

# The Sooner Tuner

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Chapter PTG

March

2001

## Ψ President's Message Ψ

It is March 3, 2001, I've just finished preparing my tax information to take to the accountant. The realization that I probably need greater knowledge on how to keep more of the money I make is really coming home. I know it's to late this year to have a class on tax strategies but hope that a future meeting might cover this part of our occupation. Enough of that.

February's meeting was well attended. David Bonham gave a very useful class on tuning stability. Thank you David and I hope this subject will be explored further at a later meeting. Several other subjects came up during the meeting and proved to me again the value of many different views of any one subject. I know I've spoken about this before but there is always a piece of information to be picked up making a job or procedure easier, faster or better. The more techs we have at a meeting the greater the collective knowledge. Of course I suppose the reverse could also be true but I hope that is not the case. In any event, I look forward to seeing all our members at our next meeting.

One little request comes to mind before closing this letter, David Bonham and myself would appreciate more input concerning the subjects our membership would like to cover. We must recognize the quality of our organization will only improve by the participation of each individual. No one person holds the keys to Shamballa but the strength of our oneness can allow us to get closer to finding them.

Sincerely,  
Ben Davis RPT

## Meeting Notice

**The next chapter meeting will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. We will meet at Albert Evans Piano store located at 4100 N. MacArthur in OKC**

**The technical presentation will be on Dealing with loose tuning pins. This discussion will be facilitated by David Bonham.**

**David would like your input as to your reception to this type of discussion forum which we have had for the last two sessions. Please let us know if you like this type of structure or would like a more formal class style with a designated instructor. If you have an opinion either call David or let him know at the next meeting.**

### *The Sooner Tuner*

*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*

*"All expressions of opinion and statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not the views of the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements and opinions have been adopted by this chapter."*

## Chapter Officers

President, Ben Davis 405 277-3022  
[bjdpiano@aol.com](mailto:bjdpiano@aol.com)

Vice Pres. David Bonham 405-721-0566  
[davidbonham@home.com](mailto:davidbonham@home.com)

Secretary, Kerth McGavern 405 275-8600  
[kam544@flashnet.com](mailto:kam544@flashnet.com)

Treasurer, Gary Bruce 405 348-3213  
[garybrucegarcia@juno.com](mailto:garybrucegarcia@juno.com)

Newsletter, Norman Cantrell 580-355-5003  
[nvlhgcan@brightok.net](mailto:nvlhgcan@brightok.net)

## Norm's Noncents

I hope everyone had a good Valentines Day and are now busy as little beavers tuning lots of pianos for every concert, recital and spring program that comes down the pike. Speaking of programs, over the weekend I attended a high school piano competition held at Cameron University. There were two divisions of competitors. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade students were in one category with 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the other. I was pleasantly surprised at the level of playing exhibited by these students. One student in particular played circles around the rest of the group and the literature she had chosen was challenging as well. She played the Chopin Etude in C Minor, Op 10 No. 12, "Revolutionary" and the First Movement of the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat Major. She far surpassed the talent of the others in the entire field despite the fact that she was in the younger division. Unfortunately the larger prize monies went to the older group but on the other hand she will be around next year to compete again and I suspect that unless the others really get with it and practice hard she will be the grand prize winner next year. Why do I bring all this up? It simply served once

again as a reminder that our job is to help others make music. Most of the students involved in the competition can play circles around me. It has been too many years since I put my nose to the keyboard grindstone and played anywhere close to that level. Still it helped me to realize that we never know just who we may be tuning for.

I remember Bob Scheer sharing a story of how he was called to tune a couple of pianos in a nursing home. While there one of the tenants of the home began to play one of the pianos he had just tuned with amazing musical finesse. It was obvious that at one time she had either been a performer or at least a piano teacher. Bob shared how the nursing staff was quite surprised that she was playing the piano since up to that time she was mostly unresponsive to the other people in the home. I hope these two stories will help you the next time you are out there slogging away at some less than great instrument to remember that we are in this business to help others make music.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

## Written Exam To Be Given!

If you are an associate interested in taking the written exam it will be administered during the next chapter meeting. There is no charge for the exam but is required before you are eligible to take the other exams. Time limit is 1.5 hours and the questions are True/ False or Multiple Choice. If you are interested call Norman Cantrell at 580 355-5003

Piano Proverbs

*Men show their character in nothing more clearly than by what they think laughable.*

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*