

THE SOONER TUNER

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



AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL!

JULY 10, 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the Bonham household. As we pack the van for a trip to visit friends in Minnesota, I wish for you as well as our family a real opportunity to get out of your regular schedule and routine. It doesn't have to be an exotic vacation, but I think it needs to be enough of a change so that when you resume your regular schedule, it feels new and different somehow. A new perspective and the chance for change are most possible at these times. May we all experience this during this summer!

I look forward to seeing you at Albert Evans Piano Shop on the 24th and again at our house for a picnic and water fun in August.

By the way I had someone call about her piano being out of tune right after I finished tuning it. I had her turn off her ceiling fan over the piano and try it again. She called back and apologized. I imagine we've all had an experience of trying to tune with such fans around us. Fun, huh?

David Bonham, President



UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 14-18 PTG National Convention; Milwaukee
July 24 Chapter meeting at Albert Evans Piano Store; 2:00 p.m.
August 21 Chapter picnic at David Bonham's residence.
Oct. 15-17 Texas State Seminar; Houston, TX

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1993-94**

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V. President	Tim Hast 359-0440
Secretary & Treasurer	Nathan Sobel 329-6971

NORM'S NONCENTS

I have been in the process of rebuilding the engine on my wife's 1975 Chevy Nova. As I was in the middle of removing ("pulling" for those shade tree mechanics out there) the engine, I realized why I became involved in piano tuning and repair and left the grease pit behind. Many of you may not realize that my first job out of High School was as a bicycle mechanic. So I have had my share of dirty fingernails over the years. Pianos are for the most part a much cleaner item upon which to work. This has become increasingly more important over the last few years. To the point now that I really don't enjoy the tasks of refinishing as much as I once did.

I have also had to contend with changes in my life in other ways this summer. First I am just now getting used to having three children instead of two. I have not yet walked off and left my new daughter anywhere but it is still just now sinking in that there really are three children.

As if three children were not enough change my dog has blessed us with eight Dalmatian puppies. We were not planning on breeding our dog this spring but evidently God in His infinite wisdom and the neighbors male dalmatian had other plans. The puppies are full blood but not registered since we are not certain just who the father of these poor waifs is. I am not planning on applying for government assistance but it would be nice if they

could be claimed as tax exemptions in 1993. Somehow I can't imagine Bill and Hillary going for that. The puppies are for sale and if anyone would like one please feel free to contact me immediately. All proceeds are going to the engine rebuilding fund.

Changing the subject and moving from summer to pianos, I have run across two unusual items which may be of some interest to the readership. The first was a tuning on a Gulbransen console with a Wood & Brooks 90° blow action. Pianos equipped with this type of action are not common but you may run into them every once in a while. There are pictures of the action parts in the American Supply catalogue but the parts are no longer available. The other item of interest is a Wurlitzer player grand I am rebuilding. The thing that makes this unusual is the fact that there is no pinblock. From the top side the piano looks normal enough but the tuning pins have a slot cut in them and a wedge driven up into them from the bottom to provide enough friction to hold a tuning. If you would like to see this some time I am just getting started on the job and it should be in my shop for a couple of months. I realize that this information will not affect the outcome of the Japanese Trade Summit or end world hunger but I thought you might be interested in something out of the ordinary. Don't let the summer heat drive you to exhaustion.

Norman Cantrell, ED.

PIANO PROVERBS

*if pro means for,
and con means
against
the opposite of
progress
is*

THE LEGEND OF MEL FAMEY

The legend is told of Mel Famey. Who is Mel Famey you ask? Mel Famey was one of the all time great baseball pitchers in the late 20's and early 30's. There was no equal to Mel Famey. He stood alone. Mel was so talented that his team really didn't bother to keep much of a "Bull Pen". He held several records. Records like most strike outs in a row, most innings without a hit, fewest walks allowed to name a few.

Then there was the big game in Cleveland back in '31. Cleveland was dead last in the division. In fact they were dead last in the entire league. They didn't stand a chance against the likes of Mel Famey but they were undaunted in their resolve. They knew that Mel had an affection for beer. So they arranged to load Mel's locker with several bottles of the best they could find. They even went so far as to place an entire case in the dugout at the end of the bench where

they knew that Mel would be sitting.

Sure enough the temptation was too great for Mel and he began to indulge himself. Before long he was quite tipsy. About the bottom of the 6th inning he was so soused he began to pitch wildly. First one walk and then another until before long several runs had been scored by Cleveland without a single hit. The manager became so furious that he pulled Mel out of the game, but it was too late. Cleveland had built up just enough of a lead that it could not be overcome in the time remaining. The hapless bullpen was no help either and Cleveland went on to win by a score of 8 to 5.

At the end of the game two of the Cleveland players were walking back to the locker room and one of them spied the now empty case of beer in the visitors dugout. He asked what it was. "That," replied his teammate, "is the beer that made Mel Famey walk us."

OKLAHOMA PTG PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM KEITH MCGAVERN

*Carol Beineman and I officially
became wife and husband
on June 6, 1993*

*We were married in our home at
824 North Union with
Pastor Karen Fowler-Lindemulder presiding
and nine witnesses present.*

*Thank you for your prayers
in this matter.*

Piano Tuning to Equal Temperament

by Travis Gordy, RPT

A DESCRIPTION

There are many different procedures for "laying the bearings", or setting the temperament for equal tempered tuning. I hesitate to think the procedure I have used for years, or my "newly discovered" one, would be new to the world of piano technicians, but on the chance someone may find my procedure to their liking I would like to share it with you.

