

Date: 11-01-2012

Client: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Address: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Brand: Baldwin

Model: C

Serial #: 12384

Date of Manufacture: 1905

History:

The Baldwin Piano Company, once the largest US-based manufacturer of keyboard instruments, has a history of building pianos that dates back to the 1890s, in Cincinnati. At one time, it was one of the only true rivals to the world-renowned Steinway & Sons, of New York, with many of the world's most famous artists endorsing its instruments, including Leonard Bernstein, Claudio Arrau, Liberace, and Earl Wild. After enduring two bankruptcies, it was acquired by Gibson Guitar Corporation, which continued to manufacture Baldwin pianos in Arkansas until 2008, when it ceased US production. Currently, all Baldwin pianos are manufactured in China, and are of a fundamentally different design than the US-built models. Old Baldwin grand pianos, while currently not as sought after as Steinway or Mason & Hamlin, still enjoy a substantial cult following, and are considered worthy of restoration (unlike many other early 20th century brands).

Condition summary:

Your piano was built by Baldwin at its Cincinnati factory, in 1905, and appears to be in original condition. After thorough evaluation, I have determined that the piano requires extensive restoration to be considered useable. Once this work is completed, it would be suitable for professional use by discriminating pianists, and its musical performance could rival or exceed Steinway's equivalently sized model, which currently sells new for \$76,000. Once restored, your Baldwin would be worth somewhere between \$15,000- \$30,000 at the retail level, depending on the quality and extent of restoration. As is, it is worth between \$500- \$1,000 to a piano wholesaler or rebuilder. While it is not in suitable condition to sell or donate to the general public in its current state, it is too valuable to throw away due to its potential restored value.

Inspection results in detail:

- Multiple large cracks in soundboard, indicating structural failure of soundboard.
- Pin block is not structurally sound, resulting in low tuning pin torque and rendering the piano un-tunable. Pin block is also sagging and delaminating, which prevents keyboard mechanism from pulling out for service.
- Hairline cracks on bridge cap.
- Highly corroded strings.
- Action parts are dark, indicating extensive oxidation of the wood. Some parts are broken.
- Extensive damage to key tops.
- All notes severely out of adjustment. Many do not work.
- Pedals are out of adjustment and/or do not work at all.
- Music desk is missing and music desk glide on left side is damaged.

- Exterior finish is extensively worn.
- Piano is wobbly when subjected to pushing force. (Do not attempt to move)

Recommended work to be done for best performance:

- Refinish case and harp
- Replace brass hardware (hinges, pedals, etc.)
- Re-cap/re-pin bridge, replace pin block and tuning pins, replace soundboard, replace strings
- Replace keyset
- Replace top action and damper action
- Refurbish key frame
- Refurbish trap work
- Repair music desk glides and acquire music desk

Estimated cost of recommended work: \$20,000- \$30,000

Bare minimum required to restore playability:

- Refurbish/re-pin bridge, replace pin block and tuning pins, repair soundboard, replace strings
- Refurbish keyset/replace key tops
- Replace top action and damper action
- Refurbish key frame
- Refurbish trap work
- Repair music desk glides and acquire music desk
- Refurbish brass hardware

