



Redding Piano Angels

# Notable News

April 2014

## PIANO UPDATE

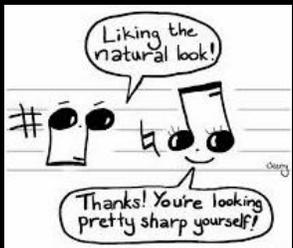
Since 2010, we have assisted 44 families in the acquisition of an acoustic piano!

Value \$47,917



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## REDDING PIANO ANGELS

A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation devoted to connecting young piano students with acoustic pianos.  
Tax ID #45-2909787

## RPA's Second Piano Competition

This Year's Winner will Take Home a Yamaha P-22 45" Upright

Redding Piano Angels' First Piano Competition last April was a wonderful success! Conica Patnaik's student and our winner, Jake, received a 48" Yamaha upright piano, model T121, in virtually new condition! The audience included piano teachers, families, and generous donors.

Our Second Annual Piano Competition is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 6:00 PM, at the Music Connection in Redding. This year's prize for the winning student is a beautiful light oak Yamaha P-22, 45" upright piano!

We are looking for piano students, age 6-14, with obvious potential, who are practicing on a "keyboard" or other sub-standard instrument, and whose family financial situation prohibits the buying of an acoustic piano. We are planning for 25 participants and hope that you have at least one student who will compete. They have six weeks to prepare!



At the competition, impartial judges will narrow the field to 10 students, who will play again, and then to 5 for the final judging. The winner receives the truly wonderful Yamaha piano, and second and third place winners will each receive a gift certificate from Music Connection in Redding.

The criteria for the competition is on page 3. We understand the competition process is almost as important as the final decision, and students will benefit from participating.

If you have any questions about Redding Piano Angels or this event, feel free to contact Tienne Beaulieu at 243-1191 or [tienne11@yahoo.com](mailto:tienne11@yahoo.com).

## Competition Criteria

- ♪ A letter of recommendation from your piano teacher explaining why you believe the student(s) has above average potential
- ♪ A brief letter from the family showing financial need
- ♪ A letter from the student explaining why they love taking lessons and what they hope to achieve
- ♪ The student must prepare three pieces to play at the competition (memorization is encouraged, but not required)
- ♪ The student must have a willingness to play in a recital and go through the judging process the day of the competition
- ♪ This year's winner will perform at next year's competition

## Competition Sponsorship

### \$100 Sponsorship

- ♪ Your name/business name in the program
- ♪ Your business card in our next newsletter
- ♪ You will be personally introduced at the competition
- ♪ Your name listed on [www.reddingpianoangels.com](http://www.reddingpianoangels.com)





“... seeing the faces of the children ...”

**Our Mission** is to assist piano students in the acquisition of an acoustic piano.

**Our Vision** is to create opportunities for piano students to enhance their skills and musicianship.

**Our Purpose** is to acquire used pianos for student use.

**We are** Redding area residents who believe students deserve to have a functional piano in order to advance their skills.

**We identify** and acquire pianos that are suitable for student and family use, resulting in placement with qualifying individuals.

**Our love** for piano music is the foundation for our commitment to its promotion.

### PRESIDENT

Frank J. Strazzarino, Jr.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tienne Beaulieu  
Treasurer

Valerie Washburn  
Secretary

Evelyn Peterson  
Program Manager



## President's Corner

Frank J. Strazzarino, Jr.

It is with great pleasure we present our third newsletter! I want to thank my dedicated board members and our program coordinator for their diligence in getting this done. As you can see, we have achieved some impressive benchmarks and are now preparing for our second piano competition.

None of this would be possible without our committed sponsors and supporters who have been most generous. Like any small organization, these dollars go a long way.

While everyone has been extremely helpful, I receive the added pleasure of seeing the faces of the children and families we have helped. Even though every piano we locate is a unique transaction, it brings us great pleasure to have achieved over 44 placements, totaling over \$50,000 in piano value.

