

THE SOONER TUNER

March 2002

Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

Just a Boring Hammer Class

Everyone who attended the February technical presentation is well-equipped with the understanding of how to do hammer boring. Norman Cantrell, RPT covered the measurements, tools, and procedures for hammer boring and provided a handout to complement the technical.

Kerry McCoy, Kawai representative, stopped in for a brief visit during our last meeting. It's always great to see the guys who are part of the process of getting new pianos to our customers.

Hotel Under Consideration For 2003 TSA Seminar

Hilton NW in Oklahoma City looks favorable for the location of the 2003 TSA Convention scheduled in Oklahoma City. Hosting this convention will require the cooperation of as many PTG Oklahoma Chapter members as are willing to help. Participating in a PTG Convention is a way to have direct contact with the cutting edge in piano technology and thus inspire trust in you from your customers. They appreciate a technician who knows pianos and keeps on knowing pianos.

NEXT MEETING

WHEN

Thursday, March 21, 8:30 a.m.

WHERE

Bob Scheer's home, 3309 Hunting Hawk Circle in Edmond. From 33rd and Broadway in Edmond go east on 33rd for 2 miles to Bryant. Continue east 1 block to Cheyenne Drive. Turn right. Go 1 block to Smoky Hollow. Turn left. Go 50 feet. Turn left on Hunting Hawk Circle. Bob's is the third house on the left.

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Bob Scheer, RPT will show us how to do finish touch-ups. Topics will include burn-ins, French polish, staining, and filling holes in wood.

"Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt."

—Shakespeare

"Courage is not the absence of fear, it is the conquest of it."

—Insurance Salesman Frank Bettger

OKLAHOMA'S ONLY DOUBLE "79 CLUB" MEMBER

Your newsletter editor, Valerie Crawford, has twice now been 1 cent away from passing the PTG tuning exam. The tuning exam consists of 8 sections: pitch, temperament, midrange, bass, treble, high treble, stability, and unisons. The last time test scores of all tuners who have taken the test were examined, midrange was found to be the most difficult section to pass.

Tell me about it! Last year I passed 7 of 8 sections and failed midrange by 1/100th of a half-step. I had the option within a year of re-taking the first 3 sections of the exam (instead of re-taking the whole thing). This time in mid-March I re-took the exam and passed everything but midrange, coming again 1 cent short.

The agony of being so close has formed a bond among all PTG members who have failed one section by one point. We call ourselves the "79 Club." It's like getting 4th place in the Olympics. You are so close, yet you are maybe 0.02 seconds slower than the man above you on the performance that counted. They'll only remember you for trying.

Many PTG members have played a part in helping me attempt these exams,

and I will remember YOU for a long time.

Thanks first of all to Norman Cantrell, our Certified Tuning Examiner who has spent countless hours making the tuning exam available locally. Norman has passed the tuning exam at the 90% level (how many of you can say that?). He has also worked very hard during each administration of the exam.

Thanks to Keith McGavern who gave me my first copy of the Baldassin-Sanderson temperament which I used for the test. Keith contributed many hours setting up practice test pianos for me and making me tune my A440 and temperament over and over and over and over and

Thanks to Albert Evans for letting me run through the test sequence on some of his grand pianos in the store.

Ben Davis, Gary Bruce, and Keith McGavern helped with the aural verification. That was a lot of fun for everyone. Thanks for setting aside those hours to participate.

Look for a comeback. I'm not finished yet. You can neither succeed nor fail if you're not out there trying. Hey, even Babe Ruth held a world record for strike-outs.