

The Sooner Tuner

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Chapter, PTG

September

2000

ψ President's Message ψ

Here we go! Another school year awaits those who without fear attack the world of overheated, under heated, too dry, too moist, and sometimes just too old pianos that are lurking in classrooms, auditoriums, and practice rooms throughout the United States of America. Never fear for he who can leap over tall uprights in a single bound, is faster than a speeding caster, and can bend #1 bass strings with his bare hands is here, SUPER TUNER!

It has been said, you can sometimes recognize SUPER TUNER by gum bottomed shoes or clothing that is dyed with colors not occurring naturally on planet earth. It is also possible that he might be carrying large bags containing tools that no other person in the universe has seen before. Occasionally it appears that there is more than one SUPER TUNER. Maybe SUPER TUNER can duplicate himself. It seems as though they meet at certain times of the month, possibly in conjunction with the phases of the moon or other heavenly bodies. They discuss new and old tools by which they bring delinquent pianos into alignment with the order of the universe and many other problems, (including psychological ones that I am sure after reading this president's message many will conclude this writer possesses.) Now the editor of this paper will be giving the dates of future meetings and I hope all will mark them on their schedules. Don't miss out on the knowledge and fun.

Sincerely,

Ben Davis, RPT

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Is the monthly publication of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. Norman Cantrell, RPT, Editor. All articles may be reproduced without further permission. Please credit the author and publication. Send contributions to: Norman Cantrell, Editor; The Sooner Tuner; 6730 Embassy Circle; Lawton, OK 73505

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NORM'S NONCENTS

I hope everyone has found a way to stay cool lately. I have updated all of the officer's e-mail addresses so they should be accurate. It is interesting to see just how creative people are with e-mail addresses. If you are wondering just what was going through my mind when I devised mine the truth is that with a family of five and only 8 characters allowed by my provider we had to be creative. To be fair we used the first initial of all family members plus the first 3 letters of our last name.

Speaking of being on line, I have discovered that several chapters are taking advantage of technology by sending their chapter newsletters via the internet. I am currently using MS Word 97 for publishing this rag and if you would be interested and are compatible let me know. This would allow the chapter to save a few bucks on printing and postage. If for some reason it doesn't work we can always go back to snail mail.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

Bridging the Gap With Epoxy

This past spring I rebuilt a Steinway model B for a customer. One of the procedures I employed was replacing the bridge pins in both bridges. I first heard about this technique from Walt Connell in Dallas. Granted the bridges were not split out but like many older pianos they had the hairline stress cracks around the base of the pins on the cap. I measured the old pins and removed them with a pair of pliers. Most of them slid right out with only slight resistance. I only had one take a small piece of the cap with it as it exited. Once they were removed I lightly sanded the bridge cap just enough to remove the graphite and de-burr the pin holes. Once this was done I began the process of filling the holes with epoxy. The epoxy I used was from Epoxy Technology. Their address is Epoxy Technology, 14 Fortune, Billerica, MS 01821. The phone number is 1-800-227-2201. The epoxy I used is their #301 which is very thin. It is thin enough that I was able to apply it to the pin holes using a hypo oiler.

The trick to applying the epoxy to the bridge pin holes is to place the needle all the way into the hole so that it bottoms out and then install the epoxy. If you try filling from the top down bubbles result which are difficult to remove. One nice thing about this particular epoxy is that the pot life is approximately one hour giving you plenty of time to work. I did have to mix two batches as there are a lot of holes to fill on a piano bridge. This epoxy is so thin that I had to make two applications and refill the holes. It appears that the epoxy is wicking into the wood in the same way that CA glue wicks into a pinblock.

Once the epoxy has cured which is in 24 hours one simply has to re-graphite the bridge cap and re-drill the pin holes before installing the new pins. If I were to do this again I would buy one of those flex shafts for my drill as the electric drill motor got heavy as I was stretched out over the center of the soundboard. I used numbered drill bits that corresponded to the bridge pin sizes and made a simple jig to help angle the bit in the right direction. Most of the pin holes had a slight dimple where the epoxy had wicked down into the wood so locating the placement of the pins was not hard. If there is a notching problem one could always make a third pass to fill the holes completely and notch accordingly.