One surprising fact is that we have had to turn down approximately 70% of the pianos offered. We do need to maintain rather rigorous standards to ensure the families that we serve receive a good working piano.

Our vetting process, assisted by board members and wonderful piano tuners like Don Sheely, allows us to give the families a level of certainty that the pre-owned piano will perform well and hold its tuning. This is no small detail. So, if you hear of a situation where we appear to be rejecting a generous offer, please realize our commitment to our recipients.

Oh, and one more thing ... we are sure having a lot of fun doing this!

## In The News

### Redding Library Receives Piano Donation

Redding, CA – Thanks to generous donations by Redding Piano Angels, The Music Connection, Lee and Judy Salter, and Frank and Carol Strazzarino, the Redding Library received a beautiful new Yamaha Clavinova CL430 Digital Piano. The piano unveiling was Wednesday, September 25, at 10:00 am, in the Fireside Room at the Redding Library.

*“In addition to being compact and requiring no tuning, this piano has two headsets to listen to a practice session or play duets in silence. A metronome, transpose function, brilliance control and digital effects such as concert-hall reverb and many other features are also included,”* states Frank J. Strazzarino, Redding Piano Angels president.

The piano is located on the second floor of the library in the Fireside Reading Room and is available for the public to play. *“Our goal is to provide a piano for anyone who wants to play to practice for a lesson, or to use just for the enjoyment of playing,”* said Judy Salter.

Those interested in using the piano should contact the Redding Library's 2nd floor Information Desk at 245-7252 for availability. Library hours are Monday - Thursday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Sunday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Sally MacMillan, owner of The Music Connection, comments, *“We are proud to support music in Redding, and happy to be a part of the community.”*

Jan Erickson, Library Director, adds, *“The Library appreciates the generosity of the donors of this wonderful resource. The piano is a significant addition to the Library's services and enhances the Library's music collection.”*

(continued on  
page 4)





## SPECIAL THANKS!

Greg Balkovek  
Dr. John Busterna  
Don Chapman  
Allyn Clark  
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Pat Corey, McHale Sign Co.  
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Lee & Judy Salter  
Dave Scott, DH Scott &  
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Don Sheely, piano tuner  
Sierra Pacific Foundation  
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Frank & Elaine Strazzarino  
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Robert Strazzarino  
Stephanie Strazzarino  
Darryl Sutterfield  
Marguerite Sweeney-  
Edralin  
Scott Swendiman  
Mike Warren  
Sally Wells

## DONATIONS

Make check payable to:  
**Redding Piano Angels**  
2440 Pinion Court  
Redding CA 96002

## Teacher Profile

Ronald Allen Cole, teacher of many award-winning students over forty years, is a well-known pianist and teacher throughout the western United States. Ron has gained a considerable reputation as a pianist giving concerts both as soloist and accompanist with various orchestras and ensembles. While a student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, he was awarded the "Rice Memorial Award" for pianists.

Ron maintains a large following of piano students and has coached students in international piano competitions. He has served as past president of both the Performing Arts Society of Contra Costa County and the Shasta Symphony and was a member of the Board of Directors of the North State Symphony. He is a faculty member of the National Guild of Piano Teachers and is a member of the California Music Teachers Assoc.

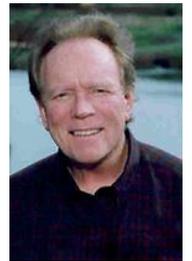
Ron has a BA in music and a music credential from California State University, Hayward. He attended graduate music studies at UC Berkeley, studying composition with Joaquin Nin-Culmell, and studied piano with Marcus Gordon at the SF Conservatory of Music (Mr. Gordon's teacher was the legendary pianist Josef Lhevinne). Ron's theory professor was Sol Joseph.

Additionally, Ron attended Master Classes at Mill's College with John Browning and Karl Ulrich Schnabel. Other piano teachers were Julian White, Rudolph Hainke, and Edelgard Hainke.

