

THE SOONER TUNER  
Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.  
March/April 2004

COMING EVENTS:

APRIL - The next meeting of the PTG will be held on Thursday, April 22, 2004 at 8:30 AM at Albert Evans' music store located at 4100 N. MacArthur in Oklahoma City. The subject will be "Organizing Your Tool Kit". Everyone is encouraged to bring your tool kit to the meeting with you. If you need directions, please call Albert at 942-1838.

MAY – The May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20 at 8:30 AM at the home of David and Barbara Bonham located at 10717 Eastlake Circle in Oklahoma City. The technical will be presented by Don Ekonen, who is a local violin maker. He will give a demonstration on building a violin. If you need directions, please call David or Barbara at 721-0566. Mr. Ekonen has won many national awards for his violins. He is the father of Barbara Bonham.

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REMARKS ON TSA

The TSA Convention last month was definitely a positive experience for all who attended. (Rumor has it that the Oklahoma Chapter actually made a small profit.) I would like to offer a big "thank you" to everyone who helped to make TSA a big success. Norman Cantrell and Bob Scheer deserve special recognition for all the time spent organizing, planning and detailing the entire weekend together. Keith McGavern did a superb job providing information on the wonderful website he created. Also a very big "thank you" goes to Travis and Cynthia Jenkins from Tulsa who donated the money for the floral arrangements at the banquet on Saturday night.

As a novice in the piano business, I was at first very skeptical about attending any of the classes at the Convention. I wasn't sure that I had enough knowledge to be able to absorb and learn anything from the instructors. I certainly didn't want to look like a total fool in front of all the techs who have been in the business for years. I was very pleasantly surprised to find that I was able to glean information from every class I attended. The instructors were all very informative and helpful. Everyone who taught a class should be commended. I've been in many different fields of business and attended various seminars and conventions. I don't believe that I have ever been around a group of people who are so willing to share ideas with one another and help each other to learn and grow in their profession. It is very refreshing to be around people who enjoy sharing ideas with others in their field. I think that everyone who attended TSA should be proud of the wonderful organization that you have built. What a remarkable group of people you are. I thank you for the opportunity to learn and grow in your presence.

Barbara Bonham, Editor

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A Special Thank You:

Dear Members of the Piano Technician Guild:

Thank you so much for asking the Classen Harps to play for your banquet in Oklahoma City. It was an honor to play for such a musical audience! Thanks also for your check to support the harp program at Classen School of Advanced Studies. We really appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Leah Riddick, Director

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REMEMBER THAT LIFE'S TREASURES ARE PEOPLE, NOT THINGS.  
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#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As the story goes, a man called a psychiatrist and said, "Doctor, since I was a small child I've had a recurring nightmare that a monster is under my bed. As an adult, it seems to be getting worse. Can you help me?" "This is probably caused by a traumatic event in your childhood", the doctor said. "I can help you but it may take years. I'll need to see you once a week and the office charge is \$100 per visit." So the man set up an appointment. A week later he called to cancel, stating that his barber had solved the problem. "The solution was simple", he told the doctor. "My barber simply suggested that I cut the legs off my bed!"

Sometimes, seemingly big problems have simple solutions. The knowledge we gain from attending Chapter meetings, PTG Seminars and Conventions, or just asking someone with more experience can be most valuable. The TSA Seminar in OKC last month was a great success – mainly because it provided valuable information to everyone who came. I hope to see you all at the next meeting. By the way, I have a new email address. It is [Harmonicabob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Harmonicabob@sbcglobal.net).

Bob Scheer, RPT  
Edmond, Oklahoma  
President, Oklahoma Chapter  
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#### TECH TIP:

I assume all of you saw the article in the most recent PTG Journal about "Coupling Strings." I wonder how many of you share my opinion on this?

This is the most ridiculous idea I have seen in the Journal for many years. The article states that by coupling the two right strings together they will vibrate at the same frequency and sound in tune, even if one of them is slightly out of tune.

Well, let's say that we are listening to A=440. One string is tuned to 440 and the other is tuned to 439. According to the article, since they are coupled, they will vibrate at the same rate, thus sounding in tune. So, will they vibrate at 440 or 439? It is for sure the top one will not pull the lower one up, so the frequency will be somewhere below 440. Maybe 439.5. So what have we accomplished with coupled strings? Nothing. Now we have two strings instead of one in the unison out of tune with the third one, which is tuned to A=440.

Secondly, physics and experience tells me that the harmonic pattern of a piano string will be distorted any time you put something on it that adds weight.

Case in point. Recently while tuning a Steinway M in the practice area at OU, I found a string that I could not tune to the others in the unison. I looked at the string and found a tiny piece of Scotch tape wrapped around it at a harmonic node. The harmonic pattern was so distorted that it could not be tuned to the others. I had to use a knife blade to remove the tape from several strings, which is risky. But I did it carefully and it cleared up the problem on the strings.

If any of you have experience with coupled strings, I would be interested to hear about it.

Don L. Stephens, RPT  
Norman, Oklahoma

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It isn't difficult to make a mountain out of a molehill, just add a little dirt.  
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#### ~~~~~ OLD FRIENDS

Two elderly piano technicians had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is." The other technicians glared at his friend. For at least three minutes, he just stared and glared at him. Finally, he said, "How soon do you need to know?"  
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#### ~~~~~ HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES.

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#### ~~~~~ The Happiness Formula

Happiness equals Satisfaction divided by Desires.  
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During the Easter season, people often give gifts to others. Here are eight gifts you can give that won't cost you a penny and will be worth more than anything money could ever buy.

The Gift of Listening – but you must REALLY listen – no interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listen.

The Gift of Affection – Be generous with hugs, kisses, pats on the back. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

The Gift of Laughter – Share articles, funny pictures, funny stories and funny greetings. Your gift will say "I love to laugh with you."

The Gift of a Written Note – A brief handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, it may even change a life.

The Gift of a Compliment – A simple and sincere compliment can make someone's day.

The Gift of a Favor – Go out of your way to do something kind for someone else.

The Gift of Solitude – Be sensitive to times when others need to be left alone.

The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition – Extend a kind word to someone you meet on the street. Better yet, just pass along a smile.  
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I've learned...

That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.  
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Remember the meeting this month is April 22. Meetings are generally the third Thursday of the month, but this month it is the fourth Thursday, Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Hope to see you all there.  
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President – Bob Scheer  
Vice President – Ben Davis  
Secretary – Keith McGavern

Treasurer – Gary Bruce  
Newsletter Editor – Barbara Bonham

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