

“THE SOONER TUNER”



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



NEXT MEETING

• • • •
no meeting this month
• • • •

“HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY”



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

An excellent meeting was held at Norman Cantrell's home. The numbers in attendance were small, but the quality was huge! Treasurer's report - \$1090.00 current balance. Several other items were discussed, such as upcoming agenda items for Council session, the chapter's involvement at the OMTA conventions, cost to produce newsletter from July '96 to June '97 totaled 264.50, and Everyday Voicing, Boom, Bang, and Sizzle proved to be very satisfying.

CONCERNS

David Bonham's dad passed away June 10, 1997. David and his family are working towards a celebration service which will be held sometime next month.

1997 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

August 14th, Thursday, 8:30AM at OU in Norman
September 11th, Thursday, 9AM at David Wallace's shop in Edmond
October 16th, Thursday, at 8:30AM, Location?
November 20th, Thursday at 8:30AM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus, and yes Virginia, there is no meeting in July for the Oklahoma Chapter PTG. At the last meeting, which was voraciously attended, it was felt that a break during July was a good idea in order to allow as many as possible to have a conflict free reason to attend the National Convention in Orlando.

Since this is the 50th anniversary of the alleged alien invasion in Roswell, New Mexico, I thought I would explore some of the lesser known conspiracy theories involving aliens and pianos. First, is it just a coincidence that PTG is celebrating its 40th anniversary this month? Is there some possible link to the Roswell incident and exactly 10 years later PTG forming? Just think about it before you go to bed tonight.

Other theories abound implying the correlation between "technological breakthroughs" and alien encounters. Is it no coincidence that Cristofori spelled backwards is "Irototsirc"? Those of you who have taken "conversational Klingon" from the OKC public library will recognize this word immediately as the term for "Ah Bach." Did Babcock really invent the cast iron plate from his own imagination, or did he get the idea after parking on a lonely stretch of road with his girlfriend and suddenly finding himself surrounded by bright lights?

One must be careful to distinguish between truly alien influences and those of the Soviet KGB during the cold war. For instance, it is a known fact that Mr. Brambach is really a double agent involved in selling secrets to both sides.

When you realize that virtually no great improvements have been developed for the piano over 150 years, it really is good thing that the Hale-Bopp comet and its secret alien spaceship came by this spring. Keep a sharp eye out for vast improvements to pianos in the very near future.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the August meeting if you can get there without being followed.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"Where there's a will, there's a way (in)!"

This morning I had been engaged to tune a piano in a theater, as dress rehearsals were starting today for a play that makes use of a piano. I have tuned for many productions at this theater, and arrived at 6AM as promised, only to find my normal access routes (b)locked. I don't have a key into the theater itself, although I do have a key for the building.

The custodians declined to let me in; they were new, of course, and did not know me. I took another look around the dressing room floor below the theater where there are stairways up to the stage. No luck, until I noticed that the trap room was open. Hmmm... I entered the room, found a ladder leading upward, trucked self, computer, and tools up the ladder and found a trap door at the top. Opening the trap door, I found myself onstage and ready to tune.

About 8 AM a person entered the theater through one of the locked doors, noticed me, and said, "Got the piano tuned?" I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "Fine." Hey, all in a day's work for a piano tuner. But I simply **MUST** raise my rates.

Kerit Swafford
kswafford@earthlink.net

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"Unisons"

I had a lady who complained that my tuning was too dull. What she wanted were unisons which were slightly off. I gave her a choice of one, two or three beats per second and she chose the two beats per second. I slowed them down in the tenor section and speeded them up a bit in the treble.

What a strange feeling it was to tune like that! When I got finished, she said, "It sounds worse but it's better. Do you know what I mean?" I wasn't sure I did but she was a happy customer.

When I played some chords on the piano it sounded strange but not really wild. I could understand somebody preferring that sound, at least for popular music.

Ken Burton "Doctor Piano" Calgary Alberta
kwburton@freenet.calgary.ab.ca

PTG-L (Internet) STUFF
"PIANO 300 concern"

This may be considered a small potato item by some, but hopefully not.

Today I was reminded that Bartolomeo Cristofori's name is still being spelled incorrectly by some PTG members with a "h" between the "C" and "r". It is even spelled with the "h" in at least one piano book. Would it not be in our best interest to uniformly agree to have members of the Piano Technicians Guild make every effort to use one consistent spelling of the earliest recognized inventor of the piano from now on?

Cristofori is credited with three principles still in use today*:

- 1) He substituted hammers for harpsichord jacks which made it possible to create soft and loud sounds directly by finger pressure.
- 2) He developed an escapement device to permit the hammer to drop back immediately after delivering its string a blow, leaving the string to vibrate freely as long as the key is held.
- 3) He also invented the shifting soft pedal arrangement, called the una corda.

* (Passion for the Piano, Judith Oringer, page 7)

Also, according to this same publication, John Broadwood of England invented the sustaining pedal sometime after 1770.
(page 8)

Sincerely,

Keith A. McGavem, RPT
kam544@ionet.net

Highlights from the Tulsa Seminar

"Understanding Cash-Flow"

U.S. Small Business Administration Pamphlet

Failure to properly plan cash flow is one of the leading causes for small business failures...A sufficient cash flow covers your business by meeting obligations (i.e., paying bills), serving as a cushion in case of emergencies, and providing investment capital...

Cash-flow analysis should show whether your daily operations generate enough cash to meet your obligations, and how major outflows of cash to pay your obligations relate to major inflows of cash...As a result, you can tell if inflows and outflows from your operation combine to result in a positive cash flow or in a net drain...

You should always keep enough cash on hand to cover expenses and as an added cushion for security. However, it is unwise to keep more money on hand than is necessary. Excess cash should be invested in an accessible, interest-bearing, low-risk account, such as a savings account, short-term certificate of deposit or Treasury bill. Keeping excess cash on hand limits both your growth and the return on your investment...

With a personal computer, your business can have the added advantage of quick cash-flow projections as well as many other useful financial-planning tools. A good financial-management package and computer will enable you to review projected inflows and outflows of cash from month to month or year to year...

Recommended Reading

TM

Trademark owners' Legal Interests in Rebuilt Musical Instruments

by Charles E. Miller, JD, Law Firm of Pennie & Edmonds
(Piano Technicians Journal, June 1997, pages 33-35)

This article has some very interesting thoughts regarding the responsibilities towards rebuilding and reselling original manufacturer's instruments.

The "Kick" Zone

(closely related to after touch)

from

Keith McGavern, RPT

"It is a wise person who does not play leap frog with a unicorn."
(unknown)

.....

"In the ocean of economics,
a dollar is but a drop of water."
(Keith McGavern, 5/4/97)

.....

"Today's miracle is tomorrow's expectation."
David Skolnik, Manhattan School of Music

.....

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."
(Berthold Auerbach)

.....

"Obstacles are things you see when you take your eyes off the goal."
(marquee at Hillside Baptist Church, McLoud, OK)