

"THE SOONER TUNER"



Official Newsletter, Oklahoma Chapter 731
The Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
January '98

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Thursday, January 22nd
TIME: 8:30AM
LOCATION: Edmond Music

DIRECTIONS: From I-35 & I-40 go north to Memorial Road exit (Edmond), go
west for 4 miles to Hwy 77 (Broadway Extension), then go
north 1 mile to Edmond Music on SE corner Broadway and 33rd

*** TECHNICAL ***

Concert Steinway Preparation

by Peter Krauss, Associate Member

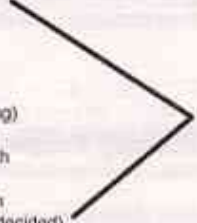
We're going to delve further into the inner workings of the Steinway action.
During this process we'll have the opportunity to critique some of the information
that Peter presents to us.

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LAST MEETING

Wow. Is that Kodiak Bar & Grill something else or what! For those who haven't experienced this place, it's at least worth one visit. The chapter had a great turnout of an unusually fine caliber of persons. Afterwards, we headed on over to a place called The Outer Cafe, a Christian coffeehouse, for special treats and fellowship, thanks to David Wallace. Thanks to all who helped this evening happen, and to those who shared in this special time.

1998 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

February 19th		All meeting times 8:30AM except July & December
March 12th		
April 16th		
May 21st		
June 18th		
July (no meeting)		
August 20th		
September 17th		
October 22nd		
November 19th		
December (undecided)		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you had a joyous holiday season. Additionally, at the new year we are encouraged to evaluate our last year's performance and to set goals for the new year. As you perform these annual rituals, I would like to remind you of one of the unique aspects of our trade.

Yesterday I had the privilege of delivering a pump organ which I had restored for a customer. This instrument was made in Chicago in about 1907, so it is typical of some of the uprights we all work on. This particular organ had been in the family since it left the showroom. It had survived a fire complete with a charred spot near the base and some scorch marks on the side. The customer had told me that her mother had loved the instrument and had stripped the finish herself.

When we brought the organ in and and set the mirrored canopy on top, my customer had tears in her eyes. It is a unique trust our customers give to us to work on, repair, and restore their family heirlooms. Rekindle and honor this trust in the upcoming year.

I hope to see you all on the 22nd.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"Piano for sale"

Date: Wed, 7 Jan 1998

I am quoting from the Houston Chronicle, Wednesday, Jan
7, 1998, classified section, area # 1064-Pianos-Organs:

Investment piece. One of a kind.
1949 Wurlitzer spinet piano.
Manufacturer assembled most of
this very rare piano in vinyl.
Beautifully renewed in black.
Round reeded legs on piano and
matching bench complement this
prestigious piece. Mint condition.
Appraised at \$32K. Sell for \$28K.
#254 - *** - *****

Thought someone might want to jump on this one in a
hurry.....

Leslie W Bartlett
lesbart@juno.com

* This is a bona fide advertisement. Telephone # deleted by
Editor.

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"Some Ideas for an Old Upright"

Date: Mon, 8 Dec 1997

When you have an old piano going to the dump, you have an educational resource. For example:

Try thin epoxy on the loose pins, - try superglue on the loose pins, - see just how far above pitch you can raise strings before they break - and remember what it sounds and feels like, - carefully try removing plate bolts without reducing the string tension, use a hammer and see just how hard it is to break the plate, try different strippers and finishes on parts of the case, etc., etc., etc. Neither you or the piano have anything to lose, and you might gain some practical experience

Bill Simon
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Phoenix, Arizona

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF

"A Piano Handyman Story"

Date: Mon, 13 Oct 1997

One of my customers found a creative way to fix his loose tuning pin problem. The piano resides in the small, rustic mountain community of Oracle, Arizona. I have only been at this piano once, so far. This very old piano had no apparent brand name (weird looking agraffes). It had a cut down case modification with mirror across the top. The tuning pin area was open wood (no plate covering).

The fix, I am just guessing, went something like this: While the tuning pins remained in their existing loose holes, an enterprising Do-it-yourselfer drilled completely NEW pin holes in the block, - - - unfortunately NOT in a logical pattern, and then he somehow moved the tuning pins with strings over to his NEW holes, leaving the original holes empty. This solution may have worked only a short while, if at all, because after realizing that the new holes were too large and the pins still loose, he had to again drill a SECOND ROUND of randomly placed holes (probably with a smaller drill bit) and then moved ALL the strings and pins over a second time... leaving about 440 empty holes in the aftermath (many of the old holes he tidied up by filling with wood dowel).

When tuning, I must follow each string to find the corresponding tuning pin - because there is no sequence. If I ever have the pleasure of tuning it again (all the pins are still very loose - even at 1/2 step low) I will surely bring my camera and tripod.

Mike Erickson
Tucson, AZ
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PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"Another Piano Handyman Story"

Date: Tue, 14 Oct 1997

I got a call from a man, an engineer, who bought an old upright piano which was way below pitch. He didn't care that it was painted green but wanted it tuned to standard pitch. While setting the temperament, I broke 4 strings and, after informing the owner of how the bill was beginning to mount up, we decided to go with tuning it a half step low after all.

He called me again several months later wanting it retuned. I returned to find that he had shifted the key frame to the right sufficient to transpose everything up a half step. He even drilled the back end of the last key of each section to receive a heavy gauge wire which was bent to the right to actuate the first sticker of the next section.

After I tuned it and put the case parts back on, you couldn't tell that it was "re-engineered" (as long as you didn't play A0 or C88).

Tom Cole, RPT
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Santa Cruz, CA

Recommended Reading

"Replacing Steinway Double Flanges"

by Curtis Spiel, RPT, Seattle Chapter

Before taking on one of these jobs, you'd do well to read this article.

The "Kick" Zone

(closely related to after touch)

from

Keith McGavern, RPT

"Mozart is too easy for beginners and too difficult for artists."

(Artur Schnabel)

"One good thing about procrastination
is that you always have something planned for tomorrow."

(author unknown)

"I have spent the last half of my life trying to forget
everything I learned during the first half of my life, in the hopes
that I might thereby be able to exchange knowledge for wisdom."

(Emanuel Lasker, World chess champion)

"Speak to strangers - all your friends once were!"

(Wally Scherer, Norfolk, Virginia)

"All the water in the world can't sink a ship...
unless it gets on the inside."

(Ed Foreman)