

The Sooner Tuner

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



BACK TO SCHOOL. WATCH THOSE SCHOOL ZONES!

AUGUST 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many of you have asked how the trip to Providence RI was and since many of you will not be able to attend the next chapter meeting I'll share some of the highlights. I was not able to attend a lot of classes with the schedule I had but all were quite "What Happens If?" and dealt with touchweight. We explored several scenarios in an attempt to change the touchweight of a grand action. Scenarios such as moving the wippen rail forward or backward to increase or decrease the action spread, and moving the capstan, changing its angle and hammer bore were all discussed. The results were very interesting and enlightening. Perhaps we will have a technical to discuss it in the future.



Another highlight was the concert sponsored by Steinway. Many of the manufacturers sponsor concerts and receptions during the evenings. The Steinway concert was held outdoors with the city of Providence invited to attend. There is a fantastic river walk through the middle of downtown and they have also included a water stage and pool. An unfair comparison would be our water stage at the Myriad Gardens. The difference lies in the fact that the river allows for boat traffic and many of the patrons attended on board watercraft. Jazz Pianist Ahmad Jamal was the featured artist along with his jazz combo. The temperature was around 75 degrees in the evening and the atmosphere was electrical.

One event which took place before the convention actually began was the tour of the Mason & Hamlin factory. This took the better part of Wednesday partly due to the hour and forty five minute drive from Providence to Haverhill, Mass. They fed us lunch, gave us all a T shirt, and guided us on an excellent tour of the facility. Since production is currently about four grands a week the factory was a lot like a giant rebuilding shop. The major difference was building the ribs and case parts from scratch. They are still using the same rim forms made at the turn of the century. Yes they still

have a tension resonator, and the pianos are very much made by hand. The actions currently use a brass rail assembly similar to Steinway with Renner parts. If you get a chance to play one of these pianos I think you will be impressed with the attention to detail.

Don't forget that TSA is just around the corner in Houston. It is a lot closer than Providence and a little less expensive. I hope many of you will choose to invest in yourselves this October.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

Upcoming Events

August 20 Chapter Meeting
8:30 a.m. Grandy's
4121 NW Expressway

August 13 Baldwin Factory Tour
See pg 3 for details

September 17 Chapter Meeting

October 15-18 Texas State Association
Seminar-Houston

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Perspective

I hope everyone has been enjoying the heat. This article will be a digression from my original intent of exploring listening, but I promise to return to listening in a later article.

The last part of July I was called out to repair a Model B Steinway. When I arrived at the customer's house it turned out to be a broken agraffe. O Joy! Not only was it broke, but in a corner. I explained to the customer that I would have to reschedule due to the fact I had no shims for the repair. The job was rescheduled, so I left the customer's home.

AUGUST MEETING INFO

The August chapter meeting will be held at 8:30 on the 20th at Grandy's at 4121 NW Expressway. Come early and have breakfast. We will have a roundtable discussion of just what is involved in running a successful business. Read Steve Brady's article in this month's journal before coming and be prepared to discuss the dilemma of being the Rodney Dangerfield of business and how to get past that image.

The day for the repair finally came. I arrived at the customer's house and solemnly ascended the stairway to the front door. Once in I immediately set about removing the strings from the pins and prepared for surgery. First I used a punch, then a drill and drill bit. After reversing the drill, lo and behold it was out.

When the job was done I noticed the damper was out of alignment, as a matter of fact, it seemed loose. I thought, "No problem, the damper wire has been forced out of its hole by the upward pressure of the string due to the broken agraffe." The action was removed and to my surprise the wire was in place and upon looking further I noticed the underlever was split. When it rains it pours!

I sensed the customer needed to leave so I again rescheduled. It was at this point I felt the need for some Bridal strap tip polish, not for the repair but because of the alcoholic content. Here I was again cold and lonely faced with a problem not encountered before.

After conferring with several local experts I was prepared for a variety of configurations of underlever construction. Now there are several ways to skin a cat and so it stands to reason that there are several ways to repair an underlever. I glued it! The customer was then shown the resolution of the problem with an explanation of what would happen if the glue didn't hold.

Moral of the Story: WHEN AGRAFFE BREAKS, WATCH FOR DAMPER THAT IS SHAKY.

Ben Davis, RPT

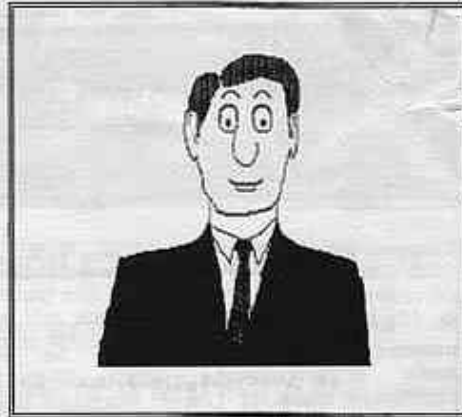
PIANO PROVERBS

Why is it that
loose women tend to
wear tight clothes?

TUNER TALK

WITH

BOB BARNHOFF



Dear Bob:

I've been tuning a lot of pianos in schools and churches recently and it seems that my backside gets tired. Those wooden benches are really hard and I am somewhat thin. Is there anything I can do to help?

Tired in Tushville

Dear Tired:

When I have to tune a lot in an institutional setting I find it helpful to carry a small pillow along with my tool box. Be sure to use hearing protection as well since the ears take a tremendous pounding when tuning all day. Try it and let me know how it goes.

Dear Bob:

I recently bought a used piano and was wondering just what impact the Y2K (Year 2000) will have on its performance. Can you offer any advice.

Concerned in Clarendon

Dear Concerned:

If your piano was manufactured before 1995 you may experience some problems with repetition and damper seating when the new millennium arrives. You can buy a retro kit from most of the current manufacturers to keep the impact to a minimum but if your

are dealing with a piano company who is no longer in business there may be trouble on your horizon. I understand some of the supply houses are working on a generic kit to retro fit those pianos. You can always contact Melvin in the R & D department of Oakie Doakie Supply for their latest development.

Bob.

Baldwin Factory Tour

The Arkansas Chapter PTG is touring the Baldwin Grand Factory in Conway Arkansas on August 13 at 10:00 a.m. and has invited any member of our chapter to accompany them. If you are interested please contact Norman Cantrell for details. Granted this is a busy time and short notice but if you are interested it will be beneficial to see a factory in action.

'All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this Chapter or of the Piano technicians Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild'

OAKIE DOAKIE PIANO SUPPLY

IT'S HOT! IT'S HOT! IT'S HOT!

We have the solution to this summer's **SIZZLING HEAT!** We have made arrangements with NASA to purchase some of their surplus space suits complete with climate control. We have added to the onboard computer your choice of either an Accu Tuner or Rayburn Cyber Tuner. This allows for complete comfort while servicing all those school pianos during this horrible heat wave. Each unit is available for just \$13,895.49 plus shipping and handling.

The Year 2000 and what it means to you!

Are you concerned with whether or not your customers pianos will perform properly on January 1, 2000? Have no fear Melvin in the R & D department has developed a sure fire solution. With our exclusive **PIANO BOOT DRIVE** you can rest assured that your customers can still practice all their scales, arpeggios and etudes with no fear of failure due to the performance of their piano. The **PIANO BOOT DRIVE** will fit virtually all pianos out there today. Only \$399.00 and it's yours!



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