanks for your courtesy in matters and of course for excellence in your expertise and dedication.

Kathryn Barone
Director
Bryn Mawr Conservatory of Music

"After weeks of shopping, I'm grateful a friend recommended your shop to me. Your personal attention, expertise & low pressure approach were a refreshing alternative to other piano establishments. Thank you"

Ron Kerber
Ron Kerber Music
Southampton, Pa.

"The piano is superb example of your craftsmanship. It will be one of life's greatest joys."

Eleanor Lundy
Collegeville, Pa.

"Thanks so much for your professional work. The piano turned out better than anyone could ever imagine. We are very impressed with your craftsmanship and effort. Thank you."

Dr. Jeffrey S. Leigh
Annapolis, Md.

"Thanks for your excellent service beginning with the original tour of your work shop and ending with the complete finishing of the final touches on the piano. Thanks again for a great piano!"

Brad D. Berry
King of Prussia, Pa.

MICHAEL SWEENEY PIANO CRAFTSMAN, INC.
378 West Lancaster Avenue • Wayne, PA 19087
(610) 688-6155

The Piano Restoration Process

With thirty one years experience in restoring grand & baby grand pianos, we have had plenty of time to refine our meticulous process. We are able to confidently return vintage classic pianos back to the way they looked and sounded when new. We guarantee that you will be delighted with the results of our careful work. Our craftsmen begin restoration work according to our 25 step process which is our guide to assure you spectacular results.

- **DISASSEMBLE THE CABINET AND PARTS**
- **REMOVE THE CAST IRON PLATE.**
- **SAND AND REFINISH THE BRIDGES AND SOUNDBOARD.**
- **STRIP AND SAND THE CABINET, FURNITURE PARTS AND BENCH.**
- **FINISH IN THE ORIGINAL COLOR UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUESTED**
- **APPLY 22 TOTAL COATS OF PIANO FINISH AND SAND IN BETWEEN COATS.**
- **CLEAN, SAND, REGUILD AND DRESS THE PLATE WITH THE APPROPRIATE FELTS.**
- **REMOVE AND INSPECT THE PIN BLOCK (DUPLICATE IF NEEDED).**
- **REMOVE AND INSPECT & LUBRICATE THE UNDERLEVER TRAY.**
- **TIGHTEN THE UNDERLEVERS AND CHECK THE FELT BUSHINGS ALONG WITH THE DAMPER GUIDE RAIL.**
- **REBUSH ACTION PARTS WHERE NEEDED.**
- **REINSTALL AND ALIGN THE CAST IRON PLATE.**
- **SET THE DOWN BEARING AND INSTALL NEW STRINGS AND TUNING PINS.**
- **CHIP TUNE THE PIANO STRINGS TO CONCERT PITCH NUMEROUS TIMES.**
- **REMOVE ORIGINAL FELT FROM THE DAMPER BLOCKS AND REFINISH.**
- **CUT AND INSTALL NEW DAMPER FELT AND INSTALL.**
- **REGULATE DAMPERS TO THE BACK OF THE KEY AND THE SUSTAIN PEDAL.**
- **SHAPE, FILE AND SPACE HAMMERS.**
- **ESTABLISH THE HAMMER HEIGHT IN RELATION TO KEY HEIGHT AND DIP FOR PROPER AFTER TOUCH & FEEL.**
- **ADJUST LET-OFF, DROP, AND BACK CHECKS.**
- **TUNE PIANO IN SHOP SEVERAL MORE TIMES TO A-440 CONCERT PITCH.**
- **REFINE DAMPER REGULATION AFTER THEY HAVE SETTLED.**
- **CLEAN AND BUFF ALL CABINET HARDWARE AND ASSEMBLE PIANO.**
- **FINAL INSPECTION AND APPROVAL BY MICHAEL SWEENEY PERSONALLY**
- **PROFESSIONALLY TRANSPORT AND SET-UP THE PIANO IN YOUR HOME WITH FOLLOW UP & TUNING IN THE HOME.**

This restoration process is one that we have had the pleasure and good fortune to participate in over 2,000 times. And it is always a joy to breath new life in these good old American made classics.

