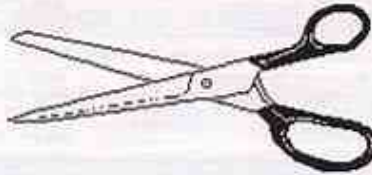


“THE SOONER TUNER”



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

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 22th, Tuesday

TIME: 10AM

LOCATION: Stroud Motor Lodge Best Western, Stroud, OK
Phone 918-968-9515

DIRECTIONS: Just north of I-44 and Hwy 99, across from Tanger Outlet Mall

••• **TECHNICAL** •••

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”

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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
(E-mail address: garybrucegang@juno.com)	
Keith McGavern, Newsletter.....	405-275-8600
(PO Box 1585, Shawnee, OK 74802-1585)	
(E-mail address: kam544@ionet.net)	

1997 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

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)

LAST MEETING

David Bonham, RPT, Ben Davis, Associate, Gary Bruce, RPT have consented to serve on the Nominating committee for selection of officers for 1997-98. Chapter delegate for the 1997 Orlando Convention selection is Keith McGavern, RPT.

MISCELLANEOUS

There is an Associates Seminar in Waco, TX on the 26th of April. Contact Jack Wyatt for further information at 972-278-9312 or E-mail jwyatt@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been trying to catch up on all my paperwork this week. It is one of the chores for which I really have to discipline myself. I am sure that some of you are incredibly astute in the arena of paperwork, responding to every request, balancing your checkbook immediately, and keeping a perfect mileage log. Others of us however, are not so gifted. It is a real challenge to stay current with seemingly trivial matters like paperwork when there is "real work" to do.

I have come to the realization in recent years as to the wisdom and value of timeliness in the arena of paperwork. Proverbs 27:23-24 says, "Know well the condition of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds; for riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations." (NASB) While I have no herds or flocks per se, I do have customers who expect timely service. I have equipment which must be maintained for me to meet those needs. Finally, I have paperwork which must be done in order to monitor how fat my flocks are becoming.

As we are in the midst of tax season, it would behoove all of us to ride the range and view our herds and flocks. Hopefully you can find some fences that need mending to make you more efficient and some green pastures on which your flocks can graze.

Don't forget to mark your calendar with a large marker for this month's meeting: April 22nd in case you forgot; at the best Western in Stroud, OK in case you forgot; at 10AM in case you forgot. It will be a good chance to hear Dale Probst teach us how to make more money. After the 15th we will all need some help. I hope to see all of you there.

Norman Cantrell

Piano Technicians Journal

May 1994, page 12-13

Q. *Climate can pitch a whing, dang, doodle*

I have noticed that when a piano goes through humidity changes, the three strings of each unison don't change pitch equally. That is, each right string may end up slightly sharper than the center string, and each left string slightly flatter than the center. Or, the opposite situation may exist, depending upon the direction of overall pitch change. When this happens, the pattern seems to exist consistently throughout most unisons of the pianos. This is especially noticeable after a well-tuned piano goes through humidity swings, but ends up at the same humidity (and average pitch level) at which it was previously tuned. Then this phenomenon is very obvious, since when tuning the piano I find that most center strings are very close to correct already, while each left string is slightly sharp (or flat) and each right string slightly flat (or sharp). This consistent pattern makes it very easy to bring the piano back into tune, but why does it happen?

Anonymous Reader

A. *from Jim Coleman, Sr., RPT*

When a piano is returning to the same climatic conditions as existed when the piano was last tuned, the pitch level is very likely to be right on A-440. The piano has no doubt undergone some climatic changes since the previous tuning. If it experienced higher humidity, the soundboard (being crowned) pushed up harder against the strings causing the pitch to rise. Of course it is the speaking length which exhibits this pitch rise.

The speaking lengths of the three strings are equal (more or less). However, the lengths from the V-bar to the three tuning pins are different. The longer left string segment on a vertical piano can absorb more tension change than the shorter segment of the right pitch during humidity increase and is slower to drop back down when the humidity comes back to normal. The opposite is true for the shorter right string.

If a piano is recovering from a dry spell, the left string will be flatter than the right string.

