

“THE SOONER TUNER”



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

NEXT MEETING

DATE

Thursday, June 12th

TIME

9AM

LOCATION

Norman Cantrell's place, 2251 NW 19th, Oklahoma City

DIRECTIONS

From I-40 & I-44 go north to 23rd,
exit east 1.3 mile to Villa, then south to 19th, then east
405-525-7762

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"Everyday Voicing"
by Norman Cantrell, RPT

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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)	

LAST MEETING

If you haven't seen David Wallace's new tool case, put it on your "must see" list. It is one he built himself, and it is out of this world!

Keith McGavern, RPT, demonstrated tilting a Wurlitzer Studio piano and some of the pitfalls that can occur in the process if you are careless. And Ross Trawick, RPT, demonstrated his approach in duplicating a tenor/treble bridge cap on a Vose & Sons Baby Grand. Very impressive ingenious, Ross. Thank you for a great technical.

Also, thanks to Ross for hosting the May chapter meeting at his place.

Slate of officers for 1997-98 remains the same. Congratulations!

1997 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

July	Summer Picnic
August	Institutional Work?
September 11th	David Wallace's place
October	
November	
December	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well summer is upon us school being out and tuning coming to a snail's pace. Hopefully you have all managed to schedule either shop work or a vacation at this time of the year. If you are still debating what to do this summer and have a stash of cash, you might consider attending the national convention in Orlando in July. It may be the only time you can travel to Disney World and deduct the airfare.

I want to take this time to thank all of you who helped at the OMTA State Convention in Edmond last weekend. A lot of good contacts were made and relationships were strengthened. Especially want to say, "Thank you" to Gary Bruce who stepped in and taught a class for me at the last moment. My grandmother passed away on Thursday the 25th and the funeral was scheduled Saturday at 11AM in Texas. This is the second time in two months someone from our chapter has come to my rescue. It really speaks well of all of us and the cooperative spirit that exists.

The events of the last week have caused me to really reflect on how I handle the rat race of life. It has helped me focus on what is important in the long run. Seems no one was remembering material things in my grandmother's life, rather the emphasis was on the things she said and did in her ninety-four years on this earth.

I hope during this somewhat slower time of the year we can all reflect just what we are chasing. As the writer of a contemporary song said, "May all who come behind us find us faithful." I hope to see all of you on June 12th at my place for the next meeting.

Norman Cantrell

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"Modesty Curtain"

Once in a church a pastor asked me if I could provide a modest curtain for the grand piano. With enthusiasm I replied "Yes, I can probably help out with that . . . now if you'll just tell me what it is." I'm sorry, I didn't know. Well it's a curtain hung under the grand behind the pedal lyre. Why is it needed?

The piano at the front of the church was elevated about 3 or 4 steps higher than the pews. Now the direct line of sight from the congregation was straight under the piano at the lyre. Now imagine a lady seated at the piano facing the congregation and she might be wearing a skirt. Maybe there would be exhilarate moments of pedaling or just accidental careless moments. Someone in the congregation might see . . . ah . . . might become distracted. So the modesty curtain.

You just improvise a rail of some kind and mount it under the piano. Then choose an appropriate fabric and mount it onto the rail. One church uses a small thin partition of paneling mounted on feet. It slides under the piano behind the lyre and is easily moved for cleaning.

This item doesn't seem to listed in any of the supply catalogs. It only come up a few times in my travels.

Sy Zabrocki
only4zab@imt.net

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF

"Meadowlark SB"

It's springtime in Montana! Last week I was traveling on a gravel road out to a ranch to tune a piano. While driving along, out in the meadow somewhere, a meadowlark let go of a mighty beautiful warble. The intricate melody of this bird penetrated right into my vehicle. Yes, the windows were up--it wasn't that warm. Consider road noise and motor noise and still this sound could be heard inside the vehicle. Wow! It caused me to meditate for a moment.

What kind of mechanism so tiny could produce a sound so efficiently. Maybe we in the piano world could learn from this bird. Maybe the piano industry needs to research the "soundboard" in this tiny creature.

Suppose the mighty 10 foot Fazioli grand piano was planted out into this same meadow and someone played a powerful chord. It's unlikely the sound could be heard inside a moving vehicle. Of course the Fazioli was designed by Fazioli, the meadowlark was designed by . . . the Almighty?

Just some Sunday evening thoughts.

Sy Zabrocki
only4zab@iml.net

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"Candle Wax"

Dear List,

Here is an experience for those who haven't been there, and a gentle reminder for those who have.

I just finished doing a tuning pass on a piano I purchased from a retired restaurant/club owner. I noticed evidence of some candle wax on a few tuning pins in the treble area. Without thinking of any possible consequences, when the time came to slide the tuning lever on a tuning pin with wax residue, I noticed that pin did not respond like the previous tuning pins, kind of felt spongy and insecure. When I moved to the next tuning pin (non wax), the tuning lever would not stay on when I applied leverage. It kept slipping off. Really weird feeling...and then it dawned on me. There was now wax inside the tip.

Needless to say, it was not the easiest task to eliminate the residue inside the tip before it would not slip anymore. That is the first time that ever happened in my experience, and hopefully, it will be the last.

Sincerely,

Keith A. McGavern
kam544@jnet.net

Highlights from the Tulsa Seminar - I

"Good Record Keeping"

U.S. Small Business Administration Pamphlet

As the owner or manager of a small business, you invest tremendous time and energy to ensure your company's success. You want the greatest possible return on your investment, and good financial records can help...

Good records will help you answer important questions about your company's financial health. What's really happening in my business? Why is cash flow always a problem? How much is real profit anyway? If you're not exactly sure, then it's time to return to the basics--the basics of good record keeping.

Simply put, good records will help you answer important questions about your company's financial health. Complete and accurate financial record keeping is crucial to your business success. Here's why:

- 1) Good records provide the financial data that help you operate more efficiently, thus increasing your profitability. Accurate and complete records enable you, or your accountant, to identify all your business assets, liabilities, income and expenses. That information, when compared to appropriate industry averages, helps you pinpoint both the strong and weak phases of your business operations.
- 2) Good records are essential for the preparation of current financial statements, such as the income statement (profit and loss) and cash-flow projection. These statements, in turn, are critical for maintaining good relations with your banker. They also present a complete picture of your total business operation, which will benefit you as well.
- 3) Good records are critical at tax time. Poor records could cause you to underpay or overpay your taxes. In addition, good records are essential during an Internal Revenue Service audit, if you hope to answer questions accurately and to the satisfaction of the IRS...

Recommended Reading

*"Of Mice and Men and Pianos:"
A Look at the Hantavirus in Relation to Piano Technicians*
by Norman Cantrell, RPT
(Piano Technicians Journal, May, 1997, pages 22-23)

Our very own chapter member!!

The "Kick" Zone

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

"Always forgive your enemies,
nothing annoys them so much."
(Oscar Wilde)

"Talk slow, but think quick."
(marque sign at Parker's Pawn Shop, Stroud)

"Perhaps the greatest wisdom is the knowledge
of one's own ignorance"
(John Steinbeck)
(introduced on Pianotech by Tom Mylar)

"If you can't smell the hickory when you walk in the place,
the barbeque ain't no good."
(from Leo's BBQ on SW corner of Kelly & 36th)