When I installed the bridge pins the holes were tight enough that I had to drive the pins into the bridge. I had to remove a couple because I had not drilled the hole quite deep enough and it took more than just a slight tug on the pin with the pliers to remove it. After all the pins were installed I used a file to flatten the tops of the pins like on a new piano. The end result was a bridge that looked like new and I felt confident that it was solid as the day it left the factory if not more so. I would certainly recommend this procedure on good pianos and even on fairly decent pianos that had bridge problems. This epoxy is not cheap and it behaves completely differently than anything you can get in the local hardware or home center.

Calendar

September 21
Edmond Music @ 8:30
Peter Kraus
Tools & Tips for Action Preparation

October 6-8
TSA
Shreveport, LA

October 19
Bob Scheer
Post Grand Regulation
Pre Hammer Voicing

November 16
To be announced



Piano Proverbs

Real integrity stays in place whether the test is adversity or prosperity. If you really have integrity, a demotion or promotion won't change you. Your inner care won't be dislodged.
Charles R. Swindoll, The Bride

Watch Out for Ducks!

Jake, Johnny, and Billy Bob went to the rodeo. Unfortunately, a big bull jumped the fence into the spectators and they were trampled to death. Being good God-fearing men, they ascended to Heaven where they were met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter. He said, "Welcome to Heaven, gentlemen. I'm sure you'll be quite comfortable here, but I must warn you that we do have our rules in Heaven. If you break them you will be punished. One rule is never step on a duck. If you step on a duck, the duck quacks, then they all quack, and it just goes on and on."

That sounded simple enough. They passed through the Pearly Gates and were surprised to find there were ducks everywhere! In no time at all, Jake stepped on one. The duck quacked, then they all quacked, they made a terrible racket and it just went on and on.

Pretty soon along came St. Peter with a terribly homely woman in tow. "I warned you that if you broke the duck rule, you'd be punished." He chained the homely woman to Jake and said, "You will be together forever," and walked away.

Sometime later, despite his best efforts, Johnny accidentally stepped on a duck. The duck quacked, then they all quacked and made a terrible commotion that just went on and on.

Sure enough, along came St. Peter with an even homelier woman, "I warned you that if you broke the duck rule you'd be punished."

With that, he chained the woman to Johnny and said, "The two of you will be together for all eternity," and walked away.

Well Billy Bob was very careful not to step on a duck. One day St. Peter came along with a drop dead gorgeous blonde. He chained her to Billy Bob and said, "You will be together now and forever more," and walked away.

Billy Bob exclaimed, "Wow, I wonder what I did to deserve this?" "I don't know about you," said the beautiful woman, "But I stepped on a duck..."

For Sale

Spurlock Grand Hammer Hanging Jig
\$45.00
(Current retail \$100.00)
Keybed Action Support \$25.00
(Current Retail \$45.00)
Contact Keith McGavern
405 275-8600

Okie Doakie Piano Supply

Have you been having trouble lately with people renting your pianos and then moving off to who knows where? We have the solution for you. Last month we mentioned the wonderful opportunity we have to partner with the government surplus people. We are proud to announce that your piano location troubles are over. We have obtained several dozen Global Positioning Guidance components from the military. With just a few minor modifications Melvin in R & D assures me that you can now track your rental pianos with ease. That's right you'll never lose a rental piano again.

Rental Piano GPS Transponder **\$69.95**

BACK TO SCHOOL SALE!

Piano 30 coffee mugs **\$5.50ea**
(Yes they are factory seconds)

Piano 3000 coffee mugs **\$1.50ea**
(Yes they're print errors but you
can still use them in the future)

Velcro Pen & Pencil set **\$8.50**
Attaches nicely to the sun visor of your car

Okie Doakie Piano Supply "T" Shirts
\$15.00

Many more items too numerous to mention!

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