

“THE SOONER TUNER”



Official Newsletter, Oklahoma Chapter 731
The Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
February '96



NEXT MEETING

February 15th, Thursday at 9AM
David Wallace's place, 1200 South Kelly, Edmond

Technical by David Wallace, Associate

David will be presenting a duplication process for the
replacement of intricately carved wood pieces.

Directions: Take I-35 to Edmond, exit 15th and go west to
Kelly, turn north about 1/4 mile to Kiddie Korral entrance on
east side, 1st door on north side of complex

David Bonham, President.....	405-721-0566
Tim Hast, Vice President.....	405-359-0440
Darin Niebuhr, Secretary.....	405-329-2970
Norman Cantrell, Treasurer.....	405-525-7762
Keith McGavern, Newsletter.....	405-275-8600
(PO Box 1585, Shawnee, OK 74802-1585)	
(New E-mail address: kam544@ionet.net)	

LAST MEETING

BBBBBBBBRRRR!!!! Was it ever cold showing up at the last chapter meeting. It certainly is understandable why very few responded to brave the elements.

The officer's meeting was very productive...check out the 1996 scheduled meetings. →

The technical on keyweights by Keith McGavern went well.

ONE FOR THE RECORDS
(or you thought you had problems)

Date: Wed, 17 Jan 1996 17:01:31 -0700 (MST)
From: George Takats <102465.3420@compuserve.com>
Subject: black keys
Sender: pianotech@byu.edu

A friend of mine, who is also my accountant, purchased a grand piano real cheap. When I arrived at his home to tune it and do some "minor" repairs on it, ALL the black keys were missing. (the wood key, the capstan, the ebony and the back-check)...

George Takats
102465.3420@compuserve.com
geotak@accent.net

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF

"Perfect Pitch"

by Ed Hilbert, RPT

Daniel Dornb, cellist, who was then a cello instructor at Oberlin, and the last I heard was playing with an orchestra in Israel, had an exceedingly accurate sense of pitch. While working together one summer at the University of Vermont's Summer Music Session for High School Students (no longer in business), I once tested his pitch accuracy. I accumulated approximately 15 tuning forks, all presumably A440 for this experiment. I had a Strobotuner to use as a reference. Daniel sat in front of me with facing away so as not to be able to see what I was doing. As I held the tuning forks up for him to hear, he accurately described not only whether sharp or flat, but by how much. Some were a few cents off, but most caused only a slow drift in the tuner's visual indication. Finally, there was one fork in the group that held the pattern dead still. When he heard that one he instantly said, "Ah, that one is beautiful, it is dead on." I tried to confuse him by repeating forks etc. but at no time did he err. He indeed had an amazingly good sense of pitch - perfect, or absolute, if you will. A side note, his then wife (now divorced), Carol Sindell, violinist, also had "perfect pitch" (although I did not measure her for exactness as I did Daniel) and when they played duets together, it was absolutely beautiful. Sorry their marriage wasn't as beautiful, apparently, as their playing.

The second story relates to another friend from the same time and place, Bruce Williams, violin instructor at the University of Nebraska, if I remember correctly. As to the exactness of his pitch I am not sure, but as to his ability to name pitches, I thought him to be rather talented. We could place two, three, or four people at a piano and all of us play notes with all fingers on both hands the length of the keyboard (yes, thirty or forty notes at once) and he could, without fail, name them from one end to the other. As an orchestral conductor, it was very easy for him to hear wrong notes!!!!

So, while most of us do not have perfect pitch, or perhaps even the correct body angle, there are indeed some people in the world with some amazingly accurate ears.

By the way, there is a fellow who advertises in piano teachers magazines that anyone can learn to have perfect pitch. He of course can teach you. He says that hearing specific notes is no harder than recognizing specific colors. Anyone out there ever heard anything about this fellow or what he professes to be able to teach?

Ed Hilbert, RPT
Vermont Chapter

1996 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

March 12th, 9am, Tuesday, Norman Cantrell's place
Technical - Norman Cantrell, RPT, "Shop Organization"

April 18th, 9am, Thursday, David Bonham's place
Technical - David Bonham, RPT, "Grand Damper Installation"

May 16th, 9am, Thursday, Ross Trawick's place
Technical - Ross Trawick, RPT

June 11th, 9am, Tuesday, Tim Hast's place.
Technical: Tim Hast, RPT, "Superglues & Accelerators"

July 17-21, PTG Convention & Technical Institute, Dearborn, MI

August 22th, 9am, Thursday, Darin Niebuhr's place

September 19th, 9am, Thursday, Sherman Clay, OKC (not confirmed)
Technical: Keith McGovern, RPT

October 15th, 9am, Tuesday, Gary Bruce's place

November 14th, 9am, Thursday, Gilliam Music, Edmond (not confirmed)

December 6th, Christmas Banquet

The "Kick" Zone

(closely related to after touch)

from

Keith McGavern, RPT

"It is possible to commit no mistakes and still lose."
(Captain Pickard of the Starship Enterprise to Lt. Commander Data)

Musical Motto

Never B sharp, never B flat, always B natural
(author unknown)

TELE-HELP

A GUIDE TO HANDLING ANNOYING TELEPHONE CALLS

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Q I hate to be rude. How can I get out of a sales or survey call graciously?

A If it's a sales call and you're not interested, just say so. That isn't being rude. However, if you want to soften the answer a little, one way is to ask the person to send you some information on the product or service so you can look over it before you make a decision.

Of course, sometimes being rude is about the only answer. If you're not interested, tell the caller. If that doesn't work, hang up.