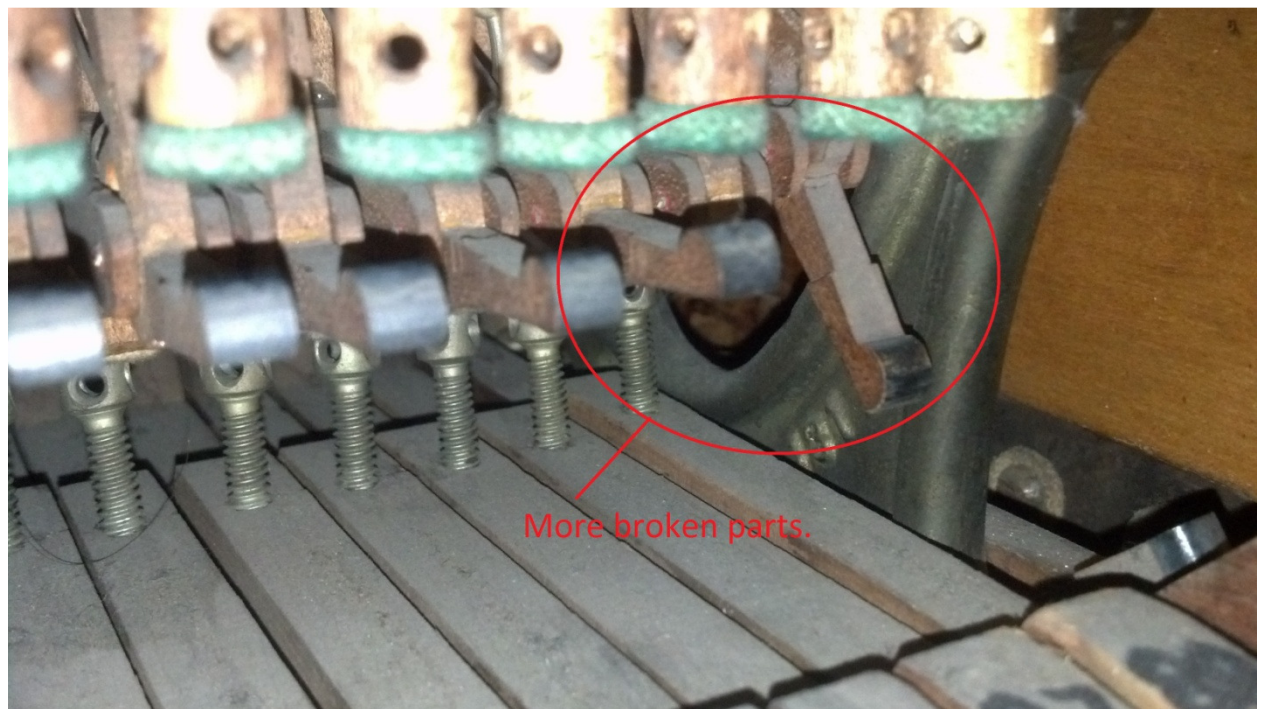
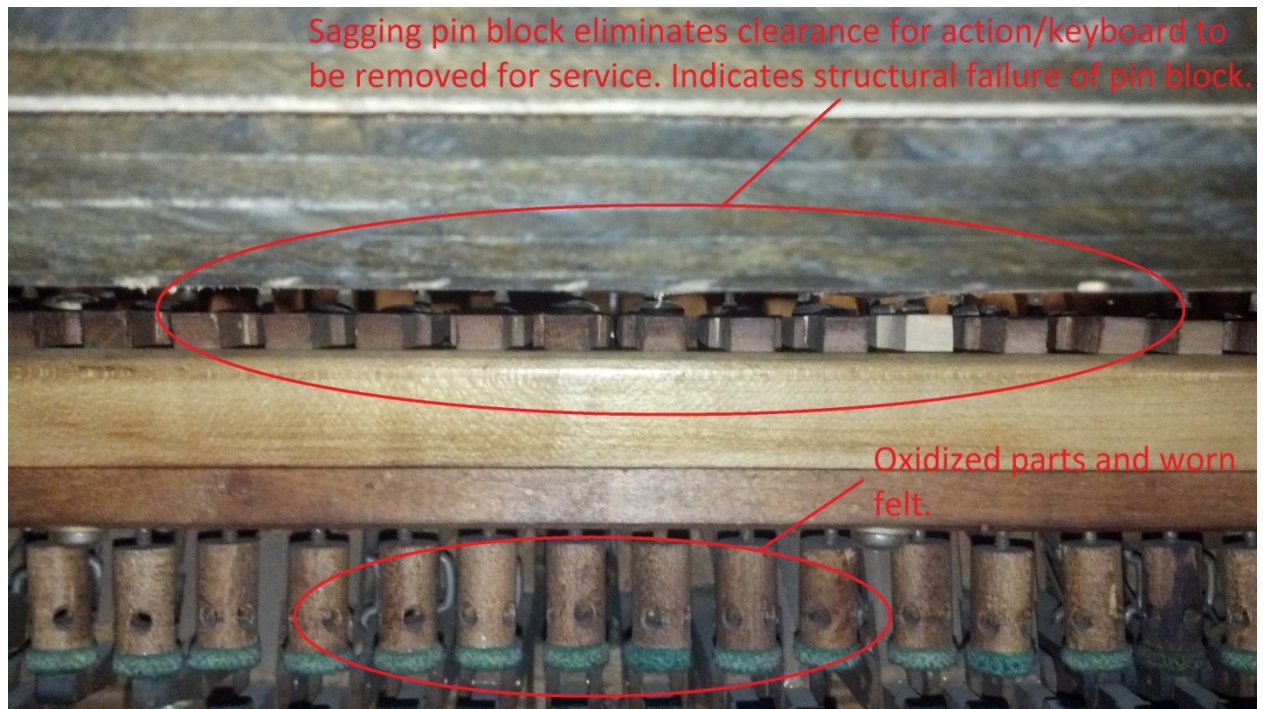
Estimated cost of bare minimum: \$10,000-\$15,000

