

# *THE SOONER TUNER*

*Official newsletter of the [Oklahoma Chapter 731](#)*

*[Piano Technicians Guild](#)*

*March 2013*



Oklahoma Chapter President  
David Bonham, RPT

## President's Message

I am reminded that I see our profession as a service business. We get paid quite well for what we've been trained to do which is primarily tuning, repairing, restoring, moving and selling pianos. We support dealers, teachers, parents, students, entertainers, churches, and others. We work on pianos, but we service people. Some jobs are more satisfying, or easier, or profitable. It is appropriate and natural to prefer some tasks over others and to specialize or gravitate towards some and avoid others, but I have found it meaningful to see myself as being in service to those who call me for help. In other words, I try to help them whether I like doing what their piano needs or not.

Today I tuned a Gulbransen spinet about 70 years old. I raised the pitch 120 cents in two tunings. I lowered the abstract rail to greatly reduce a major case of lost motion. I also encountered a first: the hammer butt leather strips were unglued such that when I struck the keys hard, about twenty notes would jamb as the leather strip would drop and block the jack from returning. What a job that will be when the owner calls me back in May or June to remove the action and reglue all of them. That is what the lady needs; not just what the piano needs. If I learned that one of you has a knack for such a job, I would consider sharing it with you so that we could share the satisfaction and the income!

See you at the next meeting, Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:30am, here at our house.

David



Oklahoma Chapter Vice President  
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting  
Thursday  
March 21st  
8:30am

### Location

**David & Barbara Bonham's home**

10717 N Eastlake Circle  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162-6821  
405-721-0566

### *Technical*

OnlyPure Software

by Keith McGavern  
bring your favorite tuning lever

([images and links to electronic tuning products](#))



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary  
Bob Scheer, RPT

Looking back to the early 1970's, the comparison of the available tools and supplies of then and now, is truly jaw dropping. For instance, if you wanted to rebush a set of keys, you could order thin, medium, or thick [spongy] bushing cloth, and metal spring cauls to install them. If you wanted to replace a pin block, you could order a supply house soft pin block [pre Delignit]. How about hammers? Reinforced [dye added] or non- reinforced hammers were available, almost guaranteed to increase the touch weight. Grand hammer shanks? If they weren't too wide to fit, you needed lots of traveling paper even if you ordered from the piano manufacturers. Key top glue was model airplane glue with a promise to get you high and/or give you cancer. I'm sure there were more sets of 4/0 pins sold than 2/0 pins, but if you decided not to go with a new soft block, or oversized pins, you could go with "rot block" pin block restorer that was rumored to be made from anti-freeze!

But you know, we did the best we could, with what we had to work with. If it weren't for a lot of piano technicians a whole lot smarter than I am, and suppliers willing to listen and a desire to improve the quality and availability, we might still be locked into 1970.

The changes we see today came about from the collective sharing from members of The Piano Technicians Guild. The tools we buy from the supply houses came from the inventiveness of our organization. The information available from the Journal and the PTG website raises the bar for all of us. Bob



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor  
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

[A Harmonica in Carnegie Hall](#)

[Close Call](#)

[How Great Thou Art](#)

(Vince Gill & Carrie Underwood)

[George Winston](#)

(American pianist and composer)

[How Did They Do That?](#)

[Joe Yamada](#)

(A Silent Tear)

[Paula Fernandes](#)

(Costumes)

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“All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the editor as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild.”

## 1925 Erard action

posted by Allen Wright on [my.ptg.org](http://my.ptg.org)  
(March 3, 2013)



Check out those metal devices  
they are drop screws



March 2013  
Executive Outlook  
Malinda Powell, RPT  
South Central Regional Vice President



## Professional Prudence

“Prudence or caution is the quality of approaching situations thoroughly, considering the possibilities and risk at play. It means taking time to assimilate context and history prior to launching into action. It means reality-checking our own assumptions and instinctual reactions.

“Caution often prevents mistakes and unnecessary detours by reminding us to listen and to learn. Judiciously applied—without reverting to fear, superstition, or cynicism—caution allows us to process and consider so we can then proceed with greater clarity and confidence. A healthy caution leads to healthy action.” ([Wisdom Commons](#))

As business owners, we must be prudent. Our clients are our greatest assets, and we must treat them with respect and knowledge.

We must also be prudent in our business relationships and treat one another with respect, not becoming individuals who are critical and demeaning in our relationships with our peers.

We need also to be prudent with ourselves. If we consider ourselves professionals, we should earn and deserve to earn professional incomes. We need to be prudent in our finances by building into our fees the costs of health and business insurance, disability insurance, vacation time, sick time and our retirement funds.

We must also be prudent in taking care of our bodies.

If we are prudent and cautious in these things, we will be professionally successful.