Musically yours,

Michael Sweeney

REVIEWS OF SWEENEY PIANO

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Philadelphia Business

SECTION D

B

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2002

www.philly.com

A man in tune with the past

In Wayne, Michael Sweeney restores and sells older American pianos.

By Claire Furia Smith
FOR THE INQUIRER

While modern factories in Asia manufacture hundreds of grand pianos a day, Michael Sweeney is one of a few local piano craftsmen on a mission to save the old American piano.

His business, Michael Sweeney Piano Craftsman, Inc. in Wayne, rebuilds, refinishes, and sells **grands and baby grands manufactured from the late 1800s to World War II, and era that was considered the instrument's golden age...**

...Today, nostalgia and a desire for **Steinway-like quality without the cost of a new instrument** generate business for piano restorers. Some musicians say older pianos' tone has more "heart and soul," Sweeney said.

Jody O'Rourke said she **brought her 1926 Steinway baby grand to Sweeney for a complete restoration** because it had been damaged by age and smoke. She said the instrument had sentimental value because her father had played it as a boy.

"It sounds like a new piano," she said. "It's beautiful."

Kathryn Barone, director of the Bryn Mawr Conservatory of Music, said many of her students were using pianos that their families had bought from Sweeney or had restored by him.

"He's a fine craftsman," Barone said...



Michael Sweeney works with a baby grand piano's harp.

Some of the American pianos he restores date to the 1890s. In Wayne, he restores pianos brought to him by their owners, and buys and restores other pianos for resale.

At Sweeney Piano Company, we are dedicated to excellence in grand and baby grand pianos only and exclusively. We do more than we need to, before we are asked to, not because we have to, but because we want to.

REVIEWS OF SWEENEY PIANO

MAINLINE TIMES

Editorial... page 14

Op-Ed... page 15

Calendar... page 16

MAIN LINE TIMES

MAY 5, 1994 • 13

Making Music On The Main Line

BY JUDITH PRANSKY

...But from the late 1800s until the 1940s, "there were really no inferior pianos made." And many of those magnificent instruments are continually refurbished and enjoyed by Main Line families..."Newer pianos leave you cold," Sharon Harvey says. "They're all boxes and cookie cutters."...Often there is a better sound quality in older pianos, Sweeney claims. "They have warmth, deep, rich tones," Older pianos are significantly heavier, too, and they were all hand made...

...Neither did Ingrid Engstrom hesitate to refurbish her family's piano. It is an elegant 1917 Mason and Hamlin that her family brought with them from Holland in the 1950s. Ingrid Engstrom's stepmother, a piano teacher, taught her to play on that piano as a child. Her stepmother perished in a fire that destroyed her St. David's home. Michael Sweeney was able to repair the smoke and water damage to the piano that Ingrid Engstrom wanted as a keepsake.

"I didn't play for forty-something years," says Ingrid Engstrom, who now resides in Florida. "But the piano is special enough to me that I'm relearning to play."

REVIEWS OF SWEENEY PIANO

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MD6

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Marketplace

Monday, July 25, 1994

Fine older grand and baby grand pianos captivate Michael Sweeney. He restores them.

On piano, craftsman is playing grand role

By Mary Blakinger
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

"From 1890 to 1943, that was the heyday of piano manufacturing. "...

...Craftsmen install new strings, restore keys, refurbish the cast-iron plate that holds the strings, and repair the soundboard. They also regulate the piano's action, synchronizing the movement of every key so that each performs consistently...

The Suburban

erving the Main Line for 107 years

Volume 107, No.24

Monday, December 7, 1992

50 Cents

Michael Sweeney brings art of piano crafting to Wayne

...he has built a career on a different philosophy, one that stresses personal attention to both instrument and customer...

"People in this area appreciate pianos. They know how much a fine instrument can add to a home, both in its beauty and the music it creates."...Nodding towards his impressive inventory, he concluded, "I try to offer the best value in everything I sell, whether it's a compact spinet or a seven-foot Steinway grand. Both get the same careful attention in my shop, and every instrument, regardless of its size or price carries my unconditional guarantee."