THE SOONER TUNER

Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. $July\ 2009$

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"my piano hasn't been tuned in twenty years"

Howdy ya'll. I hope everyone is taking it easy and gearing up for the next season of tuning. We are not meeting on the third thursday in July due to our PTG summer picnic held on Saturday August 1 at 4:30 p.m.. The picnic will be held at David and Barbara Bohnam's house

located at:

Ski Island 10717 East Lake Circle Oklahoma City, OK. 73162 405-721-0566

Go to the intersection of Hefner Rd. and MacArthur and turn south. Go approximately? mile til you come to East lake Dr.. Turn west. Make your first right this is east lake circle. Go to the

end and it is on your left, you can't miss it.

Activities include: Swimming, Tubing, Skiing, swilling, eating, talking, eating, drinking, talking

story telling, crying shoulder exhibit and just plain having a good time. If you don't feel good come anyways we'll try to cheer you up.

Food:

Meat is provided once again by Bob's backyard B-B-Q. Soft drinks and tea are also provided. Please bring side dishes of food to share.

Copy and paste this link in your address bar and tell David Bohnam you want to see him try these stunts when he ski's at the party: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TwqeiVbpS8

"The man who smiles when things go wrong has thought of someone to blame it on."
-- Robert Bloch

Want to Make \$\$\$\$ with your Computer? No Risk! Simply press shift-4 four times in a row

"Behind every successful man is a surprised woman." -- Maryon Pearson

From the President:

Well folks, There's no denying it, it's summertime and it's hot. Although the summer heat can make us feel quite miserable, it gives me a somewhat valid excuse to occasionally stop off at my favorite ice cream store. It's hot, I've been working hard, and I deserve it, right? The other day, while waiting in line and trying to decide how many scoops, and what flavor to

get, I couldn't help but wonder, why so many flavors were necessary. I suppose it's a matter of taste why one person would be perfectly happy with plain vanilla, while another individual would not be satisfied with anything but Chunky, Chocolate, Amoretto, Cappucino, Cheesecake.

Anyway, after finishing off my double dip, strawberry waffle cone, it occurred to me that ice cream and pianos have some distinct similarities. Now before you think I've completely lost my mind, let me explain. First of all, like ice cream, there are many sizes, shapes, colors and varieties of pianos. Second, one's senses will dictate the individual preference. Third, it's almost impossible to describe in words, what your tasting or hearing, [or any of the senses for that matter]. For example, could you explain what vanilla ice cream tastes like? How does it differ from chocolate? Or, how does a typical Steinway grand sound different from a typical Mason and Hamlin grand??

One of the most difficult issues that we, as piano technicians deal with on a on a regular basis is customer communication. Our customers can't normally tell us that the hammers need voicing, but they can tell us that it sounds "tinny". It is up to us to determine what they mean. It is up to us to listen closely, and try to make them happy.

Imagine, if you will, that, you told the clerk at the ice cream store, that you wanted 2 scoops of

butter pecan. But, instead, he handed you 2 scoops of Cookies ad Cream. Although that's not what you wanted, he might say. "You'll like this flavor better, it's MY favorite! Who's paying for the ice cream??

Likewise, what if your piano client asked you to make the tone of their piano less harsh, and more mellow, and you disagreed and juiced the hammers and made it much brighter instead? Whose piano is it??

I have found, that, my job can be much easier if I can leave my own opinions at home, and try to truly listen to the needs of the pianist I'm dealing with. I might think their nuts, but

it's their piano, and they're writing the check! See you at Braums.

Bob

"Press any key to continue, where's the any key?" - Homer

"Is There a Tuner in the House? by Robin Stevens, ARPT Adelaide, Australia (June 2009 Piano Technicians Journal)

Many years ago, when Peter Nero came to Adelaide, South Australia, some friends and I decided to go hear him. He was very popular at that time. On arriving at the packed hall we sat in the back row and waited for the concert to start.

A manager walked out onto the stage and asked, "Is there a piano tuner in the house!?" My two friends who, like me, were well-primed from the pre concert meal and drinks, immediately jumped to their feet and pointed to me!

The manager asked if I would come up and speak with the artist. Going to the front of the hall,

to rousing applause from the audience, I went backstage and met Peter Nero, who nervously informed me the Steinway D's sustain pedal did not work! Could I have a look? My tools were miles away so I thought I would assess the problem first and go from there.

Going out onto the stage (to another round of applause), I dropped to the floor on my back and noticed that the adjustment rod had half an inch travel before even engaging the dampers. When I tried to adjust the rod with my fingers I found the locking nut was beyond undoing with fingers!

Going backstage again I asked the waiting group if anyone had an adjustable spanner. No such luck. My brain was going into a spin as to what to do next when I noticed some cardboard boxes in the corner. Tearing off a large piece, I folded it into what I thought was right for the space that had to be filled. Back on stage again (to a third round of applause), I found the packing spacer was spot on.

Peter Nero came onto the stage and started play- ing as if nothing had ever happened. The town hall in those days used to hire a piano tuner from the local Steinway dealer. None of their tuners were actually piano players. I assume whoever tuned it never sat and played a short piece after the tuning, which would have revealed the pedal problem. The question that might need to be asked: Do non-playing tuners have a checklist they go

through, rather than playing a small tune?

Mr. Nero would appreciate it!

Failure is not an option -- it comes bundled with Windows.

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