

“THE SOONER TUNER”



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

NEXT MEETING

May 16th, 9am, Thursday

*Technical by Ross Trawick, RPT*

**"A Somewhat Sensible Stringing System"**

Ross is going to demonstrate his technique of dispensing music wire using the 1/3 lb music wire reel w/brake when called to replace a broken string.

Directions to Ross Trawick's place.  
From I-35 & 36th street, go east to Bartel,  
then south to 3200 North Bartel, 427-6663

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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)  
(E-mail address: kam544@tonet.net)

### LAST MEETING

Several people were on hand for April's meeting at Tim Hast's Shop. David Bonham brought to our attention a referral service called to help direct people to different piano teachers. It is called the Central Oklahoma Music Teachers Association, and their telephone number is 329-9396. Treasurer report's current balance at \$1885.95. Tim presented an excellent technical on Superglues and Accelerators. Very impressive material!

### VISION 2001

It would be extremely beneficial if I could hear any comments and/or opinions with regards to this publication. Vision 2001 is currently under the microscope on PTG-L and will also be a subject for much debate and discussion in Dearborn. Beneficial input will be relayed in the ensuing discussions to be held both on the Internet and Dearborn.

Keith McGavern, RPT, Council Delegate, 1996

## **PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF**

*"Another endorsement for becoming a RPT"*

To: Bbarasa@aol.com  
From: kam544@ionet.net (Keith McGavern)  
Subject: Re: Newbie  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
X-Attachments:

...Regarding screening procedures for tuners, even tho I am not a member of the PTG, if I could not tune and were in a new town looking for a tuner, I would seek an RPT (registered piano technician), and this is what I tell people if they ask me. It's the only screening procedure that exists.

Barb Barasa  
Sycamore IL

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from Les Smith  
lessmith@buffnet.net

BTW, how would YOU handle <this> situation? I know one very good tuner, who, when he finished tuning a grand piano for a new client, was informed that she didn't intend to pay him right away. It seems she was concerned about how well the tuning would "hold up", because the last time a different tuners had worked on it, it went out of tune again very quickly. She told "Bill" that she would wait "awhile", to see how the tuning held up and THEN she would mail him his check. Bill didn't take this news very well. In the blink of an eye he removed the piano's music desk, whipped out his tuning hammer, and started dropping random strings an octave or so. Within a minute, or less, the instrument was totally unplayable. Ever the gentleman, Bill politely told the lady what she could do with her check and stormed out. I'll bet the lady never tried THAT strategy again!

Les Smith

(over)

**PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF**  
*"Plastic action parts"*

From: PaulStep@aol.com  
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 1996 19:03:42 -0400  
To: kam544@ionet.net  
Subject: Re: Re plastic jacks

Having replaced several sets of plastic action parts, I found that it saved considerable time for me to pull out the new damper wires and reinstall the original damper wires from the plastic damper levers into the new wood damper levers. This seemed to go quickly and only required a little wire bending. Try this on a few next time you have a set to change.

I crush the original plastic damper levers. Pull the wires from the new wood damper levers using vise grips and snap ring pliers that open when you squeeze the handles (The type normally used on external snap rings. I originally bought mine to rebuild an old Ford manual transmission.) To install the old wires into the new levers, hold the levers in a vise. Grip the wire with vise grips just at the point you want at the top of the new lever; and tap on the vise grips with a small hammer.

Paul Stephens, RPT

(over)

## 1996 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- June 11th, 9am, Thursday, David Bonham's place  
Technical - David Bonham, RPT, "Grand Damper Installation"
- July 17-21, PTG Convention & Technical Institute, Dearborn, MI
- August 22, 9am, Thursday, Darin Niebuhr's place
- September 19th, 9am, Thursday, Sherman Clay, OKC (not confirmed)  
Technical: Keith McGawern, RPT
- October 15th, 9am, Tuesday, Gary Bruce's place
- November 14th 9am, Thursday, Gilliam Music, Edmond (not confirmed)
- December 6th, Christmas Banquet

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I went to tune an old upright piano recently and encountered another surprise. The owner had received the 1885 piano from her grandmother who had been told that it couldn't be tuned at normal pitch because the strings were made of gold. The name on the plate was Schomaker Goldstring Piano Company. There were several broken strings, the pitch was low by about one whole step, and sure enough--the strings were gold! Surely they are just sprayed with gold paint, I thought as I tried to rub off the paint. But they just got brighter and I could see that no gold appeared on the tuning pins themselves.

I concluded that the strings were steel, plated with a gold or brass colored alloy. They sounded just like the few steel strings that had obviously been replaced. I had since heard that the plated strings are still available, and if the owner chooses to have it restrung, I will encourage her to keep it "gold." Can any of you shed some light on this discovery?

I hope to see you at Ross's place May 16th.

David Bonham

## Recommended Reading

### *"Troubleshooting Piano Problems--Part 3"*

by Ernie Juhn, RPT, Long Island Nassau Chapter

A few goodies here, especially the one on *Interpretation*.

### **The "Kick" Zone**

(closely related to after touch)

from

Keith McGavern, RPT

"Lead me not into temptation; I can find the way myself."

(Rita Mae Brown)

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"I've never lost. I've just been a little behind when time ran out."

(No Fear Sports)

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"To do something, say something, see something, before anybody else -- these are things that confer a pleasure compared with which other pleasures are tame and commonplace, other ecstasies cheap and trivial."

(The Innocents Abroad, Mark Twain, 1835-1910?)

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"He who tunes up in the morning stays in harmony all day."

&

"When your dreams turn into dust, vacuum."

(Living Word Church marque, Shawnee, OK)