

Pianos Inside Out

Pianos Inside Out subtitled "A Comprehensive Guide to Piano Tuning, Repairing and Rebuilding" by Mario Igréc. Published by In Tune Press 539 pages. The book is currently available in mainland Europe from Jahn Pianoteile for Euro 75, in the UK from Heckscher & Co Ltd and H.J.Fletcher & Newman Ltd. The book is quite a weighty tome at 1.3 kg and measures 28 x 21.5 x 2.5cm. It has a heavy paper cover, over 700 black and white photographs, charts and drawings. The binding is stitched so it lies flat and should be durable without pages falling out.

This is very much an internet connected book, see: www.pianosinsideout.com

Throughout are links to various websites of research, archives, piano manufacturers, tools, and suppliers. On the website there is a biography of Mario, a long list of links that appear in the book for ease of use, blogs, a Facebook page plus much more including non European suppliers of the book. Also, one can download a few pages of each chapter as a pdf to get a sample of what is on offer. Footnotes are provided at the bottom of the pages again for ease of use. As the book is in English and Mario is a native of Croatia but lives in the USA the book is biased towards the states but there is much European content as well. By linking with the internet the content should be kept very up to date.

This is the most comprehensive book on piano technology that has been written in recent times. There are ten chapters, six ap-

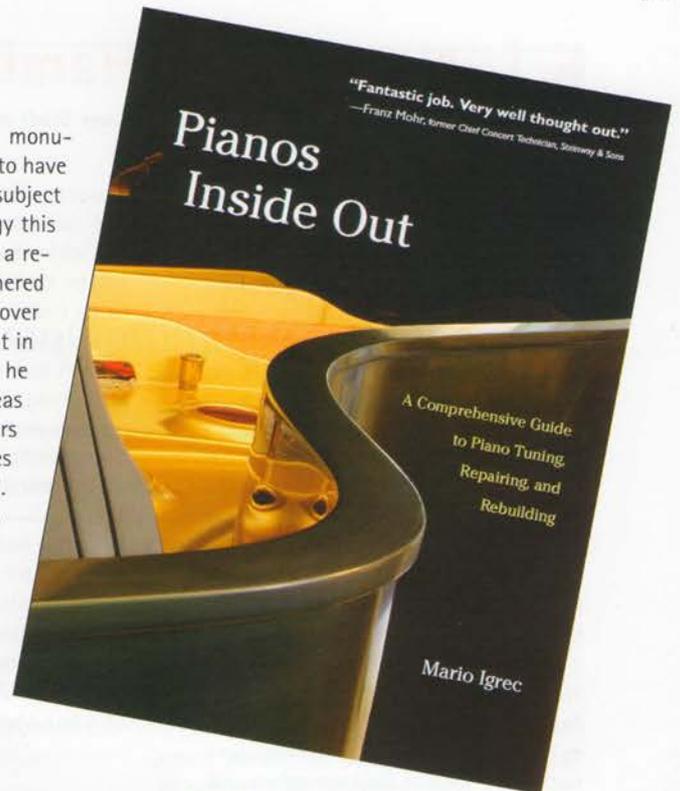
pendices and an index. It is a monumental work and if one wants to have the latest information on the subject of piano tuning and technology this is the book to own and use as a reference. The author has gathered together information from all over the piano world and presents it in a logical way. It is his work but he has had contributions and ideas from many well known tuners and technicians which makes the book interesting and varied. I imagine most everything is covered in the piano technical world or if not there will be a link or reference.

Copying a list of subjects from the press release of this book gives one a flavour of how up to date it is.

- Wave impedance and soundboard performance
- Coincident partial tuning
- Interval inharmonicity
- Touchweight analysis
- String leveling
- Modern lubricants

These were not subjects I was taught 30 years ago.

Chapters include history, construction and design, maintenance, tuning, regulating, voicing, repairs, rebuilding among others. The tuning chapter is to be commended for including a good description of inharmonicity. Chapter 9 titled Touch, Geometry, Playability, is a very advanced and detailed trip though



hammer weight, friction, action geometry and how this all affects the way the piano feels to the pianist. This is a subject which has not been covered in much depth in a piano technical books before now but has become a topic that has much interest to technicians and pianists.

Pianos inside out is an excellent book; highly readable and recommended for piano owners, piano technicians and those learning about piano technology.

Rick Ohlendorf MPTA



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