

THE SOONER TUNER

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

SEPTEMBER 2007

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER – This months chapter meeting will be on Thursday the 20th at Albert Evans Piano Co. 4100 North MacArthur, 8:30 AM. Technical by Keith Morgan will be on the procedure of tuning a piano to a pipe organ.

OCTOBER – TSA – PTG in OKC! That's how it's billed! All the info is here; www.ptg.org/tsa A great opportunity for anyone interested in improving their skills in an awesome environment!

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up
Pablo Picasso**

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Message from El Presidente (a little spanish lingo); My how time flies! It's hard to believe that there's only one month left before the TSA-PTG Seminar in Oklahoma City. After looking at the impressive list of instructors, and the vast array of classes being offered, this Seminar promises to be a rewarding experience to all who attend. For those who have not attended a Seminar or Convention in a while, don't let this one pass you by. It might be a long time before we have the opportunity to enjoy a learning experience as comprehensive as this one, especially in your own back yard. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Bob

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**If your actions inspire people to do more, learn more, and become more, then you are a leader
John Quincy Adams**

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I only work to finance my fishing. Lee Marvin

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Many Broken Butt Springs; RELP! RAGGY!!!!

I was recently called upon to service a church piano on the south side OKC. They said they thought the piano player played it too hard and now it didn't work right. On closer inspection I discovered about half the butt springs had broken and the rest were on the way causing hammers not to return properly. Not being familiar with this repair I began to search for some really good directions. What I found is; they were almost nonexistent. The Reblitz book covers it, but not very thorough. The following is an e-mail I received from Norman Cantrell. If you do not have experience with this repair and you think you may do it in the future, make a copy of this and stash it somewhere, because I assure you this is the best there is out there by far. I have accomplished this repair successfully twice (and charging for it) since receiving this e-mail. All you

have to do is follow the directions. This is yet one more reason to be in a local chapter!

.....

.....

The spring rail in a vertical piano is easily removed. The springs that hold it in place go through the action brackets from the front (keyboard side) and into the rail behind the brackets. Often there are some shims between the brackets and rails. Keep up with them and the bracket to which they go. A Good method is to wrap them in masking tape and number them 1-4 from left to right. The shims are often cardboard front rail punchings.

Removing the rail is easier than reinstalling it once you are done. This work is best approached on a workbench with the action in an action cradle for stability. The hammer springs themselves pass through the spring rail and are bent over the slots in the wooden rail. There is a strip of felt that covers the bent over portion and grooves. It serves to cushion the damper wires and keep them from clicking against the wood. Thus the strip of felt often ends at the treble end of the dampers. Some early uprights actually have the wires bend into the slots and then pass through the rail to the front side where they are clipped flush with the wood. If you have a fairly modern vertical this is probably not the case.

Removing all the springs is a matter of removing the felt strip and cleaning the glue out of the slots and pulling the wires out of the small holes in the rail. There are different weights and lengths of springs available. The heavy springs usually go to the bass and the lighter to the treble. You can chose a medium weight spring in a console throughout the action and be fine.

It is easy to thread all the springs back into the holes in the spring rail. There is usually a small rabbet in the rail for the coils to rest in. The trick is to keep the coil from rotating when bending the wires on the other side. The best way to accomplish this is to install a section of springs into the rail and then thread a length of coat hanger wire into all the coils parallel with the spring rail. This will keep them from rotating as you bend the wires into the slots on the back. You may want to clamp the coat hanger wire flush with the spring rail at each section and possibly in the middle until you have enough spring wires bent to hold the coils flush with the rail. After the spring rails are all bent, remove the coat hanger wire.

Once the springs are all installed, glue the strip of felt back into place for the damper stop. It is best to replace it with a new strip since the felt inevitably comes off in chunks. You may also need to run a small head of glue over the wires in the treble where there is no felt or you may want to extend the felt the entire length of the rail to give added support to keep the bent spring wires in place.

Once the glue has dried, clip off the excess spring wire and you are now ready to reinstall the spring rail into the piano. Removing the hammer rest rail allows the hammers to fall further away from the spring rail than normal giving more clearance during the installation process. The hammer rest rail is held in place on most American verticals with four "L" shaped brackets that pivot in the action brackets. Three of them will point in one direction and the fourth points in the opposite direction. Bend the opposite single bracket away from its pivot hole in the action bracket and then slide the other three out of their bushings. You may have to remove a couple of hammers in small actions to give the brackets clearance for removal.

Install the spring rail back into the action taking care not to kink the newly installed hammer springs. It is helpful just to get the springs to rest between the hammer butts until the rest rail is reinstalled as they inevitably jump out of the felted groove on the hammer butt. Be sure to reinstall any shims that you removed and marked earlier. Reinstall the hammer rest rail in the opposite manor from which it was removed and then put the hammer springs into their respective grooves on the hammer butts. This procedure is fairly straightforward. Let me know if you have any questions.

Good Luck, Norman

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Every person who has mastered a profession is a skeptic concerning it. George Bernard Shaw

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Bizarre Files: (music from 1930's private eye movie with lonely saxophone)

It was a hectic morning in the city on the way to Norman to finish a repair on a Kimball upright. Driving white knuckled and one handed in the road race of I-44 coming up to I-40, I glanced at my calendar looking for the number to call and let them know I was on the way. There were 2 numbers there, one for home and one for cell. I dialed and did not recognize the ringtone as I had heard it several times before. I hung up after 3 rings, and made sure I had the number right, dialed again, and this time and got the right party. I let them know I was coming then hung up.

Continuing the road race the phone rang and I answered, "Hello". The voice on the line said "Hello, this is Pastor JR. I have your number on my caller ID" I hesitated....."OH!" a little embarrassed. "I think I got two numbers mixed up trying to make a piano tuning call". He said" I have a prison ministry and thought one of the prisoners was trying to contact me"..... I said "Or maybe a prisoner trying to impersonate a piano tuner, lol!" trying to inject a little humor, I said " Or maybe it was GOD!!! LOL ", I exclaimed. He wasn't laughing, and was quiet for a few seconds. Thinking I had made a joke that wasn't really funny he said,

" Well,.... actually our head deacon and I were talking yesterday about the need to get our piano tuned and a few repairs done. Let's go with God and schedule a time for you to come out, how 'bout next teusday?" Gulp. To say the least I was stunned. But not missing a beat I went ahead and got the info and nailed it down. Turns out that besides the prison ministry, the pastor (there were several) regularly went into gang infested areas reaching out to the kids there. For a small church they were doing some of the hardest ministry work that could ever be done. I had great admiration for this. I did a couple tunings and some repairs.

When things like this happen it causes me to get a little introspective thinking, what other occupation has this kind of dynamic? Hello! In this case it was neither advertising nor word of mouth but something ...well... bizarre! Please send us your stories. We want to hear them!

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A man cannot become an atheist merely by wishing it. Napoleon Bonaparte

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Frisbeetarianism is the belief that when you die your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck. George Carlin

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Faith gives you an inner strength and a sense of balance in life. Gregory Peck

!!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Check out this link for the film “How it’s Made ” Wow! www.masonhamlin.com
Look in the lower left and click. It was filmed at the Mason Hamlin factory.

President – Bob Scheer
Vice President – David Bonham
Secretary – Jordan Bruce
Treasurer – Gary Bruce
Newsletter Editor – Blane Morris

“All expression of opinion and all statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the view of this chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.” yeah baby