THE SOONER TUNER Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. FEBRUARY 2006

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY -The February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16 at 8:30 AM in Shawnee, Oklahoma. The address is 407 West Midland Street. From I-40, take exit 185 and go south. Take the second left after the third stoplight (about 1.5 miles). If you have questions or get lost, call Keith McGavern at 650-2321. Keith will be presenting the Technical, entitled "Add New Life to an Older Grand by Bolstering Knuckles". If time permits, he will also take a look at bedding the key frame. This will be presented on a 1936 Baldwin Grand, the piano that belonged to Keith's parents. If you have a lawn chair or folding chair, please bring it with you because this is in a vacant home with no furniture.

BONUS MATERIAL: On display will be the Wurzen Front Rail Punchings and a set of custom made Wurzen Hammers from Ronsen.

<u>MARCH</u> – The March meeting will be held at in the Music Building at Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, Oklahoma. The subject of the technical will be announced later.

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DEATH - WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT!

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know." "You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?" The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough."

Submitted by: Shem Taggart, Associate Member Oklahoma City, OK

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

While fishing with my son last summer, it occurred to me that life can easily be compared to a day of fishing. Imagine that every person has a boat, one tank of gas and one day to fish. Some will never leave the dock. Perhaps they are fearful of the open water, or just content in the simplicity of catching a perch or two. Some will go as fast as they can from one end of the lake to the other, never slowing down long enough to catch anything. Some will make a plan, before they leave the dock, as to what areas to fish, what bait to use, what time of day to fish each area and how deep. Some will drive their boat in circles all day with no apparent vision or plan until they run out of gas and time. I am convinced that 10% of the people that fish catch 90% of the fish. It is all about having a good plan and vision. In our world of piano servicing, it is easy to become so overwhelmed with the duties of the day that sometimes all we can see is the next tuning pin. Where do you want your service business to be in five years? Do you want to tune more? Do you want to work in the

shop more? Do you want to grow or cut back? Whatever the direction, we are the only ones to shape our business in the direction that we want it to go. Otherwise we might be the boat going in circles and running out of gas. Go fish! Don't forget to enjoy the time spent with those in the boat with you.

Bob Scheer, RPT Edmond, OK

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ARTICLES ARE NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTER!!! Please consider contributing to your Sooner Tuner. If you are interested in writing an article, a tech tip, or a funny story, please don't wait another month. Send your contributions to HYPERLINK "mailto:barbbonham@cox.net" barbbonham@cox.net. THANK YOU!!!

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TIP – STEINWAY LYRE BRACES

The Steinway lyre system is easily the most solid pedal assembly I have seen. Its rigidity and connection with the instrument are what they are because of its construction. The Steinway system is also simple to install, no need for extra arms. Just a simple wooden wedge will hold the pedal box up so that the plates are engaged while you install the sticks. It is then a piece of cake to simply hold the una corda lever out of the way and slide the whole thing back one inch. This is easy and the results are bullet-proof.

Ed Foote, RPT

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

Children in an elementary school were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following statements about the Bible were written by these children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in...

Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

The first Commandments was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

The seventh Commandment is Thou Shalt Not Admit Adultery.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

David was a Hebrew King who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached Holy Acrimony which is another name for marriage.

Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

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YOU DO CRACKS?

I recently worked on an old Bush and Gerts upright that hadn't been serviced in twenty-five years. It was about fifty cents flat and the grooves in the hammers were about three quarters of an inch in length. The soundboard had multiple cracks and the distortion from these and a failed glue joint along the top edge of the soundboard only got worse as I brought the pitch back to A-440. What would you do in this situation? (Or do you manage to avoid such situations?)

I am writing this because I want to share the satisfaction I experienced in the process of facing this challenge. The new owners of this piano were amazed and most appreciative of my work, which in turn made my day and contributed to our personal economy. What seemed like magic to them was just the result of basic piano technician skills which should be in the repertoire of each of us: pitch raising, hammer filing, soundboard repair and fine tuning.

Soundboard repairs can be one of our most satisfying tasks. Are you comfortable diagnosing and tackling them? This time of year soundboard cracks tend to be more pronounced and due to the current drought (despite the mild temperatures) we have seen new cracks this season. Remember that it is not the cracks which generally alter the tone but rather the broken glue joints between the soundboard and ribs adjacent to the cracks. These often respond very well to repair from the backside of uprights or the underside of grands.

David Bonham, RPT Oklahoma City, OK

> President – Bob Scheer Vice President – David Bonham Secretary – Nathan Sobel Treasurer – Gary Bruce Newsletter Editor – Barbara Bonham

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