

THE SOONER TUNER

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

April 2013



Oklahoma Chapter President
David Bonham, RPT

President's Message

I'd like to share a story about our recent piano moving trip to Missouri last week. Barbara and I had been storing a Yamaha G3 grand for a woman I had known when I was the piano technician at OU. She received her master's degree in piano pedagogy there in the 90's, and I had taken her piano to Nebraska for her after graduation. She recently moved to Whiteman Air Force Base, an hour east of Kansas City, where her husband is a psychologist.

Some of you may know that this is the home of the B2 (stealth) bomber. Needless to say, security is very tight there. We arrived at 4:25 pm, in plenty of time (I thought) to get the piano set up and get back through the supply gate before it closed at 6:00. No less than six military personnel greeted us as we drove in. We were instructed to open all our doors and bring our insurance verification, personal identification and car registration to the desk. The car and trailer were inspected and everything was found to be alright except that we don't carry our car registration papers in our car. Do you? We were told in no uncertain terms that our car would not be allowed on the base. We would have to go home to get the paperwork (over 400 miles each way!) or make other arrangements to get them forwarded to us. We told them that we aren't required to carry these papers in Oklahoma, but that didn't seem to matter to them.

We made several phone calls, including one to a neighbor who has a key to our house and knows how to turn off our security alarm, and who might be able to fax the paperwork, but she was not home. The most promising option seemed to be finding someone else on the base with a trailer hitch capable of pulling the piano trailer, since they would allow us and the trailer to travel freely. Our customer had just recently moved there, and didn't know anyone with such a vehicle, but after many failed attempts she located someone to help us in that way. ...

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... Just as this person was arriving to assist us, several of the base personnel emerged from the office to tell us that they had been continually in contact with their superiors and that they had confirmed that the only documentation Oklahoma requires as proof of current registration of our vehicles is the pair of stickers on the license tag itself. They checked ours and found it in order, and told us that we would be allowed to use our vehicle after all! Relieved, but with less than 50 minutes to complete the delivery, we hustled and “got er done.”

We hope that in sharing this story we might save one of you a hassle and a delay in the event that you travel to such a high security location. We did get to see one of those B2's in the sky before we drove away, and it was worth all of the frustration and stress!

I hope to see you at the Bruces'.



Oklahoma Chapter Vice President
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting
Thursday
April 18th
8:30am

Location

Bruce Piano Services

9713 Hillcrest Drive
Edmond, OK 73025
405-285-8324

Coming from I-35 take the Waterloo exit and go west to Kelly (4 1/2 miles) then north to Charter Oak (2 miles), then east 1 block to Hillcrest, then north to the 3rd house on left. From Highway 74 (Portland) take Waterloo road east to Kelly, then north.

The Technical presentation will be made by Gary Bruce, RPT on various facets of upright rebuilding including installation of pin block inserts in an open face upright piano and various jigs used in the rebuild process.

Oklahoma Chapter Minutes

March 21, 2013

Meeting Held at David Bonham Residence in Oklahoma City

Opening Prayer: Chuck Belknap

Members Present: Chuck Belknap, Keith McGavern, Jonathan Edwards, Keith Morgan, David Bonham, Brad Broomfield, Gary Bruce, Norman Cantrell.

Guests: Brad Broomfield, Barbara Bonham

Minutes from January meeting presented by Keith McGavern

Motion to approve by Gary Bruce, Second Norman Cantrell, Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: January report - Balance \$2836.29

Balance as of end of February - \$2902.39

We have also received a new member application fee from Thomas Foster

New Business:

Election of Delegate for Council:

Motion by Gary Bruce for Dale Probst to serve as Delegate, Second Keith McGavern, Motion passed.

Delegate reimbursement:

Motion to fund delegate at \$450.00 by Gary Bruce, second by Keith McGavern. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee:

Members nominated to serve on the committee are: Keith Morgan (Chair), Chuck Balknap, Bob Scheer.