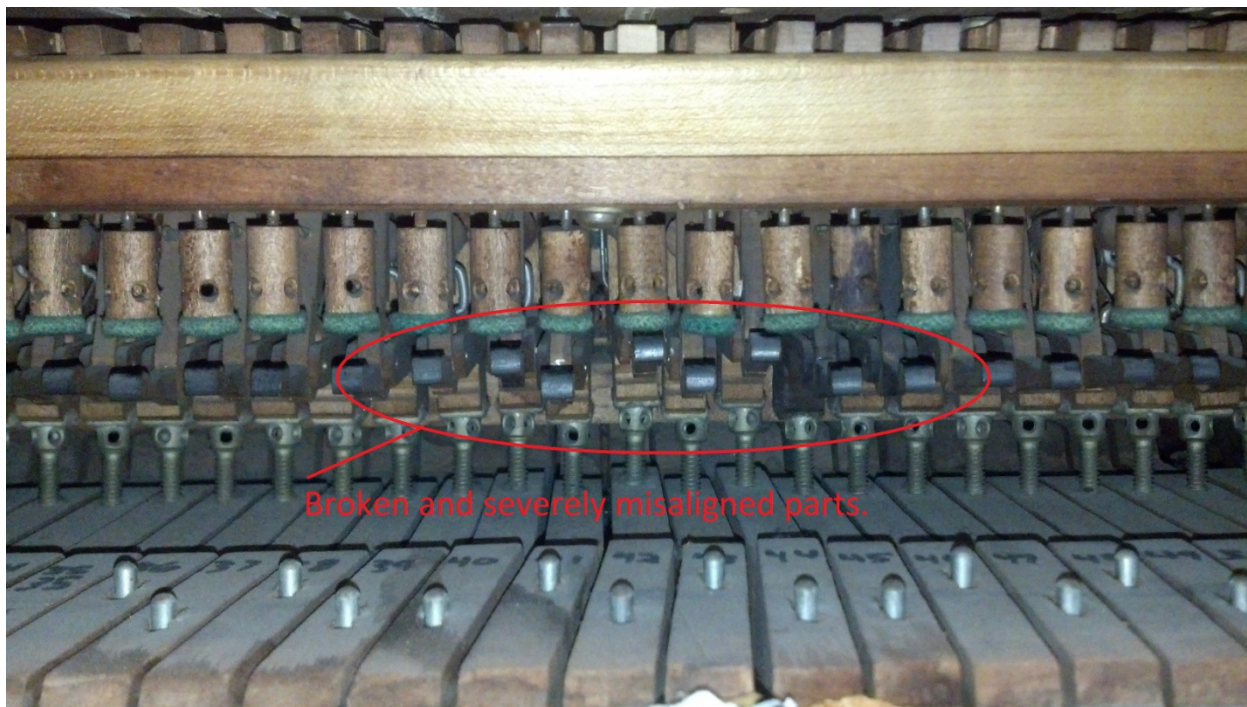
My recommendation:

