

THE SOONER TUNER

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

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

March 2014



Oklahoma Chapter President
David Bonham, RPT

President's Message

Surely Spring is about here. What a roller coaster of weather we have had! I am anticipating some calls from people I have tuned for recently. "That tuning you did last month didn't last as long as usual," is what I imagine they might say. I was thinking the other day how to better answer the question: "How long should a tuning last?" I think a fair answer would be: "six to twelve months or until the indoor relative humidity changes over 15%." How would you answer that question?

I want to share a story about an event right after our last meeting. Those of you who were there might remember my saying that we were going to be in Ada February 22 to provide a piano for Dino Kartsonakis, the Christian pianist who currently resides in Branson. Barbara and I have done some further work on the Yamaha C7 grand in our living room, including voicing. It sounds really nice, and we welcome opportunities to rent out pianos like this one occasionally. Dino played it at the McSwain Theatre on the 22nd, then at Union Valley Baptist Church the next morning. Gordon Mote played it there the following three evenings for revival services. It is satisfying to have such an instrument to share, particularly when we are present to hear it. We were present at the Dino event in the theatre, and despite the fact that the sound system wasn't bringing out the best sound of the piano (anyone interested in a technical presentation on proper microphone/amplification techniques for pianos?) we were proud of our part in the performance.

In response to the concern expressed about our dog, Goliath, who was recently injured by our neighbors' dog, I must share another part of the Ada event. Dino met Goliath backstage at the theatre when I was tuning the piano, and he really took a liking to him. He had me bring Goliath onstage during the concert to introduce him to the crowd. So...not only is he recuperating well from his injury, Goliath has had his first stage debut!

In case any of you would like to hear our C7 played by a young up-and-coming pianist (and friend of ours), Jill Jantzen, she will be performing at our church the evening of our next meeting day. She is a graduate of Classen High School, OCU, and the University of Cincinnati. That is March 20, 7:00 pm at St. Pauls Lutheran Church, 10600 N. Council, OKC.

I hope to see you at the next meeting!

David Bonham



Oklahoma Chapter
Vice President & Treasurer
Gary Bruce, RPT

Next Meeting
March 20th
8:30am

Location

David & Barbara Bonham's home

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

The next Oklahoma Chapter Meeting will be at the home of David and Barbara Bonham, 10717 Eastlake Circle in Oklahoma City. David will share two of his current shop projects, including a challenging voicing job on a Young Chang grand and a limited restoration of a Baldwin grand damaged by a roof leak. He also intends to reserve some time for demonstrating the setting of a temperament by ear, something that should be helpful to our younger members and (hopefully) at least entertaining to all.

February 2014 PTG E-News

Congratulations, Leadership Challenge Recipients!

Kevin Adkins - Western Carolinas, NC Chapter

Jordan Bruce - Oklahoma Chapter

Lana Dobberfuhr - Nashville, TN Chapter

David Estey - New Jersey Chapter

James Gulino - New Jersey Chapter

Lucas Hathcock - Phoenix, AZ Chapter

Dwight Haupt - Nebraska Chapter

Magnus Hjalmarson - Houston, TX Chapter

Stephen Rask - Houston, TX Chapter

John Schaldach - Washington, D.C Chapter



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary
Bob Scheer, RPT

Minutes: The February PTG Chapter meeting was held at Bruce Piano Showroom on Lincoln Ave. in Edmond. The meeting began with a prayer by Jamie Marks at 9:05 AM.

Members present were David Bonham, Jamie Marks, Gary and Jordan Bruce, Bob Scheer, Keith and Eyrline Morgan, Greg Lynch [Tulsa Chapter RPT} and a guest, Larry Oakley.

Treasurers report:2,566.42

Old Business: Discussion continued concerning the Chapter use of the "Pace System". Copyright infringements and costs were a concern, and the possibility of Chapter funds being used to defray the costs, was suggested. No decisions were made, however.

