

# THE SOONER TUNER

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

## COMING EVENTS

**DECEMBER 12th** – We wish you a merry Christmas! (and a happy new year). The PTG Christmas Dinner is at Jordan Bruce's house on Friday December 12th at 6PM. The address is: 9713 Hillcrest Dr., Edmond, OK 73025

When you come to the intersection of Waterloo and Kelley take Kelley two miles North to Charter Oak. Take it right and your first left will be Hillcrest Drive. Turn onto Hillcrest I am the third house on the left with a green mailbox and the long winding driveway. It says Bruce on the mailbox. Should you get turned around, please feel free to call my cell at (405) 314-2407 or Gary's cell at (405) 413-8863. Reception can be iffy out here so if we should miss your call please leave a message. If you put the address into google maps it comes up with great directions.

Barbara has been diagnosed with Celiac disease (it's not catching) which means she cannot eat anything with wheat, barley or rye in it. Anything with gluten. If you are bringing something that's iffy on that could you give her a call? 721-0566

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## Refreshing Surprise

My wife and I were doing Christmas type errands on Sunday evening and decided to go to Penn Square Mall for something rather uninteresting, can't remember now. As we entered from the west side of Dillard's we could hear some pretty loud music going on downstairs, the familiar sound of a black gospel choir. We looked at each other and hurried down there to see what in the heck was going on. We worked our way through the small crowd and got a good view. They were about half elementary age and some adults, about 50 in all I think. A few little white kids in there too. They had two keyboards and a drum machine and a director who "lead". She was actually leading all of us! They did a mixture of praise and Christmas music. I'm telling you it was electric! No inhibitions at all. You couldn't help but clap your hands and shake your booty with them. As I observed the crowd there I realized there were many who had never really seen anything like this in person before. To witness this unashamed, enthusiastic proclamation of faith in song was one of those surprise gifts you receive for no reason other than someone else's generosity. I couldn't help but admire it and be inspired by it and realize this truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

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Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.  
--Mother Teresa

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## From the Pianotech List

High treble tuning musing - unison perfection

by John Dorr, a440@bresnan.net  
Sun Nov 30 07:57:51 PST 2008

I've been chewing on a few ideas about tuning the high treble tuning lately. Seems like when I NAIL a unison in the high treble the note can become lower in volume and sustain and less interesting in content. I was in a class given by Don Manino once ("The Sound of Your Tuning") where he suggested and demonstrated SLIGHTLY detuning one of the strings of the unison up there to attempt to increase the sustain. There were two same-

model pianos in the room and he did a direct A-B comparison. I was sold. Sustain was noticeably increased with the detuned unison. And it had a little "shimmer" to it - not really an objectionable beat, just a "shimmer", maybe a slow vibrato or slow-rolling beat, though the length of the sustain wasn't long enough to make the slow-rolling "shimmer"/vibrato/beat at all unmusical.

Perfect unisons of course assume strings that are not self-beating. As we know, some pianos are not able to achieve that in some or many high treble strings, and thus create their own imperfections, often ANNOYING imperfections. In these cases, the PURE unisons also make their impure neighbors stand out in comparison, so DETuning the pure ones may make for a little more consistency in the piano's sound. Another little interesting phrase that was related to me second-hand was from an older, presumably very experienced tech who was fond of saying, "Don't tune the life out of the unison!" I would assume the phenomena I've described above would be what he's referring to here, too.

John Dorr

(Submitted by Keith McGavern)

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Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative.

--Oscar Wilde

Art is the most intense mode of individualism the world has seen.

--Oscar Wilde

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