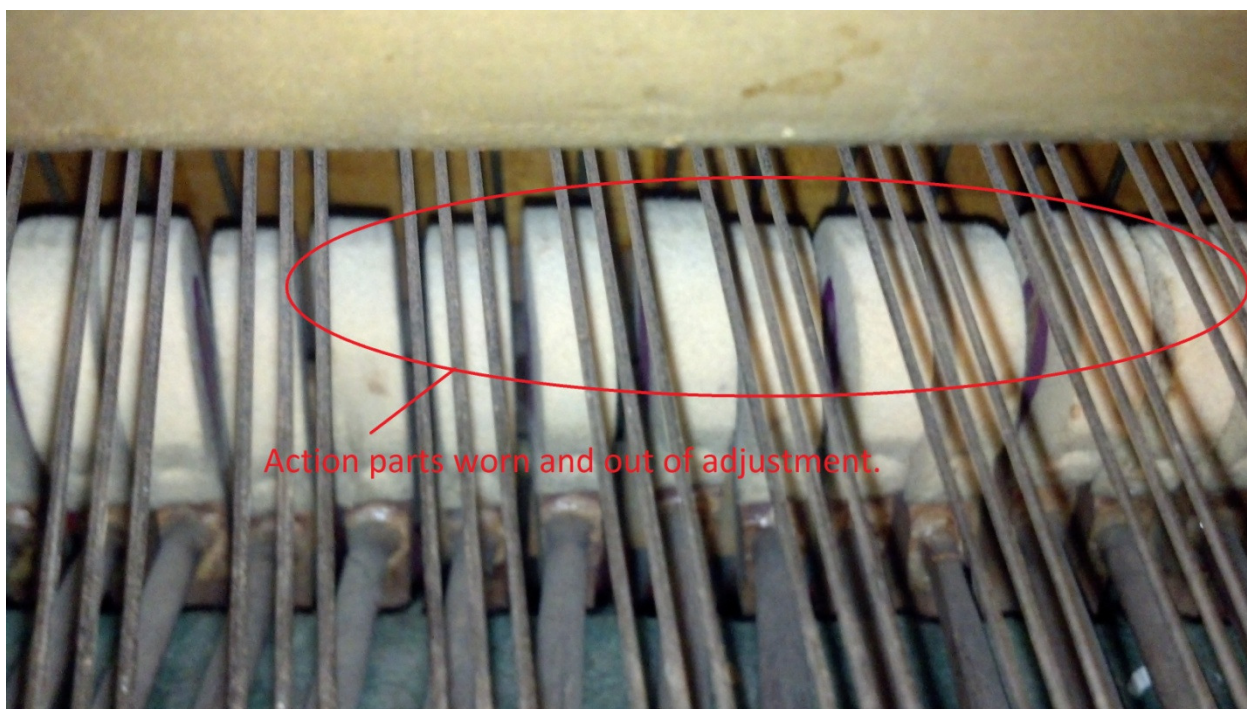
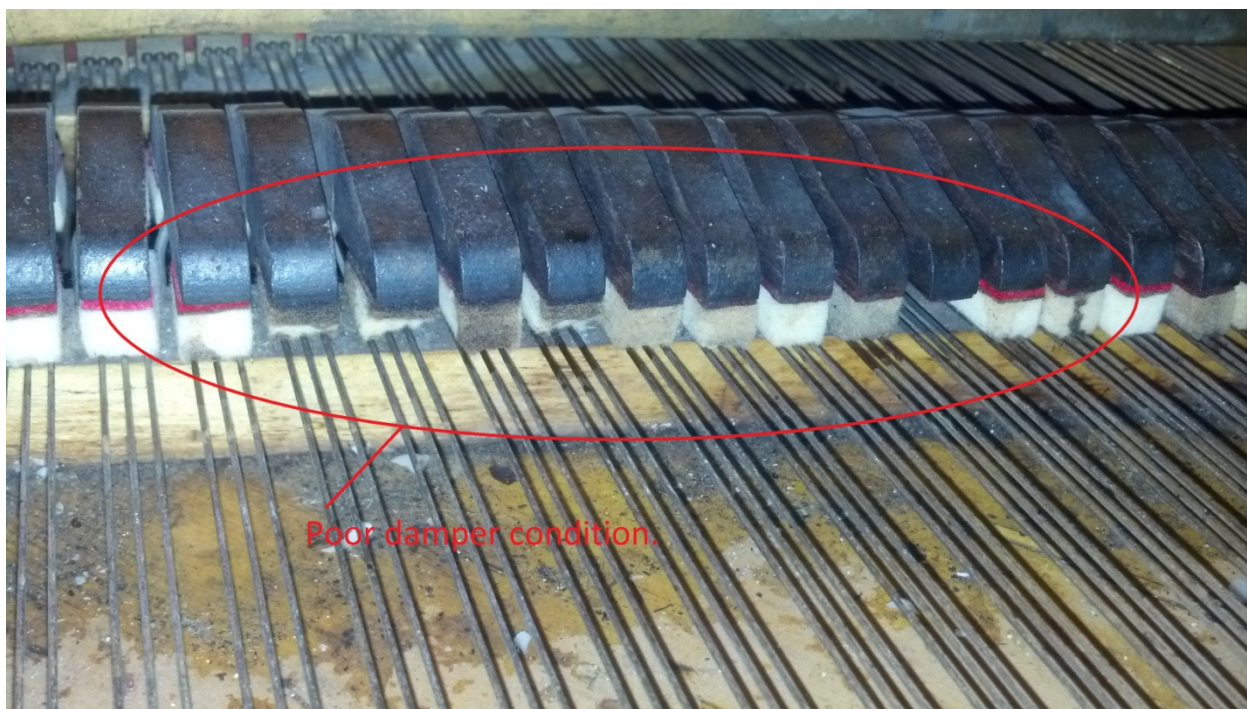
If there is strong sentimental attachment to the piano, funds are available to restore it as described, and it will be properly maintained after restoration, I endorse keeping and restoring it. If these conditions cannot be met, the best interests of the client and the piano would be to sell or give the piano to a qualified restoration expert or piano wholesaler, which I can help with if needed. The piano would be a valuable instrument if restored, so it should not be thrown out under any circumstances. If funds are not available to restore this instrument, but a piano is still desired, I can help find a suitable instrument; with minimal effort, it is possible to find a used mid-quality grand piano in decent condition for \$5,000-\$10,000; a suitable upright would be in the \$2,500-\$4,000 range. Please let me know if you have any questions.

