

THE SOONER TUNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER
OF THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD, INC.



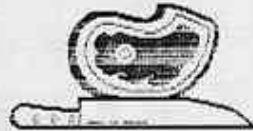
NOVEMBER 11,
1990

COMING EVENTS:

November 16-17 Steinway Selection Event at Gilliam Music in Edmond. They have many extra pianos on display, refreshments, and Danny Saliba from the Steinway factory.

November 17 Saturday 2:00 Chapter Meeting at the Piano Clinic, Norman Cantrell's shop, at 221 N. Douglas Ave. in OKC. This is two blocks west of Western and two blocks north of Main. Norman suggests that if you are westbound on I-40, take the Classen exit and come north to Main, then west to Douglas. If you're eastbound, take the Pennsylvania exit and go north to Main and east to Douglas. We will view the Bosendorfer videotape as our technical presentation. Be sure to be present for the business meeting as we will be making perhaps our most important decision of the year. See the President's Message.

December 7 Friday 7:00 at the Bonhams' in OKC. Christmas Dinner Party! We will have a Christmas ham baked by Phaeleynn Bonham and all the side dishes you bring to share. Phaeleynn asks that you call her to arrange for what you want to bring. 721-0566.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I want to encourage you to be at the November 17 meeting at the Piano Clinic.

The Oklahoma Chapter has been invited to host the South Central Regional Seminar in the spring of 1992. At the November 17 meeting we will discuss the possibility of accepting this invitation, and if we as a chapter vote in favor of hosting the '92 SCRS, we will need to elect a

Convention Chairperson. This is important to our chapter, our region, and our organization, so please be present.

TECHNICAL TIP:

Here's some more of Norm's Nonsense. If you have ever tried to burnish graphite into wood and wondered just how to get the best results, try this tip. Primarily you find graphite impregnated wood on bridge caps as well as on the tops of repetition levers and jacks on many grands. Here's a list of the materials you will need. Obviously you need graphite and a small container like a baby food jar lid or index card where you may place a small pile of graphite. You also need some alcohol and a piece of felt.



The following procedure should be helpful. Remove the action from the keys and place it on a surface that won't be damaged by graphite spillage. Lift the hammers to reveal the wippens. Take the felt and wet it with the alcohol. Use the felt as a brush to wet the top of a wippen and a jack. Take your index finger and place it in the small pile of graphite. Using your finger, transfer the graphite onto the wippen. Use your index finger to burnish the graphite into the wood. Repeat the procedures until all wippens have been re-graphited. This procedure works because the alcohol opens the pores in the wood and gives the graphite a foothold. I hope this is helpful and doesn't slip by you. (thanks to Norman Cantrell).

FORUM:

As I mentioned last week, I would like to have a column in the Sooner Tuner on topics of interest to our group. I suggested the Damp-Chaser climate control system as this month's topic. Nearly everyone present at last

month's meeting indicated they had experience with these, but so far Tim and Keith alone have commented. For the Forum to work, your input, however brief, is needed.

Keith McGavern, RTT, offered some valuable advice on the Dampp-Chaser installations. Sometimes we forget when we estimate the cost of the systems the service required in the future to keep the humidifier reservoir filled and replace the evaporator pads. In an institutional setting this service can add up to a lot of time. I can attest to this from my experience at OU. Even strategizing ways to educate people and prevent the systems from being unplugged is taking more time than I would have imagined. I am making a device to remind people with a beeping noise when the power is disconnected. I could probably make these available to others if needed.

The following is from Tim Hast, RTT:

I tuned for a composer who had his studio in his basement. He would write for the piano and record his compositions. Months later he would often play the tape of the original composition, and work on other parts at the piano. He often complained that the piano (an Everett studio) was never in tune with the tape recordings. I told him I had heard that the "Dampp Chaser" would eliminate the seasonal pitch swings that affected his piano. I told him if he would pay for the cost of the Dampp Chaser, I would install it. Part of our agreement was that he would keep a weekly log of frequency of refills needed in the humidifier and the variation of pitch. Over the course of a year after the system was installed and the piano subsequently tuned, the pitch did not rise or fall more than 1 cent. This is a piano that would go sharp by 15 cents during the wet season, and an equal amount

flat during the dry winter months. I was sold on them from then on!

I have discovered that the Dampp Chaser system can be "fine-tuned" by changing the distance between the humidistat and the humidifier. If the piano goes sharp after installation and tuning, move the 'stat closer; if the piano goes flat, move the 'stat farther away from the humidifier.

OUR SYMPATHY goes to Tim and Ruthie Hast. Tim's grandfather died a week ago. We celebrate his 94 years and the mystery of life and death.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

FOR SALE: 5' X 8' enclosed trailer, single dropped axle, electric brakes, designed for piano moving, tall door opening, spare tire. \$1500 329-6236 or 266-1943. (Michael Yeager)

Keith McGavern has a three-note action model he would like to sell. It cost \$150 new and he would sell it to the Oklahoma Chapter for \$100.

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Please try to get your contributions to the newsletter to me by the first of each month so I can mail it on time. Okay?