

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

DECEMBER 2004

COMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER – Due to the holidays, there will not be a regular meeting of the PTG this month.

JANUARY – The January meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2005 at 8:30 AM. The place will be announced in the newsletter next month.

A BIG THANK YOU TO Bob and Pat Scheer for hosting the PTG Christmas party. The food was delicious and the evening was delightful. A special highlight of the evening was the sharing of musical talents by several members present. THANK YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL HOSPITALITY.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

It's time to stop and smell the poinsettias. Do they have a smell? How should I know? Who cares? Okay, if you can bring me one between ten at night and six in the morning, I might have time to smell it, but I'm not making any promises. Can't you see I'm busy??!! The weather has changed, Christmas programs and parties abound, and they all need their pianos tuned prior to the program. Who has time to think about Christmas? I don't think I can possibly tune all of the pianos that I've already scheduled and the phone hasn't stopped ringing. Does this sound familiar? It's hard not to schedule ourselves to the max this time of the year, especially knowing that business will probably slow down after the first of the year. There always seems to be that "Old Faithful" client that waits until the last minute to call. But, you know it's bound to happen. That's just the way it is, it's the nature of our work. No one every said Piano Technology is for wimps. Actually, I'm not complaining and I'm grateful for every call that I get. I can't imagine doing any other kind of work and I would rather be too busy than be without work. Oh well, I never cared that much for poinsettias anyway.

Bob Scheer, RPT
President – Edmond, OK

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

Christmas is my FAVORITE time of the year. Many people think I'm a little crazy because I'm like a child this time of year. Every year when Christmas rolls around I can't seem to get enough of it and I never want it to end. I have a tee shirt that I wear this time of year that says "I still believe in Santa". It's true – I really do! The Santa that I believe in is not the man with the white beard in the red furry suit that comes down your chimney every year on Christmas Eve. No, Santa for me is the spirit and the love of Christmas. It is the feeling of anticipation that something really special is about to happen. It is the joy and wonderment on the faces of little children as they open their presents under the tree. It is that magical feeling that comes over me in church on Christmas Eve when I sing Silent Night by candlelight with my loved ones gathered all around.

It is the sharing of special times with friends and family. In spite of the hectic schedules this time of year, in spite of the chaos in the shopping malls as everyone hurries to buy that perfect gift, in spite of the extra work of wrapping gifts, baking cookies and mailing cards, I find myself feeling exhilarated and happy just because it is Christmas. It seems to be the one time of the year when people are kinder to one another and more caring. As the song Silver Bells says, "In the air there's a feeling of Christmas." If you are stressed and overworked and wondering how you're going to accomplish everything that must be done before Christmas, if you don't believe in Santa anymore, but consider Christmas just a lot of extra work, I challenge you to look within your heart for the child in you that used to count the days until Christmas would arrive. Take the time to experience the childlike joy of the season. Remember how special this time of year used to be when you were a young child. Try to recapture that feeling of innocence and excitement as you await "Santa's" arrival this year. If you do all these things with an open mind and open heart, you will understand why I can honestly say, "I STILL BELIEVE IN SANTA." Have a blessed holiday season and may you and your families always believe in Santa.

Barbara Bonham, Editor

ONE CHRISTMAS EVE

This is how it happened ... I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. "What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat, and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement, "TEACH THE CHILDREN!"

I was puzzled. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement brought forth a MINIATURE TOY bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven." He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise." He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world and when we see this great light we are reminded of Him who displaces the darkness."

Once again Santa reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection." He then pulled from his bag an ornament of himself. "Teach the children that I, Santa Clause, symbolize the generosity and goodwill that we feel during the month of December." He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly represents the blood shed by Him." Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that He gave His begotten Son ..." "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift." "Teach the children that the wise men bowed before the Holy Baby and presented Him with gold, frankincense and myrrh. We should always give gifts in the same spirit of the wise men."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children

that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper." He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. "Teach the children that it was the angels the heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men'."

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag Santa pulled out a BELL. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return."

Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but an humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship Him, our Lord, our God."

Anonymous

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES NEEDED

Please remember that contributions for the newsletter are needed each month and will be appreciated. If you would like to share a tech tip, an idea, a question, or write an article, please send them to Barbara Bonham. Email address is: barbbonham@cox.net. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter.

President – Bob Scheer
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