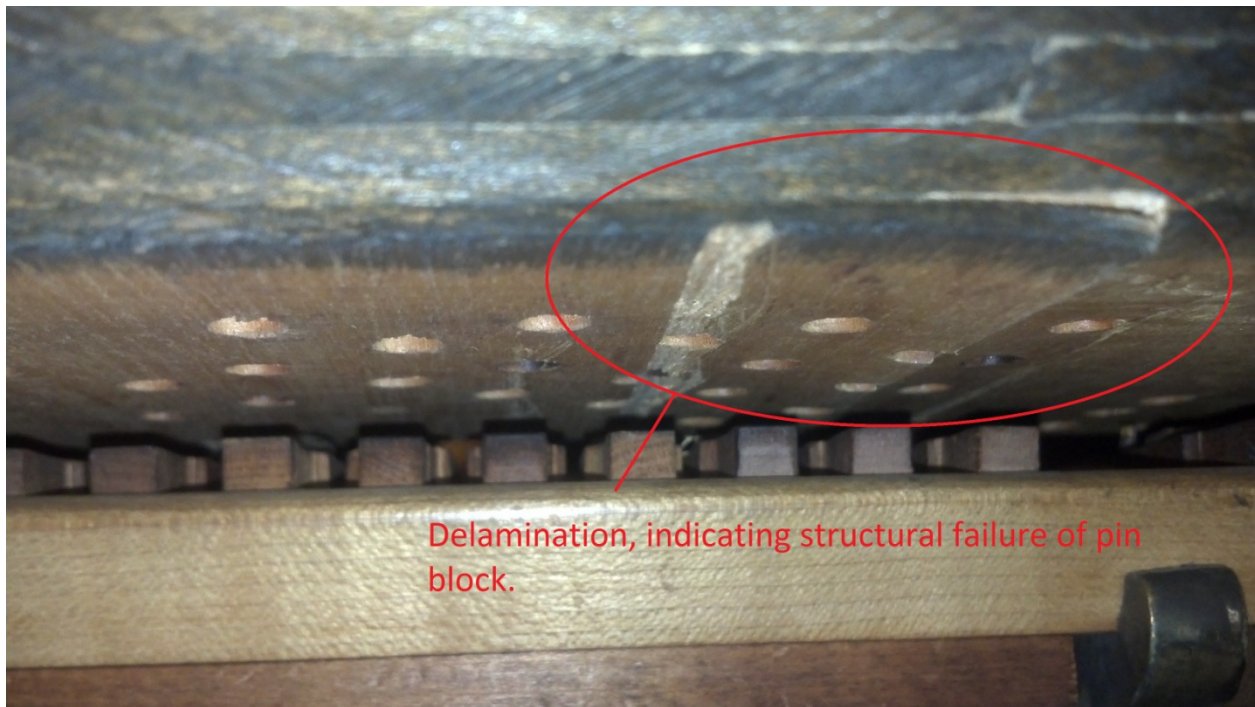
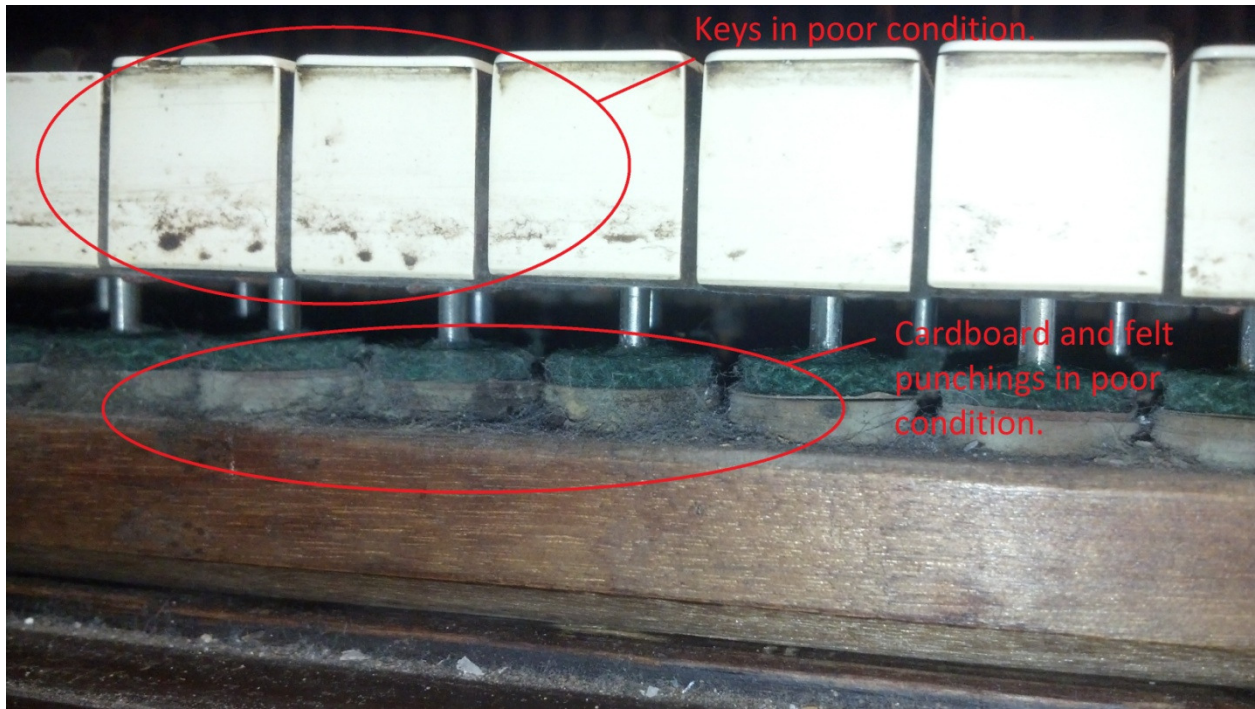
Sincerely,

