

THE SOONER TUNER

Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
May 2008

COMING EVENTS

MAY – Our PTG meeting comes a little early this time! This coming Thursday, the 15th we will meet at Oklahoma Christian University located just east of the Broadway extension on Memorial at 8:30 AM. The technical will be by Keith McGavern on; Bedding the Keyframe to Keybed. Primary focus will be on prepping the keyframe and setting the glide bolts. Hope to see you there!

YOGI BERRA quotes:

Even Napoleon had his Watergate.

In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is.

I'm ugly? So what! I never seen no one hit with his face.

The other teams could make trouble for us if they win.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello! Has anyone noticed gas prices have gone sky high lately? Fuel costs affect just about everything. The cost of food, transportation, freight, and any and all types of manufacturing and production are affected.

What about the cost of pianos? If we look back thirty years or so, we can see that the market has changed. Many piano manufacturers have been bought and sold, and some have closed their doors forever. There have been around twelve hundred manufacturers that have come and gone in the last hundred years. Many small companies went out during the great depression. Many of these old established names are gone forever, or worse, sold to some Far East manufacturer with far less quality. It's difficult to keep up with any of the manufacturers or where their pianos are actually being made.

So then, where is the market headed? Even when considering used vs. new, the higher quality grands have in many cases more than doubled in value, while the vertical pianos have dropped in the last thirty years. I can merely speculate why vertical pianos have not held the same value, but it does seem to be the current trend. I doubt if the popularity of the piano will ever be like it was from 1900-1930, but I doubt if any of us will run out of work in our lifetime.

The piano has many forms of entertainment it must compete against, but I believe it will be a family tradition as long as people are willing to perform music, and hopefully that will be forever.

Bob Scheer, RPT
Edmond, OK

Dmitri Martin said:

A bumper sticker means you are narrowing your scope of friends.

George Foreman said:

Sure the fight was fixed. I fixed it with my right hand.

Tips and Tricks:

**In-field Grand Shank Hammer Repair
by Duncan Peterson RPT**

I got a call from a client who complained about a note that didn't make any sound; she thought that the hammer had broken, right where it goes into the hammer tail. I had to figure out the proper way to proceed.

I first bored out the hole with my combination handle hammer shank bit. Then I took my shank splice cutting jig (which I made out of a very hard piece of plastic I got at a hardwood laying store). This enables me to cut 2 pieces of hammer shank so that they mate together at such an angle that when they are glued together the shank turns out straight.

Before making the cut I made sure the cut was oriented properly to achieve the optimal long-term and least potential of re-breaking on a hard blow. Then I applied CA glue to the angled end of each of the original hammer shank and the replacement shank that I had cut, wrapped them around and around with a piece of small string and set them aside to dry.

When the newly spliced shank finished drying I glued the hammer onto the overlength shank, making sure I was gluing the proper angle, relative to its neighbors. I set it aside and finished tuning the piano (except for that one note).

By the time I was finished, the hammer head glue (I used yellow wood glue) had cured enough to install the hammer back in the piano. I finished up by sanding the excess CA glue off the newly spliced hammer shank to make it look as original as possible. I trimmed the overhanging shank (so the hammer would check properly), screwed it back onto the hammer rail, and VOILA! A playing once more...

The short and the long of it is that when you've got a broken hammer shank you need to fix it. If you don't have the right replacement grand shank, SPLICE, SPLICE, SPLICE! And having a prepared hammer shank repair kit helps a great deal.

Neal Armstrong said:

I believe every human has a finite number of heartbeats. I don't intend to waste any of mine.

Nominating Committee Report correction:

The nominating committee consisted of Keith McGavern, Keith Morgan and Eric Williams.

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

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