On a grand piano, the right string has a longer segment between the agraffe and the tuning pin, and therefore the right string will be slower to respond to humidity changes. It will also be slower to return to normal.

Jim Coleman, Sr. was instrumental in the development of PTG's standardized tuning exam, and is one of the most popular seminar and institute instructors.

(over)

rec.music.maker.pianos newsgroup
"Lowering plates"

Lowering the plate changes almost everything in a piano, from downbearing, to regulation. Definitely not for an amateur, and must be carefully considered taking into account dozens of factors. You must ask yourself what you are trying to achieve. If your soundboard has gone flat, lowering the plate can cause the board to "oil-can" and really ruin the board.

In other words, there's no quick answer, but in general, it's not done without considerable analysis. And most times, it's not the right answer to tonal problems.

Neil Rosenberg, Associate Member
New Hampshire Chapter
NeilR@innermedia.com

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"Just To Enjoy"

Tuned a piano at a no "nonsense type" country church yesterday. Pastor asked if the piano was in tune with the organ? While I got ready to check the pitch of the organ I asked him, "How does it sound when you play the piano with the organ now?" The pastor replied, "Depends on who's playing it!"

Dick Day
Marshall, Michigan
Pianoone@aol.com

(over)

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"World's Worst Tuner"

Oh boy, my turn.

Piano- 30's low-end Aeolian grand, terrible condition. Located in a little church.

Problem- damper near the tenor break was leaking badly. Reason- damper felt was a hollowed-out husk, having been eaten from the inside out by carpet weevils.

Previous technician's repair- One (1) Jiffy Lead, SCREWED into the top of the damper head. With two screws, no less; this guy was no slouch.

The bad news- it felt just a little bit strange, having one key with a perceived downweight of about 4 pounds; also, with the guide rail bushings shot, this altered damper really rattled and banged around.

The worse news- it didn't work. The damper still leaked.

I had two options-

1) screw another jiffy lead onto the damper, to reduce leakage; then, install two leads on all the other dampers to even out the touch

or

2) remove jiffy lead, replace damper felt, patch screw holes (screws had split the head).

I chose (2) since I was short on time and Jiffy Leads.

Regards,

Tom Myler
TomMyler@worldnet.att.net

(over)

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"World's Worst Tuner continued"

Hi, Tom,

I thought you might find this IMPORTANT tech tip to be helpful the next time you run through a complete set of Jiffy key leads while doing damper-work on a grand. An acceptable substitute for a Jiffy key lead that you've been securing to the damper heads with two screws is a lug-nut taken from the wheel of your car and affixed with either duct-tape, or black electricians tape.

I once saw a new Sarrick grand with tightly pinned underlevers that had been treated that way in three different places. I must admit that those babies certainly didn't stick anymore! Downweight was a tad heavy, but HEY!, one problem at a time, huh?

The only downside to this repair is that if you have to do it to more than five dampers, DON'T take all five lug nuts off the same wheel of your car, or you're unlikely to make it home with the satisfied piano-owners check. For that matter, you might not make it past the turn out of the driveway. Large numbers of extra lug-nuts in your tuning kit is probably the way to go.

I hope this helps! :-)

Les Smith
lessmith@buffnot.net

(over)

Recommended Reading

"So You Want to Be a (*Woman*) Piano Tuner"

by Nancy Burkhalter, Laramie, Wyoming

Definitely an article worth reading!!

The "Kick" Zone

(closely related to after touch)
from

Keith McGavern, RPT

"I used to think my brain was the best part of my body. But then I thought, 'look who's telling me.'" - Emo Phillips

.....

I never thought much of the courage of a lion-tamer.
Inside the cage he is at least safe from people.
George Bernard Shaw

.....

"All things will be produced in superior quantity and quality,
and with greater ease, when each man works at a single occupation,
in accordance with his natural gifts, and at the right moment,
without meddling with anything else.
Plato (c. 427-347 B.C.)

.....

If you can look back on your life with no regrets,
you have one of life's most precious gifts - selective memory.
(author unknown)

.....

"My karma ran over my dogma"
(saw on a bumper sticker by Vince Mykalo, RPT)