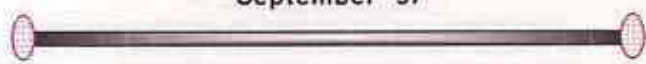


“THE SOONER TUNER”



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



NEXT MEETING

DATE:

September 11th, Thursday

TIME:

9AM

LOCATION:

David Wallace's Shop, 405-755-4221

DIRECTIONS:

Take I-35 to Waterloo, go east 2 miles to Douglas, north 1 mile to Simmons (not marked), go east to first right after bridge (Tumbleweed), then north to first left (Tree Stump), dead end's at David's place

*** *MINI-TECHNICALS* ***

"Ivory Keytop Repair"
David Wallace, Associate

&

"Another Way to do Let-off on a Vertical Action"
"Another Way to do Let-off and Drop on a Grand Action"

"Tuning Lever Tip Trick"
Keith McGavern, RPT

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

Great meeting at the OU Piano Shop! We had Peter Krause speak to us of his piano activities during his sojourn. He does a lot of piano preparation and is an accomplished jazz pianist for some 22 years. He shared stories of his training with Steinway and other adventures along the way. Thank you, Peter, for being.

Also at the meeting was a first time guest, Kent Shipley, who is visiting from the great state of Kansas and works with David Wallace, Associate.

Keith McGavern, RPT, shared some of his experiences at the Orlando Convention last July. It was evident this 40th Anniversary Convention was one he won't soon forget, as it was a most excellent event.

1997 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

October 16th, Thursday, at 8:30AM, Location?
November 20th, Thursday at 8:30AM, Location?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you have had a chance to complete your "back-to-school" tunings and have squirreled away some of the profits in anticipation of slower days ahead. I can always plot a business cycle that tends to droop a bit during the month of September due in large part to the OK State Fair. Thus it makes September a good time to catch up on all those promised repairs and shop work.

I hope you are not too adversely affected by the recent UPS strike. During the strike and the subsequent debate in the media as to the issues involved, I began to ponder what types of issues piano technicians should be concerned. Certainly as a sole proprietor we are not subject to the current requirements for overtime pay should we work more than 40 hours in a week. What types of benefit packages do you offer yourself as CEO of a major corporation? Do you have an annual leave policy? How much vacation time does your company pay for? Do you have liberal health benefits and a competitive retirement program?

When you are looking at your total income of the year, look for the areas which you cannot directly bill, but for which your business is required to pay. Just the time to keep up the books, maintain your vehicle, order parts, and plan for the next month's expenses cannot be directly billed to your customer. Last month I shared a concept I learned while in the muffler shop. The following quote came from another article in the same magazine, "The proprietor of a one man shop could not hope to produce 40 hours of billable time in a 40 hour work week and still accomplish all the leadership and management responsibilities required to run a business effectively, let alone manage the 'high touch' time required to keep customers satisfied and well informed." Try to keep this in mind as you view what is required to keep your business profitable.

I used to read management materials with the thought that, "That's nice, but it really doesn't apply to me. After all, I am a small half-a-horse outfit." One of the other statements in the muffler shop article said, "The size of business is irrelevant in terms of management principles." As I have thought about this, I realize its truth and significance.

This month should be significant for our chapter as well. Not only will we be meeting for our regular technical, but we will also be giving some tuning exams. Walt Connell, our Regional Tuning Test Coordinator, has agreed to come up to OKC and administer the exams the weekend of September 20-21. I will be calling on some of you to help with these tests. Hope to see you at David Wallace's shop on the 11th, Thursday, at 9AM.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF

"Using CA glue..."

CA glue is permanent when you get a good bond. It can almost not be removed because the material is stronger than the plastic holding it in place. It sets up quickly and because of this the surfaces must be prepared before applying the material. There is no known substance that effects it except acetone which is used to release or dissolve the stuff.

A thin coat is all that is needed of the medium or thick CA. Do not use thin for keytops. I use the thin to reglue bench joints by filling all the spaces without undoing the joint. I use it to fill the spaces in loose bridge pins by slowly dripping it into the joint with the thin tube until there is a meniscus at the base of the pin. Use a tissue corner to wick up the excess that the meniscus represents.

I use CA glue for almost everything, except felt where wicking is a problem. I use the accelerator lavishly, except where it may come in contact with a finished surface.

I have used CA glue (thin) to reglue lyres without dismantling the joints. I have used it to reglue ivory, but the surface and the ivory must be clean. Broken hammer shanks can be repaired instantly, even when broken at the head.

What is happening when you use CA glue with another glue is that the other glue is acting as an accelerator for the CA. Another way to do what you are doing is to spray some accelerator on one felt 'ear' and put a small drop of medium or thick CA on the other 'ear' and then press them together.

I have used CA on:

- split finger nails, felt to anything, hammer shanks,
- loose hammer glue, joints without removing hammer,
- broken S&S jacks, reattaching cup handles,
- loose bridge pins, loose damper head wires,
- loose key buttons, loose legs on stools,
- where wicking is needed, and just about anywhere!!

