

# *THE SOONER TUNER*

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

*[Piano Technicians Guild](#)*

*May 2013*



Oklahoma Chapter President  
David Bonham, RPT

## President's Message

It's Monday evening, and Barbara and I have just returned from another piano moving trip. We left Thursday evening with three grands in the trailer, one bound for Cumming, Georgia and the other two for the Nashville area. We drove through a lot of rain, but the Sequoia performed flawlessly and all our contacts went smoothly. When I think about all the possible things that could go wrong on a trip like that, I am amazed how well the universe works. It is humbling and awe-inspiring to contemplate. Thank you, Chuck, for referring Roberta to us for the Nashville moving job!

As most of you are aware from the email sent out two weeks ago, the Dallas, Ft. Worth and Austin chapters have invited us to join them for the Kansas City home office and Piano Museum tour rescheduled for May 18. We have decided to make that our May chapter event for anyone able to participate. May 16 would have been our next get-together. Freeing up that day may help enable more of you to get in on that invitation. Remember that we voted as a chapter to offer a \$50 incentive towards trip expenses for anyone able to go.

I believe that our chapter meeting for June may be held at the Bruce Company Showroom near Lincoln and Memorial in Oklahoma City, since we are not having the regularly scheduled meeting there this month. I for one am looking forward to seeing what Gary and Jordan and their crew have been doing with that space.

Remember as you go through your weeks and months that Gary is always on the lookout for topics and venues for our monthly events. What technical presentations would benefit you and your customers? What are you learning that would challenge and strengthen the Chapter?



Oklahoma Chapter Vice President  
Gary Bruce, RPT

No Chapter meeting May 16<sup>th</sup>  
in lieu of the upcoming  
**Jack Wyatt Museum Tour**  
taking place at the Home Office  
May 18<sup>th</sup> in Kansas City



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary  
Bob Scheer, RPT

The April 18, 2013 meeting was held at Jordan Bruce's shop in Edmond. The business meeting began with a prayer at 9:00 AM. Members present were Gary and Jordan Bruce, Keith McGavern, Keith Morgan, David Bonham, John Edwards, Brad Broomfield and Bob Scheer.

Treasurer's report as of April 18, \$3,707.47.

Old Business: The nominating committee recommended the current roster of officers for another term.

New Business: A motion was made and passed to accept Dale Probst as the 2013 PTG Convention Delegate for the Oklahoma Chapter.

A motion was made and passed to offer a \$50.00 incentive for those Chapter members who attend the upcoming trip to the home office in Kansas City on May 6.

Following the regular business meeting, Gary Bruce gave the technical with illustrations and explanations of his recent upright restoration project. Brad Broomfield demonstrated his shop made piano key surfacing jig. After the meeting we enjoyed a nice lunch at Habaneros Mexican restaurant.

Bob



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor  
Keith McGavern, RPT

### ~ High Lights ~

[Removing Hammer Shank From Butt](#)  
(using Hair Flat Iron)

[The Secret Life of Pianos](#)

[Emanuele Arciuli](#)  
(Italian Classical Pianist)

[Nora Jones](#)  
“[Chasing Pirates](#)”  
(lyrics)

[Hohner Service Workshop](#)  
(Tuning)

[Hidden Audience Talents](#)  
(Ellen)

[John Mayer & Eric Clapton](#)  
“Crossroads”

### 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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### DISCLAIMER

“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.”

## Leg Plates

Pianotech Google Groups

by [Joe DeFazio](#), Pittsburgh

April 8, 2013

When leg repairs are necessary, I generally drop everything that I can and take care of them as close to immediately as possible. The safety of human beings is more important than piano tuning or our business, and on these occasions, we must assume the responsibility to keep people safe. After all, we are the piano experts, and it is our job to do so.

As for how to fix things properly, measure the remaining plate, and then contact Young Chang and see if they will sell you a pair of mating plates of that size. If they can't, buy a pair from one of the supply houses or get a pair from a colleague, and be prepared to route differently-sized mortices into the bottom of the piano and top of the leg if necessary.

Install the plates so that they are ever so slightly recessed into the wooden mortices (some slight deepening of the mortice may be necessary). If there is the proper tiny bit of recess, most of the male dovetail will engage most of the female dovetail, and this will draw the wood of the leg tight to the wood of the underside of the tail as the dovetails slide together. That's the optimal configuration, in my opinion; both the metal and the wood contribute to the stability.

If there is too much recess, then only the very tip of the male dovetail will engage, which might lead to metal cracks down the road. If there is not enough recess, then the surfaces of the plates (in addition to the dovetails) will touch, but the wood of the top of the leg will not touch the wood of the bottom of the tail; this leads to wobbliness and possible leg failure down the road.

Install the plates so that their edges are tight in their mortices (you may have to shim with veneer or thin cardboard if the are not), and make sure that the screws holding the plates are very tight (plug and redrill the holes if necessary).

Concert Etiquette  
Pianotech Google Groups  
by Don Mannino, RPT  
April 8, 2013

... Paderewski's technique:

If someone started talking during his performance, he would stop, turn to them with a pleasant smile on his face and say in a very polite manner, "I am so sorry that my playing is disturbing your conversation. I will just wait a moment until you have finished, then I will resume."

Audiences learned pretty quickly!

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**Extra Extra**

"Someone should tell this girl that this can't be done"

"Baby & Me"

"Avery, 6 year old Drummer"

"Genesis"