



## THE SOONER TUNER

Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.  
DECEMBER 2007

### **COMING EVENTS**

#### **DECEMBER** – CHRISTMAS PARTY AT JORDAN BRUCE'S HOUSE!

Friday December 14th at 6:30 pm. No regular guild meeting.

Directions: From the intersection of Hefner & MacArthur, go south to the first street and turn right, then take the very next right turn, go to the end of the block. You'll see the cars. Their # is 721-0566 if you get lost, but you won't.

#### **Note from Jordan:**

Ok folks here's the skinny. Based on the success of last year's generously hosted Christmas party by our guild president, I have decided to just steal his ideas and throw my innovations to the back of the shop. You know, "get to them when I get to them". Which all technicians know they all sit there and collect dust, cobwebs, and humidity damage until we trip over them one day and finally get mad enough to finally throw them out.....Ahem...anyhew....

#### **Food:**

I will be handling the main "meat" dishes which have not yet been specified at this time (I think I would be in a lot of trouble from mom if turkey were not included in that). I ask that everyone would bring a side. Something that you would not mind eating yourself and hopefully the majority of the group will agree!! That should handle the eats

#### **Where:**

My house! I live at 9713 Hillcrest Drive, Edmond OK, 73025. (old zip 73003 as some of the map search engines have not switched over in case that is your preference of travel directions). From Waterloo and Kelly go north 2 miles to Charter Oak. (It's the first stop sign after Waterloo). Take a right on Charter Oak, (east) and your immediate left (north) is Hillcrest. I am the third house on the left. If you find yourself lost please feel free to call my cell at 405-314-2407. Even out here I get really good reception and would be happy to guide you in.

#### **What:**

Annual Christmas Party!! The dirty santa thing was a hit so a do-over has been called! Bring a gag gift (simple and inexpensive) and we will pass them around and see if Mike can end up with some more boxers!!! Please get back with me at [brucepiano@att.net](mailto:brucepiano@att.net) ASAP for a head count so I can prepare for all hungry guests. Keep in mind my house is a W.O.P. (work in progress) but the heat works great, the gravel is down in the driveway, and all the walls are ready to house some great food, friends and memories!

Happy Early Holidays Friends,



Jordan Bruce  
Associate Member  
PianoTechnicians Guild

**JANUARY** – The January meeting will be held at Eric Williams' home and the technical will be by Keith McGavern. The particulars will be announced in the next newsletter.

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Thin People are beautiful, but fat people are adorable. Jackie Gleason

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#### **Follow up of David Bonhams November Technical:**

At the November chapter meeting I presented a technical demonstration on improving the touch of a Hallet Davis grand. Blane asked me to write about the rest of the process and the customer's response to the final product.

The piano, made in China about four years ago, had an extremely heavy touch: the downweight averaged right at 100 grams, compared to an optimum 50-55 grams. Cleansing, polishing capstans and keypins, buffing knuckles, lubricating all contact points including all center pins, and easing keys decreased downweight 10-20 grams per key and increased upweight 10-30 grams per key.

The biggest gain was in decreasing the mass of each hammer. I was able to remove about 3 grams average per hammer by filing the felt pretty aggressively and by tapering the molding and by shaping the tail on the surface that mates with the backcheck. These steps reduced the strike weight of the hammers by about 15%. (Strike weight is measured by resting the hammer flange on a point where it can freely pivot with the gram scale under the hammer tail and with the shank horizontal.)

These steps, accompanied by regulating, led to very satisfying results. All but the bass section now has a downweight average between 52 and 54 grams. The bass average is in the high 50's. The customer is very pleased with the change, which represents an average reduction in force of nearly 45% when playing pianissimo and even more when playing fortissimo (due to the reduced friction and mass). Reducing the hammer weight allows a major decrease in tension of the repetition spring, so the let-off and after touch are far easier as well. Repetition is much faster now, and the customer is also pleased that the tone came alive in the process. How much of that was from the filing versus the increased velocity of the hammers I can't tell, but the dynamic range is clearly increased from soft with control (impossible before the work) to loud.

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Still looking for that **Elmer Fudd Christmas Album**,

with Wudolph da Wed Nose Weindeew, Siwent Night Howy Night, and Dat dad Bwasted Wabbit

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Christmas was always by far my favorite time of year growing up. There just wasn't anything I didn't like about it; the music, the tree, the presents, the story told in church and school programs, and even the sneaking around trying to find out where mom and dad hid those presents. Oh, and the year I shot out the glass bulbs with my bb gun. (got in a lot of trouble for that)

When my own children came along, we would go out to my parents place in the woods and hope to get snowed in. Then tragedy came to the family right before the holiday season on 3 different occasions; first, the loss of a sister, then both parents over a relatively short period of time. I found myself beginning to dread this time of year without realizing it and even became a little cynical over time.

A family member even sent me a book entitled "In Search of the Real Spirit of Christmas". (Sort of a hint you know.) Then we had the news media always reminding us that people get depressed and suicidal during the holidays because of our dysfunctional families, plus then last years debacle over Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas. What happened to that joy I felt as a child?

Then last week I attended a Christmas party in south OKC with a church small group. After we had eaten someone said, "let's sing some Christmas Carols!" So I got the guitar out and they started singing. I mean really singing. They loved harmonizing....loudly. Then someone said, "Let's go caroling!" So we all piled in our cars and headed for someone's house in the dark and cold making jokes about how people our age need a little spontaneity. We snuck up to the door and rang the bell and then started singing....really loud. I mean REALLY loud. The people came out in their pajamas and started singing with us.

As we sang I realized, 'what other season has music with this beauty and meaning? Look at these people having this much cheer W/O alcohol having this much fun in a spirit of giving.' In that moment of clarity I had a renewed appreciation for what we have come to know as Christ's Mass. Enjoy it! See you at the party.

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**Piano Transport Machine**  
**Add this invention to your piano tools wishlist!!!**  
**Submitted by Jordan Bruce**

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Sometime before the 1st of the year,  
I will be sending a spreadsheet from Norman Cantrell that he uses to keep track of mileage.

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**A stack of memories never equal one little hope. Charles M. Schultz**

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**Merry Christmas to all!**

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