I do not use it on key or flange bushings, gluing on dampers, where wicking is a problem or where joint separation may be useful or where slow setting is desirable.

CA glue sets in seconds and cures in about four hours.

I love the stuff, except when I get it on my fingers, which is most of the time. CA glue can be most destructive as well as constructive.

For shop use I like to take a three or four inch length of tubing and cut a hole in the tip that is a tight fit for the tube. Pulled through just enough to leave a 1/8" of tube in the tip will provide a long term tip that can be clipped back, 1/8" at a time, that opens up the tube for next use.

One other means is to cut off the tip of the tip and force the tube into the tip just far enough to be able to grasp it with needle nose pliers and force the rest of the tube into the bottle. This can be capped again and again if kept clean.

The CA glue gets as hard as a rock. It is somewhat brittle in large chunks, but takes compression, and sheer very well. I have repaired cup handles with it and have not had one come apart yet (three years).

If the bridge is split so there is no crack to the sides of the bridge then clamp it firmly together, align pins where you wish them to be then just pour in the CA glue. Once the crack is filled spray a little accelerator on it and it will set immediately. It will cure in four hours unless the cracks are very deep. I would wait 24 hours before stringing. If you have the piano completely unstrung you should use CA glue on all the bridge pins.

One very important use for CA I did not list is for stripped screw holes:
Using a screw holder spray the screw thoroughly with a teflon lube.
Drop one to several drops of CA in the hole (use medium or thick).
Insert screw and turn to proper depth for the retained piece.
Allow to sit for 24 hours.
Give the screw a quick impact rotation to loosen.
Reattach piece.

I have used this method for all types of screws, lids, flys, rim, action, panel locks, fallboard, lamps and key weights.

On Steinway rails I remove several flanges, cut the fold back the cloth, drop on or two drops of CA in hole and insert the screw. Leave until the next day. It works wonderfully.

May all your screws be tight!

Newton Hunt, RPT
nhunt@jagat.com

≤ PIANO TECHNICIAN JOURNALS ≥
BLASTS FROM (the) PAST

THE TECHNICAL FORUM
Jack Krotting, Technical Editor
(PT Journal, January 1985, page 12)

"Tech Tips"

by R. A. Beaton, Montana Chapter

2. For you fellows who are stumped when it comes to removing and replacing a very tight <vertical> action, you have my sympathy. Assuming you have skinned your knuckles prying the thing out one way or another, your real problem begins when you find the bolt is a good quarter of an inch below the bottom of the "U" in the top of the action bracket. You have the best tool right with you if you have an extension tuning lever. Just pull it apart and shove the handle over the bolt and tilt on it until you feel it bend. Be careful not to overdo it as the action must seat firmly. Presto! Your extension lever is a dual use tool!

≤ PIANO TECHNICIAN JOURNAL ≥
Blast from the Past

the Lyons Roar, No. 1
by Jesse Lyons, RPT
Oklahoma Chapter member
Guild Sustaining

"Noisy Damper Block (No. 1)"
(PT Journal, June 1968, page 17)

Have you had difficulty with these new-type barrel damper blocks rattling? I have, and here is my way of taking care of the trouble.

The round metal sleeve with the threaded screw in it sometimes gets loose in the wooden block. This is due to wood shrinkage. It doesn't matter how tight the screw is tightened against the damper wire, the rattle is still there because it is the sleeve vibrating against the wooden sides of the hole in the block.

I have two methods of taking care of this problem. The first, and probably the best, is to remove the sleeve from the wooden block; apply glue, and put it back in, making sure that no glue stays in the guide hole for the damper wire. The second way, and quickest, is to take some Pin Block Restorer (you choose your brand) and drop some on the wooden block around the metal sleeve. This does the same thing for the metal sleeve as it does for a tuning pin. How long it will last I don't know, but I do know it works at the time and stops the rattle.

Don't become careless and let some of that stuff accidentally get on a damper flange or hammer butt flange. It will make it almost unmovable. I found that out the hard way.

Recommended Reading

PTG Review

"Farming Out" to Build Business

(by Gary A. Nele, Chairman Economic Affairs Committee)

An excellent and insightful article by one who's been there,
and continues to be there!

The "Kick" Zone

(closely related to after touch)

from

Keith McGavern, RPT

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER:

"After eating, do amphibians have to wait one hour before getting out of the water?"

"Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?"

"Why do we play in recitals and recite in plays?"

(original authors unknown)

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"If a thing goes without saying—let it."

(Jacob Braude, Treasury of Wit & Humor For All Occasions)

.....

"Adversity introduces you to yourself."

(marquee sign at Tri-Center Christian Center, Seminole, OK)

.....

"The reason gorillas have large nostrils is because they have large fingers."

(Tom Snyder - Late Show)

.....

"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks."

(Saint Ambrose)