

# Microscopic Vision

- Dean Petrich -

There is an advantage to being nearsighted. As I tune and proceed with ordinary repairs I wear my glasses and I see the piano as a whole; but when an unusual or challenging problem pops up, off come the glasses. It is time to examine what is happening up close. This process of scrutinizing the miniscule draws me into an entirely different realm. Now, instead of seeing the straight sharp edge of a chisel, for example, I see nicks and burrs and jagged lines blown into life-size proportions. No wonder there is a problem! Just look at this gap!

My mind moves to microscopic mode. The analysis becomes specific. I think of all the micron photographs I've seen in books and magazines. I remember the super-close-up photographs in the PTG Journal and of the ultra-slow-motion tech videos. Now the fact that we had spent two hours discussing nothing but center pins becomes clear. Awareness of the tiniest speck can entirely change the sound of a note. Herein lies the true art of the technician: in the ability to see things that are otherwise overlooked. To see what is there goes far deeper than simply looking at something. To see what is really there requires microscopic vision combined with all our knowledge from seminars, lectures, articles, demonstrations and years of experience. Identifying the problem is the key to solving it. So even if you don't wear glasses, zoom in on the details, blow up the proportions, and take a closer look.