

# The Sooner Tuner

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Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technician's Guild  
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## **FROM THE EDITOR:**

I was annoyed when my friend kept calling my "Charlie". Finally I asked why he had decided that Charlie was my name. He went on to say that I was a fish musician. I had never heard of a fish musician so I had to ask, knowing I was probably being set up. After all he asked, what do you call a fish musician?  
A Piano Tuna

## **SOONER TUNER MEMBERS!!!**

**Let us all meet at Bob Scheer's**

**When? Thursday, November 21**

**Where? 4305 Sycamore Lane, Edmond 73034**

**Why? Technical on Plate Removal & Rebuild**

**(From I-35 & Danforth go West 1/4 mile on Danforth to Sooner, North to Sycamore  
—turn right-house is on the Northeast Corner)**

## **Tech Tip Taken from the Piano Technicians Guild web page**

These are the names of two outdated designs of piano that are no longer being built. The square piano, which is actually rectangular in shape, was built from about 1840 until 1900. The birdcage piano was built during the same era, and is so called because if you look under the lid at the action the first thing you'll see are vertical wires, just like a cage for a bird.

Both the square grand and the birdcage were unsuccessful attempts to design a piano that takes up less floor space than a conventional grand. In Atlantic City in 1904, the National Association of Piano Dealers burned a pile of 1000 square grands to publicize the instruments' obsolescence and announce the arrival of the newest design—the vertical piano, the design of which has remained almost completely unchanged. It has become so popular that the majority of new pianos sold today are vertical pianos, and are the same basic design as the ones celebrated in 1904.

Compared to modern designs, birdcages and square pianos generally have minimal musical value. Avoid buying one, or even taking one for free. For these outdated relics, we're glad for the old expression, "They don't make them like that any more!"

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