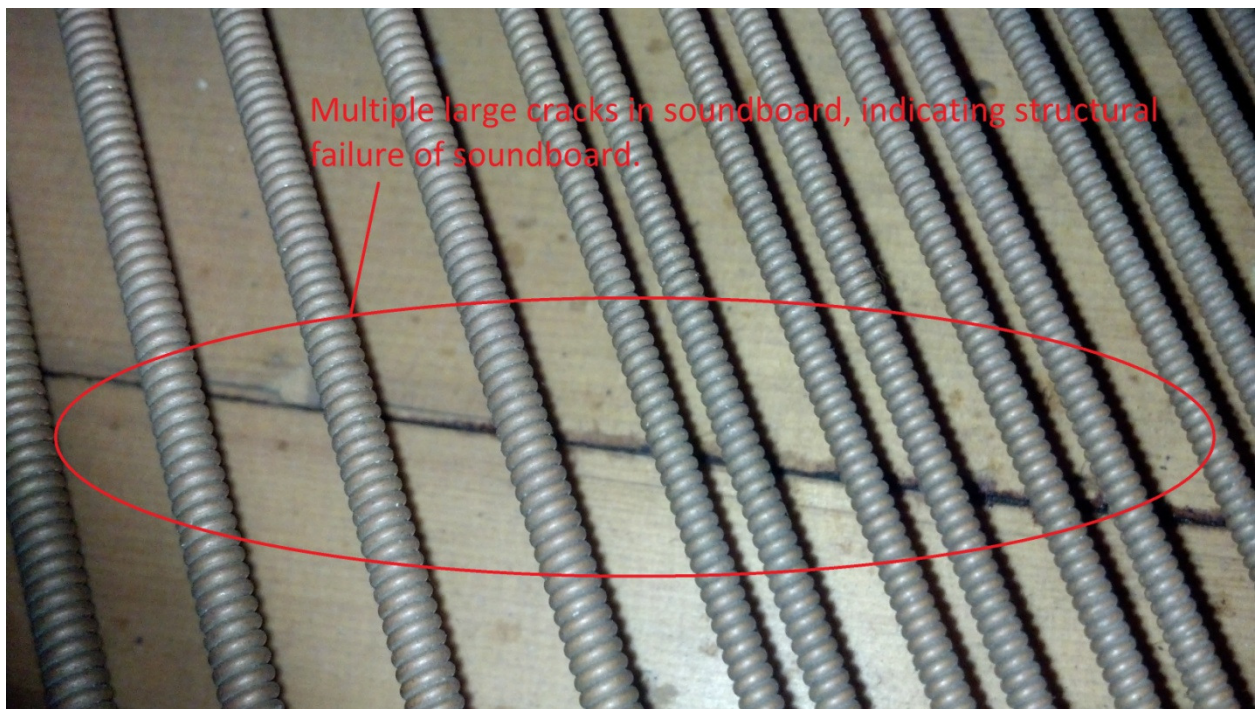
Nicholas Savage, M.Mus.











Corroded tuning pins and strings. Tuning pins tilting forward, indicating pin block failure.

