

“THE SOONER TUNER”



Official Newsletter, Oklahoma Chapter 731
The Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
March '97

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 13th

TIME: 9AM

LOCATION: David Bonham's place

DIRECTIONS:

10717 North Eastlake Circle, Edmond

From Hefner & MacArthur intersection go south to 1st right.
then take next right, 405-721-0566

*** TECHNICAL ***

David is arranging another hands on experience with
upright action problems.

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

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LAST MEETING

Tim Hast, RPT, presented an update on CA glues with regards to Pin Tightening Solutions. He says the thin versions work great on loose pins. Also, he presented his new PCS (Personal Communication System) by VoiceStream to the chapter. It is a digital pager, answering machine, and cell phone all-in-one package.

Ross Trawick, RPT, gave a presentation on a leg replacement for a console piano. This is a most unusual job, as the leg he is replacing was part of the actual piano cabinet. An ambitious project, to say the least, but one that Ross demonstrated has well under control.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robert Overhulser has submitted an application to become an Associate Member of the Piano Technicians Guild. His sponsor is Tim Hast, RPT. The Chapter will vote on the acceptance of his application at the next meeting.

If you would like to keep your records updated, please submit any new fax, cell, pager #'s, email addresses with the Editor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jack is coming! Jack is coming!! Jack is coming!!! Who is Jack and to where is he coming? Jack is Jack Wyatt, our Regional Vice President, and Jack is coming to the April 22nd combined chapter meeting with the Tulsa Chapter in Stroud. In addition to Jack Dale Probst is also coming from Wichita Falls, Texas to present our technical. His topic will cover "Pricing Our Services." He will be teaching on this subject at the National Convention in Orlando this summer. This will be timely coming just one week after we've all sent our last two cents to the Federal Government.

Don't forget to attend this month's meeting where we will select our nominating committee for chapter officers for the 1997-98 year. We will need to select them now in order to vote in May. With the combined chapter meeting we will not have a very good opportunity for much chapter business. The other event looming on the horizon is the OMTA Convention, May 30-31.

Last week I had the opportunity to pre-screen one of our Associate members in preparation for taking the RPT tuning exam. I prepared the piano in our church sanctuary just like a test piano. This preparation included muting all the unisons leaving only one sounding string per note. Since there was no master tuning from which to work, I made sure the piano was at pitch and slightly detuned.

Our candidate was given an hour and a half to tune this piano. After this time I checked the piano and discussed any discrepancies found. Then the unisons were tuned in the center section and tested. While this was not an actual exam, it mirrored closely the process involved. Our candidate did well and hopefully will be able to take this test for real in the near future.

If anyone else is interested in testing, please contact me. If nothing else, testing sharpens our skills whether we are testing or grading. See you at David Bonham's place on the 13th.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"MUTES & MUSIC"

Date: Wed, 06 Nov 1996

...I am very impressed with all the offered knowledge and the struggle for achieving the best possible tuning. I just can't help thinking about one of the Steinway grands at the conservatory I worked on today. I did some regulation and voicing on this instrument, a complete tuning was not really necessary because it had recently been tuned and it sounded good enough, just a few tones here and there.

After having done some voicing, I consulted the piano teacher about his personal taste and wishes. He started to play some heavenly music and afterwards gave me further instructions. What struck me at the moment, was that although the instrument had been pounded on already for a couple of days and self evident the tuning could not be 100%, the result of his music making was rich, sweet and quite satisfying. Then...I started to ask myself: are we not making too much of all these micro beats, partials and sounds. If the basic structure of a tuning is healthy and in balance and the instrument is beautiful, what more could you wish for? rich is rich...

And besides, when one listens to a piano recital, some of the finesse of the finest of fine tuning remains unnoticed because of 1. the acoustics of the hall, 2. the distance between the pianist and the audience and 3. the (usually) immediate reaction of the soundboard due to body heat, changing humidity and warmth of spotlights.

friendly greetings from:

André Oorebeek
CONCERT PIANO SERVICE
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

(over)

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
" Reed Organs"

Date: Sat, 12 Oct 1996

...While it's true that it's very difficult to find anyone who tunes and services reed organs anymore and replacement parts are virtually unobtainable, the construction and mechanics of the reed organ are simple enough that a talent piano or player-piano tech could learn to repair and rebuild them on a do-it-yourself basis. The standard reference work on reed organ servicing, tuning and rebuilding is "Restoring and Collecting Antique Reed Organs" by Horton Presley. Published by the Vestel press, it's available in paper-back for about \$10. If you're the kind of tech that enjoys self-inflicted pain and suffering, if you entertain the idea of do-it-yourself root-canal work, then reed organ servicing and rebuilding may be for you. Best of all you won't have to worry that the income you derive from it will put you in a tiger tax-bracket. Believe me, IT WONT! :)

Les Smith
lessmith@buffnet.net

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
" Reaming tuning pin holes"

Date: Sun, 20 Oct 1996

...reaming is the way to go. Some have said that a drill works better, which I cannot imagine. A drill has a cutting leading edge and is not necessarily self centering (only two flutes instead of the minimum 3 needed for centering the leading end). A drill also must be turned during it's extraction from the hole in order to leave a smooth hole, and in doing so, continues to cut the walls, thus making the hole larger near the entrance than at the bottom. The cutting edges of a drill are much sharper in angle than a reamer, which leads the cutting edges into the wood, making the hole larger the more revolutions that you turn it. If you tilt a drill, it is very unforgiving-- its sharp cutting edge will remove a lot of material and result in an oblong hole...

Bill Bailer
wbailer@cris.com

(over)

1997 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

April 22th, 10am, Tuesday - Best Western, Stroud, OK
(This will be a joint meeting with the Tulsa Chapter. Dale Probst, RPT, from the Texhoma Chapter will be doing a technical on "Pricing Our Services")

May 14th, 9am, Wednesday - (location undetermined)
(Technical by Keith McGavern, RPT, "Tilting Vertical Planes")

May 30-31 OMTA
Convention at OCUSA (Oklahoma Christian University of Science and Arts) (Gary Bruce, RPT has been nominated to coordinate the Oklahoma Chapter, PTG booth, Tim Hast has consented to assist him.)

June 12th, 9am, Thursday - (location undetermined)

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF *"A Horse Tale"*

Date: Sun, 20 Oct 1996

Delivered a new grand to a sweet lady customer's home in the middle of nowhere awhile back, and she wasn't home. She had arranged for her husband, the rancher, to be there. He was, with a couple of the hired hands. They made all the typical noises when they watched us unload and set up, and then the old rancher said (with a rancher drawl), "Coulda bought a good HORSE with the money I spent on that there PI-A-NO!"

I explained that even with new technology, there were some things, like hot hide glue, that haven't changed much. I then pointed out that he DID buy a horse. The look on his rugged old face was priceless.

Guy Nichols, RPT
nicho@lascruces.com

Recommended Reading

"The Financial Point of View"

by Chris A. Trivelas, RPT
Contributing Editor, PT Journal, February 1997

Some interesting viewpoints here.

The "Kick" Zone

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

"When life throws you a curve.....LEAN!"
(from Suzuki-I, Stonneman, 1/18/97)

PIANO TUNERS PRAYER

"Lord grant me serenity to tune the pianos that can be tuned,
patience to accept the pianos that cannot,
and the wisdom to know the difference."
(from Planotech, Jon Page, Harwich Port, Cape Cod, Mass)

"The distinction between past, present and future is only an illusion,
even if a stubborn one."
-- Albert Einstein

"When you want to test the depth of the stream, don't use both feet."
(Chinese Proverb)