THE SOONER TUNER Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. OCTOBER 2005

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER – The October meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20 at 8:30 AM at the home of David and Barbara Bonham, 10717 Eastlake Circle, Oklahoma City. The technical will be presented by David and Barbara on wood touch-up. They recently attended a workshop and learned some techniques they would like to share with all of you.

NOVEMBER – The November meeting will be held Thursday, November 17 at 8:30 AM.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The Oklahoma Chapter of the PTG voted to send \$500 to the piano technicians who suffered a loss as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

At the end of our life, we ought to be able to look back over it from our deathbed and know somehow the world is a better place because we lived, we loved and we were other-centered, other-focused. Joe Ehrmann, Football Coach

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Here's a good one for you. My 1:00 PM tuning appointment today said she wouldn't be there, but she had two painters working on the house, and she would tell them to let me in. When I arrived, the painters not only let me in, but immediately stopped working so they could stay right on top of me, while I tried to work. One of them said, "I play the git-tar." "Great" I responded. "It has just been discovered that I have perfect pitch. Do you want to hear an E?" "AAAGGHH!" Although the pitch he was trying to hum was a Bb, I decided to humor him, "That's pretty darn close" I said. At that point he smiled and turned to his partner and said, "I've got the gift." From that point on, he acted like we were blood brothers and would be bonded for life. Needless to say, it was a long afternoon. Whether it is true or not, I believe a great majority of people believe that piano tuners have some sort of supernatural hearing powers. I must admit, that I have never argued against this, and probably never will. I wonder though, if we have "The Gift" how come we're not rich? Don't you think that anyone as gifted as we are should not be making as much as the guy who took the six week course in Heating and Air? Have you paid a plumber lately? I think the last guy I had out must have charged me for an MRI and a brain scan on my toilet! The last time I saw him, he was driving a new truck. I think I paid for it! Anyway, it's something to think about. See you at the next meeting.

Bob Scheer, RPT Edmond, OK

It was fun being a baby boomer...till now. Here are some more revised hits by the artist of the 1960s to accommodate aging baby boomers.

Paul Simon Fifty Ways to Lose Your Liver The Temptations Papa's Got A Kidney Stone Tony Orlando Knock 3 Times on the Ceiling if you Hear Me Fall Willie Nelson On The Throne Again! Johnny Nash I Can't See Clearly Now

TALK SLOWLY, BUT THINK QUICKLY.

TSA FALL SEMINAR

The TSA seminar will be held October 27 through October 30 at the Omni South Park Hotel in Austin, Texas. The schedule includes an all day seminar entitled "The One Day Piano Upgrade" taught by Bill Spurlock. A variety of classes will be taught by regional experts, as well as notable instructors from around the country representing different piano manufacturers. If you want an in-depth look at the opportunities available to further your education go to the TSA website at HYPERLINK "http://www.ptg.org/tsa" http://www.ptg.org/tsa and check out the details. Plan now to attend.

TECH TIP:

QUESTION: How effective are those wheel-type string stretchers?

ANSWER:

I use the string stretcher when I replace music wire. Sometimes, though, there are physical limitations in the piano to prevent me from using it as I would like, that is, up and down the entire length of the wire. Using the string stretcher isn't a foolproof method, but it does help somewhat.

After using the stretcher tool, I raise the new music wire a half step higher and leave it there while I do other things. Then when I'm done with the other things, I bring the wire back down to its intended pitch, make the necessary checks and let the customer know that the note will go sour eventually and to call me when they can't take it anymore.

Keith McGavern, RPT Shawnee, OK

REMEMBER THAT GREAT LOVE AND GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS INVOLVE GREAT RISK.

Did I dream this or did someone ask for a demonstration on the replacement of plastic elbows? I'm looking for suggestions for technical presentations. If you have a subject you would like to learn more about, speak up. Perhaps you have a technique you would like to demonstrate. Please take a few minutes to think about this and contact me at: HYPERLINK "mailto:davidbonham1@cox.net" davidbonham1@cox.net.

David Bonham, RPT Oklahoma City, OK

THE PENNY

I work at a car dealership. One day, as I walked across the parking lot from one building to the next, I found a penny. It was badly damaged – scratched and blackened by cars that had run over it. As I looked at the scuffed up penny I marveled at how beat up and ugly it could be without losing any of its value. Its value was the same as when it was first released from the mint. I think that's how God sees us. We might be beat up and blackened by rough times and bad choices, but our value in God's eyes never changes. We're worth a whole lot more than a penny to God.

Shem Taggart, Associate Member Oklahoma City

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