

THE SOONER TUNER



NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER
OF THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD

August 1992

President's Message

Who am I? Whose am I? What am I here for...? No I didn't just have one of those pianos fall on my head. I remember my name, address, and social security number. But those deeper questions do return, and for good reason. As I mature, the questions as well as the answers get better; more interesting and more profound.

My schooling in piano technology began in 1969. My degrees in psychology and clinical social work were issued in 1974 and 1979 respectively. People work is my vocation; piano work is my avocation. I find piano work interesting, challenging and rewarding. It has paid most of my expenses over the past twenty-three years, and it has provided me many opportunities into homes, businesses, schools, churches... people's lives, which are what really interests me.

I've just been designing a new business card, indicating our new home address and incorporating more of my self concept and sense of calling than my last card reflected. It will have MSW (Masters in Social Work) as well as RPT (Registered Piano Technician has just replaced the RTT See Presidents pg 3.

MEETING IN REVIEW

Our last meeting was held at David and Raelynn's new home in Ski-Island edition on Thursday, July 16th. Actually it was more like a good old-fashioned summer picnic. The weather was either terrible or perfect depending on your perspective for July. It was cool enough that I didn't even think about skiing, although some of the more polar oriented of our numbers did. However, as picnic weather goes it was not at all near hot, and by the end of the evening it was almost a pleasant chilly with a light breeze from the north. It was good to see friends and their better halves (wives). I believe we have a group that is closer than most. The only excused absence goes to Gary and Jan Bruce. We missed you and all who didn't make it!

Tim Hast, Vice President.

The Sooner Tuner

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NORM'S NONCENTS

I realize that each of us is involved in business from different perspectives. Most of us approach business from a small business perspective. If you have ever checked the size descriptions of a small business from the federal government like the Small Business Administration you will find that a small business is any business which employs 500 or fewer. I think it is safe to say that all of us in the Oklahoma chapter qualify as small business owners. In fact by that standard I am running a micro-business.

As the owners of micro-businesses it is reasonable to assume that none of us have invested in large polling or major studies of economic climates, etc. Since this is probably the case we would all be smart to pay attention to those companies that have resources to invest in those types of studies. The Sunday Oklahoman Business section July 26, 1992 ran an article entitled "American Dream Coming Down to Earth". The article cited a study

conducted by Shearson Lehman Bros. and described a trend of people in the 90's to be less "greedy" and more concerned with "traditional" values not unlike those that existed in the 50's. A statistic was listed of more than 80% of those polled feeling that "things like relationships, family, friends, and doing a good job at work" were the most important.

What do these values have to do with piano technology? It could be construed that if in fact a return to more traditional values is occurring, there could be a companion trend of people being more interested in learning to play the piano. This could be a likely assumption since it would fit in the area of family and traditional values. If more people take the time to learn to play the piano, our respective customer bases will increase. Only time will tell if this trend does in fact develop but it is one example of keeping abreast of current affairs. Continuing education is always worth the investment.

Norman Cantrell, ED.

Piano Proverbs

Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part!

OKLA. PTG PERSONAL

Congratulations go to Jan and Gary Bruce for the birth of their daughter, Bethany Nicole. It seems the stork brought this bundle of joy to the Bruce home on July 14th, 1992. Those ever important statistics include weight--8lbs. 9oz., length--20.75 inches. Mother and daughter are reported to be doing quite well but father is questionable a f t e r inhaling all that "cigar smoke". In an attempt to expand his earning potential to match his expanding family, Gary has also gotten his real estate license this summer. Gary may be bleary eyed from all the study or from the lack of sleep that accompanies a newborn.



President's

title at the National PTG Seminar) after my name. Ho honest, bold, and inclusive it will be I don't yet know!

Who are you? Where does piano work fit in your life? Are you being honest with yourself and with your gifts? We have a great opportunity in our chapter to associate with non-judgmental, non-competitive craftsmen who are people first and willing to share and grow on many levels. Our fellowship inspires me to get my light out from under the bushel, if you know what I mean!

David Bonham, President

TUNING UP!

I hate pull ups! I hate coming to the last piano of the day, and find it to be 50% flat. I use the accu-tuner to pull it up by pulling the piano 33% above pitch from where it was flat. Lately I have discovered a little trick that you might find will speed up those pull ups and this might seem ludicrous, but you will also lessen the chance of string breakage if you learn to do it right. So enough drum roll and I'll get on with it.

Mute off the treble and begin tuning by using your accu-tuner (for auralites I'll present an alternative, so hold on to your britches) and start with the lowest string in the treble, pull it just up to pitch or slightly above, and then pull up the unisons on either side that are still muted. Pull them up approximately the same amount as the free string and do this by feel only. This will seem weird at first, but as you practice it, you will be amazed at how near to true you will get the unisons without hearing them.

Now, we will examine the aural method. Set your temperament the way you usually do, but after you tune each note, go back and pull the unisons by feel. Don't be shy about this as it is better to get them a hair sharp than the other way. After you finish the temperament, with the mutes still in place, then go back and clean up, or recheck the temperament before going on. Now tune the octaves but pull the unisons up as you go. When you do the treble, go back and re-tune the temperament and the octaves one more time. Now pull your temperament strip out and check your outside notes. Fine tune them. You may or may not have to do a second pull up.

The advantage of this method is that you don't have to over pull the See TUNING pg.4

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next meeting will be Saturday the 22nd at 9:00 am at Tim Hast's piano shop at 3631 N Bryant in Edmond. The technical will be on the use of Hot Glue by Norman Cantrell. Mark your calendars for September 17 for the meeting to follow. This will be in Norman at OU. the technical will be announced later.

Tuning

strings by 33% in order to get the piano up to pitch. Something "physical" about pulling all three notes of the unison up at the same time makes the piano not go so far flat after the initial pull-up. Check it out and let me know what you think.

Tim Hast, RTT

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FLASHBACK

75 Years Ago

A look backwards . . . from the pages of The Music Trades

PIANO TUNERS WARN OF MENACE

Declaring that the condition of pianos in the public schools of America are the greatest menace to the musical industry at the present time, F. F. Abercrombie, in an address before the convention of the American Guild of Piano Tuners, made a vigorous attack on this and other sinister influences that are deterring the advancement of the musical industry. He prophesied a "tone deaf" generation unless more attention is paid to maintain the pianos that are used in schools.*

*From "The Music Trades" August 1917