

# The Sooner Tuner

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER  
OF THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD, INC.



Happy Independence Day!

July 1, 1998

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well this marks the first edition of the Sooner Tuner under the editorship of myself and Ben Davis. I hope all of you realize the importance of the choice you have made in bestowing this much power and influence to the two of us. Of course we are both known throughout the world for our insight and serious responses to all of life's issues. With Ben's shoot from the hip truthfulness and my lack of humor I hope we can be all you are searching for in a newsletter team.



By the time most of you read this I will be on my way to Providence where I hope the temperature is a baking 85 during the day and the evenings fall to a torrid 64 or so. I am looking forward to this year's convention in spite of the fact that I will work more than play this go around. I realize that the distance and the cost make this year's convention prohibitive for some of you. If you view it as only an expense it will always be overwhelming. If, however you view it instead as an investment in yourself and your continuing education it pays for itself in a hurry. Start saving now for next year in Kansas City.  
Norman Cantrell, RPT.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July--No meeting

August 20th  
Chapter Meeting

September 17th  
Chapter Meeting

October 15-18  
TSA Houston

October 22  
Chapter Meeting

November 19th  
Chapter Meeting

## The Sooner Tuner

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## Perspective

Are you listening? I wonder if even when I think I am listening if I truly hear what is said or is it just a false beat?

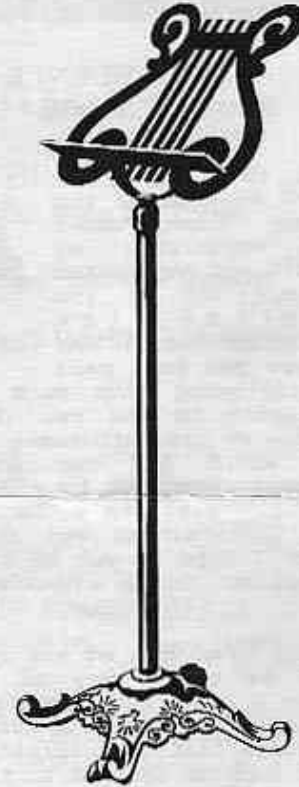
In future articles and without too much emptiness into the void, I would like to examine the "Art," if you would, of listening. This investigation will be a compilation of information garnished from local guild members and other sources. In the mean time,

Happy listening.

Ben Davis, RPT

## GRAPHIC OF THE MONTH

Welcome to graphic of the month. Graphic of the month will appear any time the computer guy finds a cool graphic or Ben's article is seriously short resulting in a great deal of white space.

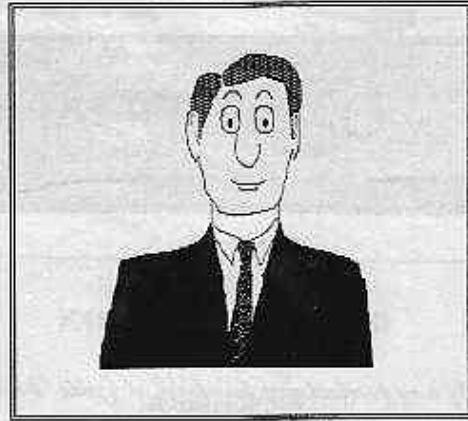


### Piano Proverbs

Only music in tune will  
soothe the savage beasts!

# TUNER TALK

## WITH BOB BARNHOFF



Dear Bob:

I haven't seen you around in about four years. I was just wondering where you have been and what you have been up to?

Signed,

Curious in Claremore

Dear Curious:

You are right I have not been appearing in the pages of this wonderful paper. In fact I have been traveling the country compiling a series of interviews for my new book entitled *CONFESSIONS OF AN UNA CORDA TUNER*. It is an in depth look at several practices of piano technicians who will cut corners on occasion such as tuning in a grand piano and instead of reshaping the hammers and aligning them to the strings find it much easier to just simply press the una corda pedal and temporarily line the hammer to the string long enough to tune. This is by far the most common and glaring method.

I have devoted an entire chapter to Earnest Cronwell.

It was Earnest who began the practice of recovering the top octave of hammers with Dr. Scholls "Moleskin" to avoid replacing the hammers. It seems that the late Mr. Cronwell was a former salesman for Dr. Scholl who began to supplement his income by tuning pianos. It is a fascinating chapter, but of course you will have to buy the book to enjoy all the tidbits. By the way it is good to be back with THE SOONER TUNER.

Dear Bob:

The other day I was tuning a piano in a customer's home which was a really terrific German grand with an

incredible sound. While I was tuning the customer's pet Chihuahua came over to where I was working and proceeded to use my tool box for a urinal. The customer claims that "Poochie Poo" is never at fault. Many of my tools were ruined and the ones that weren't are not a lot of fun to use any more. My question for you is this: Is there any type of insurance product available for me for the future. You see I am anticipating tuning her piano in six months. Normally I would just write her off but the piano is so incredible that I have been dreaming about returning ever since. Can you help?

Signed,

Drenched in Drummond

Dear Drenched:

The only insurance produce I can recommend is mental health coverage for yourself. Obviously your customer has no idea how to deal with reality and no matter how "incredible" her piano is, it is not worth the price of a new set of tools just to experience the sound of her grand.

Well folks that's all the space we have this month. See you next time. It really is good to be giving advice again.

Bob

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