

THE SOONER TUNER

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

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

August 2013



Oklahoma Chapter President
David Bonham, RPT

President's Message

Barbara and I returned Sunday evening from our piano moving trip that took us to Rochester, MN, Chicago, Battle Creek, Daytona Beach, and Naples. On our journey we invested in a new tool for the business. We left our Sequoia in Rogers, AR, and did the rest of the trip in a motorhome. It was quite a life-changing event! We saved quite a bit in motel charges, and had no bed bugs to worry about. We ate mostly our own food out of our built-in refrigerator and freezer. The RV pulled our piano trailer easily, getting the same mileage as the Sequoia. It is a great vehicle. It is a means to an end. If it were a boat it could be called a vessel. A musician might think of it as an instrument.

Have you ever been called a "tool"? This derogatory term was only slightly popular a few years ago, partly I believe because the meaning was not universally understood or agreed upon. Isn't being a tool or a vessel or an instrument a good thing if it refers to us being utilized by a wisdom and strength greater than ours? Do you remember people complaining about "being used"? I always wanted to be useful; sought out to be helpful to others and to feel needed. Aren't we called to be in service and to submit ourselves to God's will and purpose in our lives?

So maybe our challenge is to be tools, vessels, instruments or vehicles enabling and enhancing purposes greater than our own in this world. The key might be in discerning those intentions and purposes worthy of our reverence and submission. How do you perceive your own calling and how good of a "tool" are you at this time?

Our compact Winnebago has given us a new perspective on what we like and what we require as we travel through life. I'm sure to be sharing stories in future articles reflecting on our unfolding life stories.

David



Oklahoma Chapter
Vice President & Treasurer
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting
Thursday
August 15th
8:30am

Location

Oklahoma Christian University
Garvey Fine Arts Center
([directions](#))
405-348-3213 / 405-413-8863

The technical presentation will be by yours truly on harmonic tuning. This will be a unique presentation you won't want to miss. It will be hands on, eyes on and ears on.

Treasurer's Report: Ending balance for July 2013 - \$3,047.03



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary
Bob Scheer, RPT

OLD JOURNALS AVAILABLE FOR READING

I have a box full of old PTG Journals dating back about 60 years, mostly from Bob Qualls estate. I would love to share them with the chapter members.

I plan on bringing them to this month's meeting. There is definitely something in those Journals for everyone.

So if you are interested, join us to view these treasures from yesterday along with the chapter technical that is going to be presented by our illustrious Gary Bruce.

Bob



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

[Piano Bike](#)

[Steinway Grand Piano Breakdown](#)
(Kelly Moving)
(7:13)

[Tommy Emmanuel](#)
(Australian Guitarist)

[Martha Argerich](#)
(Argentine Pianist)

[Amneris Letters](#)
(Shania Twain & Elton John, 1999 special)
(3:18)

[Nanci Griffith](#)
(American Singer, Guitarist & Songwriter)

[Jotta A](#)
(Gospel Brazilian Singer)

Oklahoma Chapter Officers June 2013 – May 2014

President – [David Bonham](#), RPT
Vice President – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT
Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), 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.”

JPEGS
(shared on the internet)



Piano moving submitted by Isaac Oleg on Google Groups (not Photoshopped)



Green hammers submitted by Scott Kerns on Google Groups
(Is it dye, mouse residue, Kryptonite, Paris Green, tropicalized for Central Africa?)

Executive Outlook
July 2013
How Full Is Your Plate?

Phil Bondi, RPT
was PTG Secretary-Treasurer
is now PTG Vice-President



"How full is your plate?"

This is a common phrase that has been heard for many years.

Anyone within earshot of me in the last five years has heard me say, "I don't want to burn them out," referring to members possibly taking on too much responsibility for our organization.

Most of you reading this have experienced the summer "convention buzz," where we're surrounded by our peers and there's lots of good feeling going around, a general positive vibe created by the convention atmosphere. Then comes the call for volunteers for various committees. You step up, feeling good about it, but after you arrive back home and start to get the e-mail associated with that committee, you say to yourself, "What did I do?" You have taken on too much. Your plate is overflowing, and you're drowning in opportunity. Unfortunately, you have no idea how to take advantage of the opportunity to help the organization. You feel overwhelmed, and you either quit or just shut down.

I'm using PTG as an example of one's plate being full, but it works with our everyday lives first. We can become overwhelmed with raising children, caring for an elderly loved one, helping out at church or with Little League or other activities that may take time to perform well, not to mention our businesses and our responsibilities to our spouses and significant others. With all that being said, who am I to determine someone else's burnout rate? I have a client who volunteers at PTA, school, and church. She serves on a board of directors for a new school, keeps books for her husband's business, takes care of the day-to-day responsibilities of her three children, and supervises the upkeep of their home. When she was describing all her activities, I looked at her like she had three heads! This is a normal life for her, but not for most people.

I want you to ask yourself, "How big is my plate, and how full is it?" Most of us have room on our plate. Some of us don't realize the size of our plate until we take on too much. Recently, I was asked to volunteer to be on another board of directors outside of PTG. I have been very active in this other organization, suggesting many things to try and ideas to implement. I was a natural choice for the next opening. I declined. I walked up to the person who asked me, who was disappointed, and said, "Bob, my plate is full. I could say yes, and do an OK job. I want to do a great job." He understood, especially after I told him what's already on my plate. The look he gave me was similar to the look I gave my client, and I feel my responsibilities are few compared to hers.

Most of us have room on our plates. Determine the size of your plate, and then determine how you want to fill it up. In some cases we need to make room (emergencies), but all of us have a plate size. Fill it, and do a great job with all that's on it.