

# THE SOONER TUNER



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

July 1992

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Performing in Carnigle Hall is a fantastic experience which I had never expected to know first hand, but this last Sunday Rhaelynn and I and about a hundred other members of our Church of the Servant choir sang there as a part of a large chorus under the direction of John Rutter. We did Mozart's Requiem and two of Handel's Chandos Anthems. What a privilege and what fun! New York City is quite a place to visit. I'd enjoy going back to further explore the place, though I must admit being there made me really appreciate having my home in Oklahoma City.

Please come and enjoy our new home on Ski Island this Thursday evening. Bring some meat to grill and a dish to share with the group. We'll (see President's pg 4)

### The Sooner Tuner

A monthly publication of the Oklahoma Chapter, PTG.  
Norman Cantrell, Assoc. Editor  
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### Meeting in Review

Our last meeting was June 20 at 9:00 am. The location was at OCUSA. There were 8 in attendance which included Leon Speir from the Dallas chapter who is also our Regional Vice President. The election of officers was held. The slate presented was a continuum of last years officers retaining thier respective posts. They are: David Bonham, President; Tim Hast, Vice-president; Nathan Sobel, Secretary & Treasurer; Norman Cantrell, Newsletter Editor.

A short discussion was held concerning the events to be voted on at the national convention in July. The discussion included the proposal to change RTT to RPT. Since no one from our chapter is planning to attend the national convention no consensus was formed.

The technical presentation by Gary Bruce followed. Gary did an excellent job discussing the topic of harmonics. This was a warm up for Gary since he will also be presentation the same information at the Texas State Convention this fall. Congratulations to Gary for well deserved recognition.

Nathan Sobel, Secretary

Oklahoma Chapter Officers  
1992-93

President: David Bonham  
721-0566

V. President: Tim Hast  
359-0440

Secretary & Treasurer: Nathan Sobel  
329-6971

NORM'S NONCENTS

I want to begin this months column by thanking all of you for your input and help in making last months newsletter a terrific success. I don't know whether we stand a chance or not of winning the newsletter contest but your support in getting it written was and is greatly appreciated.

I am writing the first column using my new computer and the Word Perfect program it contains. I hope you will be patient with me as I learn the ends and outs of this program. I really feel quite inadequate at the computer but I am slowly getting the hang of things. So far I haven't blown it up or erased any important data (at least I hope not). I feel good that I am able to turn on this machine and get into a program and exit it without hitting the reset button every time!

Learning how to use this wonderful machine reminds me of how our customers must feel or must have felt when first trying to learn to play the piano. I have talked with several beginning adult students about their pilgrimage toward performance perfection on the piano. I can now better share their anxieties. So wish me luck as I try to continue to improve the newsletter.

Norman Cantrell, ED

Birdcage!!

by  
U. Guessdit

The bass notes all sounded  
like thunder  
And so I began to wonder  
And lifted the lid  
To see why they did  
The dampers were over, not  
under.

The torque on the pins was too  
low.  
So the tuning would be no go.  
It looked rather quaint  
But one thing it ain't  
A brand name piano I know!

The owner was agast at my  
rancor  
When I said, "Got a boat?  
Here's an anchor."  
And the next thing I knew  
to the river we flew  
Where we gave it a shove and  
sank 'er!

\*Birdcage was reprinted with  
permission from the newsletter  
The Vancouver Beat.

The Case of the "Tenderfoot"  
A Sam Spinet Mini-mystery

The hot days of summer had finally come upon us and with it the usual slowdown in business. I was sitting in my office last Tuesday when the phone rang. Chase Baker, my secretary dutifully answered it. After a brief pause my intercom buzzed, "Sam, the symphony is on the line."

"Let me take it in here, Chase." I responded. I never liked it when the symphony called because they inevitably wanted the impossible. "This is Sam Spinet, how can I be of service?"

I listened to Ray Overscore drone on about this his latest crisis. It seems the piano duo of Hugh Hunt and Will Peck was to perform with the orchestra during the weekend concert. The morning rehearsal had gone well until one of the pianists complained that the Steinway he was playing was making an odd sound and didn't feel quite right. The whole situation was complicated by the fact that the technician who normally contracted with the symphony had taken ill. I agreed to come to the hall to see if I could be of service.

I drove the short distance to the hall where I was introduced to Mr.'s Hunt & Peck, the artists for the week. The problem was in the Steinway Mr. Peck was using. He showed me how the F above middle C was causing trouble. When he would strike a medium blow things were usually all right but a really hard blow would cause a blocking type of noise. I felt this was simple enough and proceeded to access the piano action. I simply

turned the let-off button a turn or so and the situation seemed to be solved. I concluded that the felt on the button had compacted slightly and thus the problem. I left my bill and made my way back to the office.

When I arrived Chase asked how things had gone. "I wish they were all that easy." It was getting rather late in the day and we decided to call it quits. I made sure the answering machine was turned on and turned out the lights.

When I arrived the next morning Chase had one of those looks on her face, the kind that says "Boy have you blown it." I asked her what was up and she responded by telling me that Ray Overscore had called and left a message on the machine. When she had returned the call he said he wanted to talk only to me and that he sounded quite put out! I had Chase call Ray back. When she had him on the line I took the call.

"Ray, I understand that we have a problem. What exactly has happened?" Ray explained that during the rehearsal Tuesday night the piano I had supposedly fixed had continued to cause problems and do exactly the same thing. I assured him that I would be right over and fix the piano on a permanent basis.

Once again I found myself driving to the symphony hall. This time however, I was losing money on the deal. When I arrived I made my way to the piano in question and once again pulled out the action. I made a really close inspection of things and discovered the problem at hand. The jack foot or tender (see Tenderfoot pg4)

**TENDERFOOT**

was starting to have a loose glue joint. It wasn't loose enough to make the jack tender drop all the way out of service, instead it was just loose enough to shift a little when a hard blow was used. That explained why the soft blow didn't show anything out of the ordinary. I was able to reglue the jack tender and replace the action in the piano. After this trip the show was able to go on.

Norman Cantrell, ED

President's (cont from pg1)  
have plates, utensils, and soft drinks. Whether you are an old familiar member or a new face you are welcome here. Bring your family, your swim suit, fishing ploe, an your ski legs if you're so inclined!

David Bonham, President

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The July 16 (meeting) cookout will be held this Thursday evening starting at 5:30 pm. As you have already read David and Rhaelynn Bonham have invited us all to thir new home on Ski Island. The address is 10717 Eastlake Cir. You can get ther by going north on MacArthur past Britton Rd. to Eastlake Dr. Turn west (left) and you will intersect Eastlake Circle. It sounds like a chance to have a fun time.

The August meeting will be on Saturday the 22nd at 9:00 am at Tim Hast's shop in Edmond. The technical will be on understanding and using "Hot Hide" glue. This information should stick with you for years to come.

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