

“THE SOONER TUNER”



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

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



**CHRISTMAS BANQUET
GATHERING**

DATE: December 6th DAY: Friday TIME: 6:30PM

LOCATION: Harrigan's Restaurant, 6420 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73132, 405-728-1329
(from I-44 & Northwest Expressway go west, restaurant is 1/4 mile west of
MacArthur on the south side)

after dinner desserts at the Cantrells', 2251 NW 19th
(From I-40 & I-44 go north to 23rd, exit east 1.3 mile to Villa, then south to 19th,
then east to 2251 NW 19th, 405-525-7762)

Norman Cantrell, President.....	405-525-7762
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is once again the holiday season. This week is Thanksgiving, followed in less than a month by Christmas. 1996 sure has flown by. Without sounding too trite I really do hope that each of us will take time to reflect of the many things for which we have to be thankful, our families, our nation, and the freedom to worship certainly come to mind.

Another thing which this season brings to mind is busyness. We all have more than our statful of activities, parties, and of course, tunings. It certainly is easy to be overcome with our schedules, and meet ourselves, coming and going. I find it helpful to keep the scurrying at Christmas from turning me into Ebenezer Scrooge, to schedule a part of each day for quiet reflection. This always helps me keep a balance to meet the day's challenges.

The last thing which is associated with the holidays are those pesky New Year's resolutions. Ideally, all of us should be involved in goal setting and planning on a regular basis. Researchers have said people who write down their goals have a much higher chance of accomplishing them. Last year at about this time, my wife and I sat down and discussed several business and personal goals. We wrote them down, and I have referred to them from time to time throughout the year. I am happy to report a seventy-five (75) percent success rate in accomplishing these goals. Take time, not only to set some goals, but write them down while you're at it.

Norman Cantrell

rec.music.makers.piano newsgroup
"Electronic vs Aural Tuning"

Date: Sat, 19 Oct 1996

>[name deleted] wrote:

>

>I was under the impression that aside from determining the temperament
>and doing the stretch towards the upper octaves, a good tuner nearly
>imperceptibly detunes the strings of a unison. That is, if all strings of a
>unison are precisely in unison, the piano sounds dead, but if they are
>too far detuned from one another, the piano sounds out bright, brittle, and
>out of tune. You don't want to actually hear beats (so the strings are within
>1 cps or better of one another), but you still don't want them to be precisely
>the same. Part of a piano's tone is governed by how the unisons are
>tuned with regard to one another. Or so I was told. Is this right?

>

>It seems to me that accomplishing this is a matter of taste and skill,
>and could simply *not* be accomplished by electronic means.

Greetings:

Sorta.. The three string unisons are often in need of detuning from
mathematically perfect in order to present a consistent clarity from note
to note. This is often the case when false beats are present, or there
are phase considerations.

Unisons exhibit coupled motion, i.e., the pitch of one string can
be shown to have a mechanical effect on the others. If one string is
moving at a slightly different rate, the other two strings attempt to
match its speed, and it attempts to match theirs.

While these three strings are going about trying to find agreement, the
tone is prolonged, (due to the reflective nature of energy that the bridge
is trying to pass along to the soundboard). Waves that are out of phase
tend to "stiffen" the bridge in regard to the other string's input that is
coming in slightly "out of step".

The perfect unison dumps its energy into the bridge at a faster rate,
so the slightly mistuned unison often has a longer sustain. HOWEVER: the
perfect unison will have more power, and if the piano is a good one, the
tone will be more malleable, (voicing difference).

Some numbers to keep in mind:

1) A unison that has one cps beat in it is 4 cents out of tune, (in the
middle of the keyboard). This is a totally unacceptable amount, and most
would hear it as out of tune.

2) Unison detuning of 1 cent is about the limit that is commercially acceptable, recording studios usually demand tolerances closer to .2 cents.

3) the amount of change you may expect a unison to show after several hours of play is in the neighborhood of .1 to .2 cents.

If all three strings are exactly in phase, the quality of sound is different than if one is slightly off. This calls subjective taste into consideration, which means there may be more than one best way!

Good tuners usually tune as closely as possible, knowing that there will be a .2 cent variation in short order. If you start off slightly out, it quickly gets worse than acceptable.

The amount of de-tuning that is usually needed to make the unisons clear is in the .2 cent range. This is just 5% of 1 cps!

The electronic machine I use is very trustworthy, but I cannot trust it to tune unisons, as some of the mathematically perfect unisons don't sound like the others. In order to achieve consistency at this level, the organic hearing qualities of a good tuner will be superior to the machine.

Regards,
Ed Foote
Precision Piano Works
Nashville, TN

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF "Odors"

Date: Fri, 17 May 1996

Some time ago, one of my rental pianos came back from a home where it got a heavy dose of tobacco smoke. I was wondering how to get the smoke out.

About the same time, my Grandmother bought a car that had the same problem. The dealer told her to put dryer sheets inside for a few weeks. It worked. I tried it in my rental piano. It worked. I have since used this method several times and so far it hasn't failed me.

Ron Shiflet, RPT
ronandlorene@juno.com

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1997 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

January	14th, 9am	Tuesday	(location undermined)
February	12th, 9am	Wednesday	(location undermined)
March	13th, 9am	Thursday	(location undermined)
April	22th, 9am	Tuesday	(location undermined)
May	14th, 9am	Wednesday	(location undermined)
June	12th, 9am	Thursday	(location undermined)

LAST MEETING

Excellent meeting at Edmond Music. Treasurer's report \$1280.43. OMTA convention to be held in May 1997 at OCU and potential Yamaha Disklavier Seminar in OKC sometime in 1997 was discussed.

Mike Gilliam's technical was about concepts of pricing concerning buying, selling, and trading used pianos both for dealers, technicians, and private parties. Terrific exchange of ideas and information.

Special guest was Cindy Ketch, nine month old daughter of Jana & Nelson Ketch.

Recommended Reading

"A Visit From St. Nicholas"

by Clement Clarke Moore
(better known as "The Night Before Christmas")

The "Kick" Zone

(closely related to after touch)
from
Keith McGavern, RPT

"Men frequently stumble over the truth,
but most pick themselves up and hurry
along as if nothing had happened."
(Winston Churchill)

"Each moment is a precious gift.
Each year a priceless treasure."
(from a bulletin board at Johnson Church of God, Shawnee, OK)

"Don't be afraid to go out on a limb. That's where the fruit is!"
(cross-stitch hanging on a wall in a local business)

Christmas: it's the time when even the strongest of men
got emotional over family ties--especially if they have to wear them.
(Bob Monkhouse)