Motion by Gary Bruce,, Second Keith McGavern, Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned:

For Technical by Keith McGavern on Only Pure Tuning software

Minutes respectfully submitted by Norman Cantrell, RPT



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

Hula Hoop Performers

Jackie Evancho – Barbara Streisland
(duet with David Foster)

Valentina Lisitsa
(Classical Pianist)

One Day Builds
(Adam Savage builds a box from scratch)

Michel Petrucciani
(French Jazz Pianist)

Stroke of Insight
(Jill Bolte Taylor)

Alicia Keys
(Brand New Me)

Oklahoma Chapter Officers
June 2012 – May 2013

President – David Bonham, RPT
Vice President – Gary Bruce, RPT
Secretary – Bob Scheer, RPT
Treasurer – Gary Bruce, RPT
Newsletter Editor – Keith McGavern, RPT

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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.”

Eliminating False Beats
From Google+ Pianotech Community group
Excerpts by [Tim Coates](#)
March 17, 2013

In the real world you work to eliminate false beats. If you leave them you are not doing your best.

The first major part of this process is to seat and equalize tension on the strings. Using a brass rod tapping the non speaking lengths must be done before any work on the speaking length. Tapping the lengths from the tuning pins to the under string felt focuses the sound. The segments from the under string felt to the capo bar or agraffe next. Then tap the length from the hitch pin to the aliquot and then from aliquot to distal side of the bridge. Now you can work on the speaking segments. The methods Isaac was talking about work here. There needs to be a defined termination of the strings on the bridges, just don't crush the wood with the strings.

Tune the piano. Now work on lifting strings in front of the agraffes. Using a string hook lift the string by sliding the hook from three inches out to the agraffe and back about three times. Don't lift with too much force or you could break an agraffe. Wound strings can be a little tricky, as you don't have as much plain wire to work with. Now move on to the capo bar area. Pull the action and tap up from underneath with a piece of brass either side of the capo bar. Very gently on the small gauges.

Tune the piano. And this gets you to the point of working on false beats.

The slot on my Hart Voicing tool is wide enough to massage a bass string core. I guess it is a latitudinal slot and the sides are tapered a little to fit between three string unisons. The process I described just prior is based on non speaking length and then speaking length massage. From now on you will work in reverse. Speaking length and then non speaking length.

I don't find it necessary to always massage at the bridge, just massage towards the bridge. One quick stroke and then onto the length between the under string felt and the agraffe or capo. If that doesn't work well enough, massage the length just behind the bridge.

This is a never ending process, but eventually gets the piano to nearly no false beats when you return to tune and none when you are done.

The tuning method I used I learned from a trip to the Cincinnati PTG Chapter about a year ago. It equalizes tension in the piano before you really start the bulk of the tuning. I believe false beats have more to do with equalizing the tension on the string than anything else. That's why my methods for massaging and tuning work. They are about equalizing tension throughout the piano and the individual strings

April 2013
Executive Outlook
Patrick Draine, RPT
Northeast Regional Vice President



Join the October 2013 PTG Tour in China!

The International Association of Piano Builders and Technicians (IAPBT) meets every other year, usually in conjunction with the host country's piano technician association meeting. The IAPBT meetings are an opportunity to exchange views on trends in our profession and share techniques with fellow technicians from around the globe. In the past year Trevor Nelson wrote several excellent articles for the Journal on IAPBT, which describe the experience in detail. This year the IAPBT meeting will be held in Hangzhou, China on October 8th and 9th. It precedes the nearby Shanghai Music Expo, their equivalent of the Anaheim NAMM trade show, which runs from October 10th through 13th.

The Piano Technicians Guild has organized the PTG China Tour from October 5th through October 14th, 2013, concurrent with IAPBT and the Shanghai Music Expo. In addition, we will visit several major piano factories, a university piano technology program, and many interesting historic and modern sites.

We will fly in to Shanghai, and then travel to Ningbo for a tour of Hailun Piano. Then we travel to Hangzhou, considered one of the beautiful and scenic cities of China, for the IAPBT meetings. Following that we return to Shanghai for the Music Expo, further piano factory tours and sightseeing in this cosmopolitan city.

We then fly to Beijing, where we will tour the Xinghai piano factory and renowned attractions such as Tianmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, and the Ming Dynasty Tombs.

This is a great opportunity for you to travel on a unique (and tax deductible) tour of some of the great cities of China, in the company of your friends and colleagues. Please join us! Contact me for further details and registration information at NERVP@ptg.org.