New Business: It was decided that a nominating committee for next years officers should be selected at the March Meeting. We welcomed Greg Lynch from our neighboring Tulsa Chapter, who gave an interesting technical describing a bent action frame he encountered while replacing action parts on a Steinway Grand.

After the meeting, the group met at Alfredo's Mexican Restaurant for a delicious meal. Bob



Chickering plate, date unknown

Piano Links

[*Upcoming Piano Technicians Guild Events*](#)

(Regional and National events, 2014-15)

[*Piano Technicians Guild Channel*](#)

(These videos are referenced by the Piano Technician Journal)
(Thanks to Jordan Bruce for the impetus to post this link)

[*Virtual Piano Appraisal*](#)

(This virtual-piano-appraisal link can save you some time and educate customers
all in a very nice easy going way ... David Estey, RPT)

[*Determine The Condition of Your Piano*](#)

(This .pdf won't make you an expert, nor will it solve your technical problems,
but it will help you spot a nightmare in the making ... David Estey, RPT)

Oklahoma Chapter Officers

June 2013 – May 2014

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.”



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

[Charlie Landsborough](#)
(I Will Love You All My Life)

[Ane Brun](#)
(International Songwriter, guitarist and Vocalist)

[Boogie Woogie Twins](#)
(Jools Holland & Doctor John)

[The Voice of China 2012](#)
(Ping An & Ni Yafeng)

[Bill Evans](#)
(Peace Piece)

[Rachael Yamagata](#)
(You Won't Let Me)

[Flash](#)
(vimeo)

[Foundry Tour](#)

[Chet Akins](#)
(The Stars and Stripes Forever)

[Stela Petrova](#)
(Price Tag)

[Grand Piano Muffler](#)

[Errol Garner](#)
(American Jazz Pianist and Composer)



Zwicker piano

Executive Outlook
March 2014
Walking a Balanced Life
Norman Cantrell, RPT
PTG President



March is an interesting time of year. The seasons are beginning to change. A bit later this month we celebrate the official first day of spring, observed on the spring equinox each year. On this day we have exactly twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of night. It is a perfect balance.

Reflecting on your life, how is your balance? We all have demands placed upon us from a variety of sources—family, friends, work, church or synagogue, volunteer activities and our own personal priorities. If you have ever examined a mobile that hangs over a child's crib, you find a variety of objects delicately balanced. You can bump the mobile and things will spin, shimmy and bob up and down, but always in balance.

It is easy to let our lives get out of balance if we are not careful. We must give adequate attention to each of the key areas of our lives in order to maintain that balance. We must take care of our physical bodies, our mental acuity, our social and emotional dimensions and our spiritual components. If we neglect any one of these too long, the result will be an adverse effect on our total being. Most of us are like a rubber band. At times we are stretched in one direction that causes a deficit on other portions. We can operate like this for a short time, but we must relax back into a balanced position, or, like an elastic band, we will end up damaged and no longer useful.

We must also exercise each of these four dimensions in order to strengthen them. We all know the benefits of physical exercise, or at least we should. We need to exercise the other three areas as well. Since most of us work alone, we may need to be creative in finding ways to exercise the social and emotional aspects of our beings. There are opportunities well beyond the scope of this short article, but if you look around, there are many ways to involve yourself. I'll not try to instill my beliefs on any of you in this forum, but each of us needs to exercise the spiritual component of our lives as well. Having a quiet time of reflection each day is a good start for each of us, and it helps us to gain perspective and focus in order to better perform the duties with which we are tasked.

As to our intellectual stimulation and mind exercise, learning something new each week is a great place to start. There are many opportunities in our business to learn new things just about the pianos we service. You may never design a piano from scratch, but learning all the different aspects that go into that process provides an endless list of things to explore. Taking the time to do some research and writing an article for your chapter newsletter or even for the Journal will also stretch your learning. Make plans now to come to Atlanta and take some classes that you have never seen before. As Mr. Miyagi said to Daniel in the movie *The Karate Kid*, "Balance is the key... and don't forget to breathe!"

By the way, how is your chapter doing on its social challenge to recruit one new member this year?