For many years I have used a procedure which can be described simply as going in both directions from A, the idea being to not extend tuning intervals away from the anchor point (A), any farther than necessary (A to D, D to G, G to C, C to F3 then back to A to go in the other direction, A to E etc.) This can be described further as tuning primarily by 4ths and 5ths and testing by 3rds and 6ths. It is fast and accurate when tuning a well designed piano with 4ths and 5ths clean and beautiful, but can give problems with small and less well designed instruments.

My new procedure relies heavily on 3rds and 6ths as primary tuning intervals and leads to appropriate beat rates early on. (A caution: 3rds and 6ths are not useful as primary intervals if changing pitch very much in which case 4ths and 5ths give a fast approximate temperament to establish tension necessary to sustain a final setting) The anchor continues to be A3, and the temperament octave F3 to F4. After establishing A3, The next three notes tuned (see the tuning procedure right) make it easy to establish the correct beat rates for the rest of the octave with perhaps slight adjustments. For example, if A#-D beats nearly the same as F-D rather than 1 1/2 beats per sec. faster, and A# checks out to be no more than 1 beat/sec. wide of F, and D is about 1 beat/sec. wide of A, then the first estimation of 7 beats/sec. for F-A was not fast enough, so flat F a little, retune A# and compare the 7, 8, and 9.5 beat rate intervals again.

(see Tuning, pg 5)

THE PROCEDURE

Begin this procedure after tuning A3 to A4 at 440 cps.

Tune F3 to — A3 with best guess of 7 beats/sec

Tune D4 to — A3 wide 1 beat/sec
 F3, 8 beat/sec

Tune A#3 to — F3 wide 1 beat/sec
 D4, 9.5 beats/sec

(Check the 7, 8, 9.5 beat rate progression)

Tune F#3 to — A#3, 7 beats/sec.

Tune C#4 to — F#3 narrow 1/2 beat/sec.
 A3, 9 beats/sec.

At this point if A-C# beats a little slower than A#-D, and F#-C# is a good 5th, and F#-A# beats slower than A-C# and a little faster than F-A, a good start is indicated although slight adjustment may be necessary as B3 is tuned.

Tune G#3 to — C#4 wide 1 beat/sec.

Tune C4 to — G#3, 8.5 beats/sec
 F3 narrow 1/2 beat/sec.

Tune G3 to — C4 wide 1 beat/sec.
 D6 narrow 1/2 beat/sec.

Tune B3 to — G3, 8 beats/sec
 F#3 wide 1 beat/sec.

Compare beat rates of G3-B3 to F3-D3 to be the same.

Tune D#4 to — A#3 wide 1 beat/sec.
 G#3 narrow 1/2 beat/sec.
 F#3, 8.5 beats/sec.
 B3, 10 beats/sec.

Compare beat rates of F#3-D#4 to G#3-C4 to be the same.

Tune E4 to — B3 wide 1 beat/sec.
 A3 narrow 1/2+ beat/sec.
 G3, (beats/sec.
 C4, 10.5 beats/sec

Compare beat rates of G3-E4 to A3-C#4 to be the same.

(see Procedure, pg 5.)

THE MINUTES



The last meeting was held June 17th at the OU piano shop in Norman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with 10 in attendance. The meeting began with a silent invocation followed by the minutes from the May meeting.

The minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report followed with a bank balance listed as \$2251.64.

The newsletter report was given with a reminder that all articles should be submitted by the 3rd of the month to expedite publication.

Programs and Arrangements stated that the next meeting would be Saturday, July 24th at 2:00 p.m. at Albert Evans Piano Store in Oklahoma City on north McArthur. The technical presentation will be given by Gene Black on the subject of using a jig to "dope" a pinblock for accuracy.

The Following motion was made: 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. This motion was made by Norman Cantrell, associate; and was seconded by Tim Hast. After discussion the motion was approved. The committee formed as a result includes Tim Hast and Norman Cantrell.

A letter was read from the Knoxville Chapter president concerning the debate over classification of Associates and RPT's.

A motion was made to furnish the chapter delegate, Bob Qualls, a daily per diem in

the amount of \$220.00. Motion Made by Tim Hast and Seconded by Norman Cantrell. Motion carried.

The technical presentation was given by Ross Trawick over Key Top Trimming Techniques.

Nathan Sobel, Secretary/Treasurer

Tuning from pg. 4

The 3rd and 6th beat rates shown in the procedure are useful approximations and not intended to be absolute. The same is true for 4ths and 5ths. In theory 4ths vary from .8 to 1.2 beats per second from F3-A#4 to C4-F4 respectively. Where the lines connect more than one note to the note to be tuned, either one can be used first.

Procedure from pg.4

- Tune F4 to — C4 wide 1+ beat/sec.
- A#3 narrow a little less than 1 beat/sec.
- G#3, 9.5 beats/sec.
- C#4, 11 beats/sec.
- F3 octave (stretched)

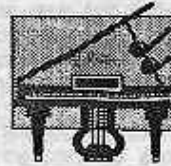
compare the beat rates of G#3-F4 to A#3-D4 to be the same. Test ascending 3rds and 5ths for even beat increase.



TUNER TALK

WITH

Bob Barnhoff



Hello this is Bob Barnhoff and this is Tuner Talk. Once again we are short on space so let's check the mail and get started.



Dear Bob:

Since this is "The Year of the Bubba" and I am a piano technician, how can I tell if "Bubba" has just called on the telephone. I would really appreciate your advice on this one.

Inquiring in Irving

Dear Inquiring:

Here are a few suggestions:

1. If he offers to sell you a "stand up" piano.
2. If he calls it a "pie-annie".
3. If he calls to see if you have a string to replace the one he just broke tuning it himself. (especially true if he wants multiples of strings).
4. If he warns you to beware of the dog since it last ate the postman's pants.
5. If you smell snuff over the phone.

While this list is not all inclusive I hope the guidelines are helpful.

Bob

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