

THE SOONER TUNER

Newsletter of the Oklahoma Chapter 731

Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.

April 2010

"May the force be with you"

This month's meeting will be held at

Larsen Music Company
4001 NW 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73116-1984
Thursday, April 15th at 8:30 am
405-843-1573

This month's technical is how to regulate an upright piano and a grand piano. Norman Cantrell will give demonstrations on the action models used in the PTG RPT exams.

From the desk of the President.....

My son, Jason, recently repeated this story that was told to him by one of his students in Atlanta, Georgia.

About six years ago this particular student's mother met a middle aged man on her porch asking to be hired to mow her lawn. Upon asking his name, she was told "Most folks just call me Baumonitious". At the time she wasn't sure whether this might be a family name, ie; Aloysius, or an adverb, ie; ambitious. At any rate no one ever questioned it's origin, and their family called him "Mr Baumonitious "out of respect.

She had always paid him for his services with cash, but about two weeks ago she was short of cash and asked if she could write him a check. "Sure" he said. "How do you spell your name?" she asked. "CJ Tucker", he replied. "What? I thought your name was Baumonitious!!?"

"Well, ma'am, when I first started working for you, you asked me my name, and I told you. Most folks just call me Bymyinitials.....CJ." I guess he didn't want to correct her, and she didn't want to ask.

Sometimes what we think we have heard, is not what we have heard at all! How well do we really communicate with our customers? Do we answer their questions with terminology that they can clearly understand?

Have you ever heard any of your customers make such brilliant comments such as, "My piano has a solid steel sound board!" or, "My aunt used to have a man that tuned her piano who was deaf!"

If I may use a quote from the old movie "Cool Hand Luke", "What we have here is a failure to communicate!"

Think about it! Bob

Piano Quiz

1. If you calculate that the average car weighs 3000 pounds, what number of cars most accurately represents the tension in your piano, one car, two cars, four cars or twelve cars?
2. Piano tuners are descended by lineage from harpsichord tuners who had to adapt to their times. True or false?

(This quiz is from Piano Talk Online)

The History of Piano Tuning

The evolution of stringed keyboard instruments into the modern piano began in the early 18th century and culminated in the late 19th century. As the harpsichord, fortepiano and numerous intermediate piano designs were inexorably changing form, the musicians, composers and music theorists of the time were also experimenting and utilizing various tuning systems or temperaments for the performance of the music. There were no standard piano tuning professionals as there are today, therefore any given tuner tuned differently from each other as they themselves tuned differently from one tuning to the next. This absence of absolute standardization was not due to incompetence but rather a versatility and a musical approach to tuning that has yielded to the scientifically 'modern' system of Equal Temperament in practice from 1917. Since famous composers such as Beethoven, Bach, etc. and others during the 18th and 19th century did not mention their tuning practices and preferences, the job of documenting tuning methods was left to musicians, instrument makers, music theorists, physicists and mathematicians of the time. Furthermore, all those who tuned their instruments were aware of and instinctively used the numerous permutations of color changes, tonality and key characters that were available through these temperaments as a means toward heightened expression in their musical performances and compositions.

(This excerpt is from Piano Talk Online)

False Beat Suppressor Tool

Just had the opportunity to use this tool again. It saved the day for me on a rather new quality upright. There was one treble string beating so wildly by itself that it prevented tuning a decent unison that would blend in with its neighbors. By massaging the errant string with this tool, the wild beating was reduced enough to allow an acceptable unison.

Keith McGavern

Answers To Piano Quiz

1. From twelve to twenty five cars.

2. False. Piano tuners were trained in piano factories which only manufactured pianos.

What is a Registered Piano Technician, [click here](#)

Oklahoma Chapter Website, [click here](#)

The Oklahoma chapter officers of the PTG are:

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