

"THE SOONER TUNER"



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

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday Oct. 15th

TIME: BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP at 7:30AM

REGULAR MEETING at 8:15AM

LOCATION: OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

DIRECTIONS: From I-35 North take the Memorial road Exit. Located between Eastern and Bryant on North side of Memorial. Enter campus at main entrance, go north to stop sign, turn right into parking lot for Hardeman Auditorium. Enter lobby of auditorium and follow signs.

•••TECHNICAL•••

TUNING COMPARISONS:

AURAL TUNINGS AND SANDERSON ACCU-TUNER TUNINGS
(unisons, octaves, temperaments)

Gary Bruce, RPT and Keith McGavern, RPT

Norman Cantrell, President.....	405-525-7762
Ross Trawick, Vice President.....	405-427-6663
David Wallace, Secretary.....	405-755-4221
Gary Bruce, Treasurer.....	405-348-3213
Keith McGavern, Newsletter.....	405-275-8600

(PO Box 1585, Shawnee, OK 74802-1585)
(E-mail address: kam544@lonet.net)

LAST MEETING

Treasurer's report - \$1380.27 as of 8/31/96. The meeting was held at Keith McGavern's place in Shawnee. Guests included Nelson Ketch (Jana's husband) and Richard DupreeMcCall from Shawnee, who visited our group for the first time. Richard currently takes care of the OSU piano inventory.

Ideas for the Christmas gathering December 6th were discussed from a trip to Chickasha or "caroling" by boat at Skl Island.

The technical covered a demonstration of "The Stringer" tool sold by Pianotek and "Setting Pins in a Grand Pian." Other methods were discussed as well and how to determine which to use. Miscellaneous tech tips abounded during this time.

The chapter officers held a meeting afterwards.

MISCELLANEOUS

UPDATE: For those who experienced the experimental light touch on the Yamaha Disklavier MX80 in Shawnee last meeting, I reinstalled the keyweights in their original location for the white keys, but left the medium weights I added in the black keys. Feels real decent!...Editor

CLARIFICATION: Concerning the parking comments I made at the last meeting. I apologize for the curtness. It would have been better stated by me if I had just said, "The reason for the 'No Parking Any Time' signs on the street where I live is that it puts people's lives and property at risk."...Editor

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"Shoes Off"

by Richard Bittner, RPT, Detroit-Windsor Chapter

The other day I was at a customer's home who happen to be oriental. So I did the customary procedure and removed my shoes. They had a little white French poodle who was very curious. He wanted to know what I was doing and was determine to look me over. First he was between my legs sniffing my feet and leaving dog spot on my pants. So I pushed him away, firmly at first and then a little harder the second time. By the way don't let the customer see you do this. Then he felt it was his job to look inside my tool case. Again a firm push and he left and I thought that was going to be the last I see of him. WRONG I looked up from my tuning to see him running with something black in his mouth. You guessed it --it was my shoe. Now the children are chasing him all over the living room. He would not listen to anyone and kept on running from them. First behind the couch and then around the piano, he just would not stop. Then I saw the inside of my shoe fly in one direction and the shoe in another. The children put my shoes on a table next to the door and apologized for their insensitive pet.

I finished tuning and received my check. I put on my shoes and felt dog saliva between my toes.

Just another day in the life of a Piano Tuner

Richard Bittner RPT

rec.music.maker.piano newsgroup
"Stiff action query"

Date: Thu, 03 Oct 1996 23:02:16 +0000
Subject: Re: Stiff action

>> An experienced teacher recently commented that my daughter's playing
>> indicated that her piano may have an action that is too stiff. She
>> recommended that the action be loosened.
>>
>> In fact the piano is fairly new (1 year old Kawai grand) and does seem
>> stiffer than the uprights I generally encounter. I assumed that grand
>> actions are always stiffer than those of uprights.
>>
>> What is involved in loosening an action? Would it be recommended for a 1
>> year old piano? Is it expensive?
>>
>> Your advice would be appreciated.
>>
>> Sincerely,
>>
>> (name deleted)
>
> Dear (name deleted),
>
> If the piano does have a stiff (heavy touch) action, then an initial
> service visit by a piano technician will be necessary to start
> determining the course of correction for your instrument.
>
> More specifically, a piano technician who understands the "in's and
> out's" of grand action regulation, excessive friction situations, and
> touch weight.
>
> Keith A. McGovern
> Registered Piano Technician
> Oklahoma Chapter 731
> Piano Technicians Guild

1996 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

November 14th 9am, Thursday, Gilliam Music, Edmond (not confirmed)
December 6th, Christmas Banquet

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me apologize for the delay in getting the newsletter to you this month. I was late in communicating this message to Keith and I assume responsibility for this. I will not let it happen again in the future.

The meeting for October has been announced for Tuesday the 15th. The only change in this is the time which has been moved to 7:30AM as per request by Gary. A Continental Breakfast will be served and the meeting will be held at Oklahoma Christian University of Science and Arts in Edmond.

I was in the post office today mailing my reminder cards to my customers. I had requested and was using the new peel and stick or self adhesive stamps. They now have them available in the twenty cent variety. I realized that this new technology was in effect helping to phase out or at least reduce the output of yet another industry that supports the piano business. How, you may ask, are the postal service and the piano industry linked. Do you realize that the old style stamps which you lick are actually coated with a thin layer of hide glue? (You wondered why they always tasted so yummy!)

If the US Postal Service has reconfigured all of its hide glue coated stamps to the new self adhesive type, a major market for the producers of hide glue will have been lost. This may not be a concern to those of you who do not use hide glue, but those of us engaged in the restoration versus rebuilding, hide glue is an important ingredient. The point is that our industry is relatively small compared to others and many factors affect us over which we have no control. This is one of the many reasons why prices fluctuate often by our suppliers which have to be passed on to our clients. So the next time you need to explain to your customer the latest rise in your rates, you really can blame it on the postal service.

Norman Cantrell

Recommended Reading

"A Prairie Home Piano Crash"

by Walter Sikora, RPT, Research Triangle, NC Chapter
(August 1996, PT Journal, pages 45-46)

A testimony to the fortitude of one individual
with a seemingly insurmountable task. Enjoy!

The "Kick" Zone

(closely related to after touch)

from
Keith McGavern, RPT

"Nothing is opened more frequently by mistake than th mouth."
(Church of God Chapel, Shawnee, OK)

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"Money was invented so we could know exactly how much we owe."
(Cullen Hightower, Quotable Quotes)
(Readers' Digest, October 1996, page 21)

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"The fact that a man is carrying a guitar does not make him a musician."
(from rec.music.makers.piano newsgroup, Gerry, 10/4/96)

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"You cannot run away from weakness; you must sometimes fight it out or perish;
and if that be so, why not now, and where you stand?"
--Robert Louis Stevenson