

# THE SOONER TUNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER  
OF THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD, INC.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 12, 1993

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I've had a couple of tunings recently that caused me to ask myself if I had been properly thankful during the cool and dry season. When I have to pull the pitch down and my arm gets stuck to the damp and waxed finish of the piano I am reminded of how much I prefer to pull a piano up to pitch. Pinblocks can really feel spongy this time of year. Of course there are things I love about this time of year, such as the swimming and water skiing activities, so I won't complain too much.

Another observation about tunings recently has to do with pin setting technique. Whether you pull each string up to pitch or down to pitch, I've become convinced that uniform treatment of each string is important to maximize tuning stability. If some strings have to be pulled up and others down then (See President's pg 3)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*NEXT MEETING JUNE 17TH 7:00 P.M.  
AT THE O.U. PIANO SHOP*

*JULY 14-18 NATIONAL CONVENTION,  
MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN*

*JULY 24 CHAPTER MEETING 2:00 P.M.  
AT ALBERT EVANS PIANO STORE*

*AUGUST 21 CHAPTER PICNIC TIME: TO BE  
ANNOUNCED PLACE: DAVID BONHAM'S  
HOME ON SKI ISLAND*

## *in this issue...*

<i>President's message</i>	<i>pg 1</i>
<i>Upcoming events</i>	<i>pg 1</i>
<i>Norm's Moments</i>	<i>pg 2</i>
<i>Piano proverbs</i>	<i>pg 2</i>
<i>The minutes</i>	<i>pg 3</i>
<i>Technical tip</i>	<i>pg 3</i>
<i>Bob Barnhoff</i>	<i>pg 4</i>

## THE SOONER TUNER

is the monthly publication of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.; Norman Cantrell, Assoc. Editor. All articles may be reproduced without further permission. Send contributions to Norman Cantrell, Editor; The Sooner Tuner; 2251 NW 19th; Oklahoma City, OK 73107

**Oklahoma Chapter Officers  
1992-93**

President	David Bonham 721-0566
V. President	Tim Hast 359-0440
Secretary & Treasurer	Nathan Sobel 329-6971

### NORM'S NONCENTS

Last month Tim provided an excellent technical presentation over the uses of the computer in the piano business. I am considering switching my bookkeeping to Quicken (the program Tim demonstrated). I thought I would relate some of the uses I have found for my computer and tell of my journey into becoming a "computer junkie".

I fought the idea of computers in my business for several years citing such reasons as expense and lack of technical knowledge and skill to operate a computer. My mother-in-law had a computer which I would occasionally play games on when we would visit, but I never got into any serious usage. I also have a friend who has urged me for years to enter the computer era. He has been the president of the Oklahoma City PC Users Group.

When my mother-in-law upgraded her system last year I got her old computer. I was intimidated by this machine but I determined that it would not get the best of me. I began to use the Word Perfect program and began slowly to understand the ins and outs of its capabilities. I am no expert but I find it is an extremely valuable program. I installed my first program, which was the As-Easy-As program. When I first turned this program on I stared at a blank screen for hours since the program did not come with any instructions. After pecking around on the keyboard I discovered the menus to help me utilize its functions. This process of hit

and miss was beginning to have serious implications. It seemed the more I learned about the computer the more I wanted to know!

I discovered how to use the Word Perfect program to pull up the manual for As-Easy-As and later to print it out. This accomplishment only fed my desire for more. Later I was discovering how to control my printer to help align margins and actually begin to tell it what to do. I was starting to "program".

I knew I was in trouble when my wife went out and bought me a clock and placed it over my desk. This was an attempt on her part to help me monitor the amount of time I was spending at the keyboard. It was a nice gesture, but a futile attempt as "computeritis" was now overwhelmingly entrenched in my system.

I began not to rise in the morning but instead to "boot up". I was no longer analyzing problems at work but instead I was configuring the system and executing commands to interface.

I knew I was approaching a dangerous level when I began to wonder whether or not I had had my computer time("fix") for the day. I won't say that I am ready to renounce the use of computers because they are extremely helpful to organize, sort, word process, do financial calculations, etc., but I am beginning to take a more realistic approach to life. I am even thinking of forming a Computers Anonymous chapter. Wish me luck.