Besides his role as performer and teacher, Ron has been active in music education and therapy. He directed rehabilitation programs in music for the California State Penal System at San Quentin.

Ron Cole Piano Studio is located at 1320 Yuba St., Suite B1 Redding, CA 96001 and can be contacted at 530.245.0815.

## Ron Cole



## Teacher's Corner

### Touch

As piano teachers, we look for talent in our students and then hope to find ways to encourage that foundation so it can blossom fully over time. A pianist must become adept in several key aspects of musicianship to become masterful. Hearing, and the development of a good ear, is very important. Helping to expose students to great music will greatly facilitate fine tuning of this sense. I encourage students to listen to the masters, even though they may be steeped in our superficial pop culture. To hear our wonderful Northstate Symphony to open their senses. To listen to piano masterpieces and symphonic works as well. And, I play their new music for them, modeling the sounds that are possible, giving them something to emulate. They are having their lessons on my Yamaha C3, which has a great dynamic range and plenty of power.

As teachers, we know many of our students go home to practice not on grand pianos, but more limited instruments like consoles, spinets or electronic keyboards. I know keyboards have improved their touch sensitivity, BUT I also know that the electronic sound and limited action of the keys will never deliver the real goods.

So, I send my students home hoping they 1) do their practice assignments in a focused manner and 2) have an instrument that can allow for the most important aspect of pianism - touch.

Simply put, how we touch the keys creates the sound. Having an ongoing technical practice is paramount to interpreting the music beautifully and attuning the hands to the ears, but all the technique in the world cannot overcome a substandard and/or untuned instrument. That is why Piano Angels seeks to place good practice pianos into the homes of aspiring students, and why we keep reaching out to area teachers and families to facilitate this goal. We know many families cannot afford to upgrade practice instruments, or are simply unaware of that need.

Playing the piano enhances education, intelligence and happiness through achievement. We hope to "touch" as many students as we possibly can!

## Tienne Beaulieu



## CONTACT US

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**Tienne Beaulieu**  
Treasurer  
530-243-1191  
[tienne11@yahoo.com](mailto:tienne11@yahoo.com)

Your tax deductible  
contributions are  
always welcome!



## VISIT

[www.reddingpianoangels.com](http://www.reddingpianoangels.com)  
to view:

- RPA brochure
- piano acceptance policy
- piano request form



"My next selection is a protest  
song against piano lessons."

## Special Thanks

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3336 Bechelli Lane, Ste. B phone (530) 223-4324  
Redding, CA 96002 fax (530) 223-4323  
cell (530) 515-3293  
[dorabook2000@yahoo.com](mailto:dorabook2000@yahoo.com)

## WISH LIST

- Previously owned pianos in good condition  
(see Piano Acceptance Policy at  
[www.reddingpianoangels.com](http://www.reddingpianoangels.com))
- Sheet music
- Instructional books

## WHERE TO PLACE YOUR PIANO

**Put the piano in a part of the house that isn't lonely and/or where the TV is located.**

Two of the biggest reasons children don't practice is because they're either lonely in a distant room of the house or because everyone else wants to watch the television and the piano is in the same room. Having the piano hidden away communicates that the piano is not useful, and having the piano and TV competing for acoustic space is just asking for conflict in your family.



*Redding Piano Angels*

2440 Pinion Court  
Redding CA 96002

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## In The News (continued from page 2)

[www.aNewsCafe.com](http://www.aNewsCafe.com)

by Debra Atlas January 27, 2014

Although many things are being recycled these days, pianos rarely are. Beautiful to look at and listen to, they often end up discarded, trashed or dumped in landfills. But sometimes there are angels who step in and give these once lovely instruments a second chance.

Read entire article:

[anewscafe.com/2014/01/27/pianos-get-new-life-through-reddings-piano-angels](http://anewscafe.com/2014/01/27/pianos-get-new-life-through-reddings-piano-angels).

## SEARCHING FOR A USED PIANO?

View [www.reddingpianoconnection.com](http://www.reddingpianoconnection.com).