**Orientation to Piano Handling for Stage Crew**

Current price of new piano: S&S D = $217k, Yamaha C6 = $80k

Moving – push.

* Not on keyboard or keyslip etc. Structurally sound parts.
* Go slow. About 1/3 as fast as you think is ok. (Show picture of piano upside down)
* Avoid cracks/cut-outs in stage (show the broken leg)
* When passing through doorways or narrow spaces: spotters on both sides, go even slower.
* Electric/audio cables

Wheels/brakes (large brass type)

* Tighten brakes when parked, loosen brakes when moving.
* Tighten = go to point of contact and then just a little more. NOT as tight as you can!
* Loosen = ¼ turn. NOT 3 turns!
* “Snug is good, tight is bad”
* Try to leave large brass piano wheels pointing forward or backwards, not out or in.

Trucks: (spider dolly/stage truck)

Trucks: “Pianomover”

* Placement of rubber bumpers underneath piano
* Raise bumpers via threaded stem. How close to piano beams and bottom of keybed, then engage jack
* Hydraulic jack – don’t press the red button no matter how inviting it is.
* Key must be closed when raising jack.
* Key slowly released to lower piano. Maintain control, not sudden.
* Try to leave large brass piano wheels pointing forward or backwards, not out or in.
* Keep key in closed position when done lowering.

Tapes/adhesives

* Please don’t use gaff tape, duct tape, etc.
* Polyester finish more durable than lacquer

Food & drink

* NO!

Stuff on top of and near the piano

* Piano is not a table.
* In storage, make sure that stand rack and chairs won’t be pushed into piano

Piano bench

* Don’t drag it
* Lift by handles
* Hold close to your body
* Piano music desk

Piano lid

* Don’t move piano with lid up
* Long stick, short stick, which holes
* Usually long stick for solo piano, short stick for accompaniment. Ask.
* Front flap should be open before raising lid
* If requested to remove lid: tap out hinge pins with needle-nose pliers and hammer. Careful not to scratch side of piano
* Lift lid straight up before moving.
* Have a place to put the lid before moving! Table with blanket is good.

Piano cover

* Fold with white cotton innards facing in
* place on chair or table, not on floor

Music desk

* Sometimes artists want it removed. Make sure to put it back the right way (felt/leather strip facing keys) or it will be embarrassing for crew to walk out on stage to put it right.

Fallboard lock

* Don’t lose it! (Put label on it so people will know what it is and where to return it if found)

Piano technician needs

* Please have piano in place before tuning. The more time piano has on stage to acclimate (lighting/heat/humidity conditions), the better chance the piano will stay in tune.
* Please be kind to your tuner! Tuners are generally happy to work around you but certain things make work very difficult: noise, vacuum, genie beeping, music being played.