Norman Cantrell, ED

### PIANO PROVERBS

He who is afraid  
of asking

is afraid  
of learning!

### President's (from pg 1)

when the humidity changes the overall tension of the strings, there will be more variance between the individual strings. I prefer to start below pitch and pull a trace sharp, finishing with backing off the lever to take the torque out of the pin without turning it backwards in the pinblock-- all done while striking the key firmly several times. Whatever your technique, be consistent and check your results.

I enjoyed celebrating Robert Qualls 90th birthday at the last chapter meeting. I hope to see you on the 17th.

David Bonham, President

### TECHNICAL TIP

The first tip is a reminder that while performing yard work or gardening, be sure to wear some sort of hearing protection. Inexpensive ear plugs are available from most hardware stores and are more than worth a couple of bucks in our profession.

The second tip concerns removing and reinstalling dampers in vertical piano actions. If you need to remove a damper lever from a piano this can be performed without removing the action. You may want to remove the action bolts and tilt the action out to give a little more clearance while removing and installing the damper levers. The removal is no real problem but, the installation is somewhat a different story since the damper spring tends to push the flange downward making it difficult to relocate it on the rail. A simple solution is to use a piece of silk cord (braided fishing line) about 14" long. Hold the two ends together and place the looped center in the groove of the damper flange. Now apply enough tension on the string to make the flange 90° from the lever. Wrap the ends around the damper screw a couple of times to keep the tension on the flange while reinstalling in the piano. Once you have started the screw threads but before completely tightening, remove the string.

Norman Cantrell, Ed.

### THE MINUTES



\*Last meeting: May 15, 2:00 p.m. at Tim Hast Piano shop.

\*Called to order by David Bonham, President followed by a silent invocation.

\*Minutes and Treasurer's reports read and approved. Presented by Nathan Sobel. Chapter Bank Balance \$2251.64

\*Newsletter Report by Norman Cantrell--renewal letters sent to non chapter members to continue to receive newsletter 2 renewals had been received.

\*Programs & arrangements Next meeting, June 17th at OJ Ross Trawick Mini Tech on Key Trimming Tips & Tidbits July 24th--Albert Evans Piano Shop; Gene Black Mini Tech on doping a pinblock using an IV jig.

August 21st--Picnic at Bonhams September buying & selling pianos

\*Nominating committee report--slate of officers nominated and elected to retain same officers as last year.

\*Letter from Collette Collier for support of national office of Sec-Treas was read by members, no action taken.

\*Proposed new committee formation to promote local PTG awareness. Proposal by Norman Cantrell motion tabled till next meeting.

\*Technical on computers by Tim Hast followed by cake and ice cream for Bob Qualls birthday.

Nathan Sobel, Secretary-Treasurer

### COMMITTEE PROPOSAL NOTICE

The following proposal was discussed at the last chapter meeting and tabled in lieu of notice and further discussion at the next meeting.

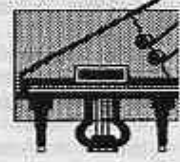
**Proposal:** A new committee be formed for the purpose of local promotion of PTG among the general public. This committee would be charged with investigating methods of advertising and promotion of PTG and PTG activities. All such promotions would be subject to chapter approval.

Proposal by Norman Cantrell, Assoc.

# TUNER TALK

WITH

## Bob Barnhoff



Hello this is Bob Barnhoff and this is Tuner Talk. We're running short on space so let's check the mailbag.



Dear Bob:

In light of the recent proposed BTU tax by President Clinton, I was wondering just what, if any affect it would have on the piano industry. Will there be an impact only on manufacturing, or could there be other implications?

Sincerely,  
Over-taxed in  
Tahlequah

Dear Over-taxed:

You are right to be concerned over the BTU tax. There are surely to be increased prices on pianos because of the energy used to manufacture them as well as the transportation fuel. Don't forget that during concerts the body heat of the audience collects and causes a greater need for air-conditioning. Not to mention the heat expounded by the concert artist himself. These BTU's will have to be taxed and the only source of revenue will be ticket sales. Perhaps there could be some relief from the National Endowment for the Arts but don't count on it.

Bob

The Sooner Tuner  
2251 NW 19th  
Okla City, OK 73107