

The Sooner Tuner

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



Welcome State Fair of Oklahoma

September, 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well we continue to endure one of the hottest summers in recent history. I hope all of you are using as much of your customer's air conditioning as possible. I do think that some people are putting off tuning for a couple of reasons this fall. The first is that since we have had so little rain the pianos are still in tune from last winter and early spring. The other factor is simply the heat and the cost of paying those higher than normal electric bills. I'm sure tuning will pick up with the State Fair just around the corner. It always rains during the State Fair and so we can be assured of a significant rise in the humidity.



If you missed the last chapter meeting at Grandy's you missed the fact that an important matter of business was addressed. We have talked for some months about the need to make some type of adjustment to the chapter treasury since we have been losing money at rate of about \$100 to \$150 a year for the last several years. After a lot of discussion it was proposed and approved to raise the chapter dues \$5.00 this year to a total of \$30.00 with an additional increase of \$5.00 per year for the next three years.

Some of you wonder just where does all the money go from the chapter treasury. A major portion goes to this publication. Paper costs have risen in the last few years and a postal increase is scheduled for the first of the year. A second large expense is the delegate per diem for attending and representing our chapter at the national convention each year. We have incurred expenses for seminars, chapter meetings, instructor travel expenses, and exam costs. Are we broke? No, but you can operate at a deficit for only so long without addressing the shortfall.

This naturally leads to the question of just what do my PTG dues buy? Nationally they entitle you to receive the Journal. Currently the cost for non members to receive the

Journal is \$35.00 per year. An increase in the amount of \$10.00 was approved at this years convention bringing the total subscription price to \$105.00. The dues allow you to receive discounts to regional and national conventions. You receive insurance as part of membership. These are some of the dollar values you receive with your dues. There are a lot of intangibles--opportunities, friendships, education, job referrals and too many other things to mention in this space. We are fortunate to have an active chapter if you are willing to invest in your annual dues you really should take full advantage of the benefits they buy for you.
Norman Cantrell, RPT

Upcoming Events

September 17 Chapter Meeting
8:30 a.m. Brook Mays Music
2280 W. Main, Norman

October 16-18 Texas State Association
Houston, TX

October 22
Chapter Meeting

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is the monthly publication of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.; Norman Cantrell, RPT and Ben Davis, RPT, Editors. All Articles may be reproduced without further permission. Please credit the author and publication. Send contributions to: Norman Cantrell, Editor; The Sooner Tuner; 2251 N. W. 19th; Oklahoma City, OK 73107

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Parts Replacement in Steinway Grands

Call Steinway parts at 1-800-366-1853 and ask for a current parts /price list. It's revised every April. With a few exceptions I get all parts I use from Steinway NY (including Renner parts) because (1) great quality and fit (2) NY would jump right on any problems I had with anything I got from them (3) Steinway owners tend to want you to put "real" Steinway parts in their pianos.

Hammers from NY have been great for the last 5 or 6 years. They worked hard to get it right. I always use NY hammers (drilled 7/32") on NY pianos. C & A has experimented and found that they just sound better. They have to be filed and juiced but are easy to work with and they sound great.

Shank/flanges and repetitions (wippens). In 1984 the knuckle position moved 3/64" toward the hammer, and the repetition geometry changed accordingly. Better leverage, and less key lead required. Three types of action parts are available:

Pre-84 (Renner), with old knuckle placement closer to flange
shank/flange #6242—Hornbeam
repetitions #6239—Hornbeam

Hamburg (current) with new knuckle position

shank/flange #6260—Hornbeam
repetitions #6240—Hornbeam

NY IMP (improved in early 1990's) with new knuckle position.

shank/flange #6217—Maple
repetition #6689—Maple

Example: To replace the entire stack on a 25 year old Teflon piano, use Pre '84 shank/flange and reps, or the current versions (Hamburg or NY IMP) of both. Just don't mix Pre '84 parts with current parts.

If you want to use new shank/flanges over old Teflon reps (not recommended) use Pre '84 shank/flanges

Also use Pre '84 shank/flanges over original reps in an older piano—a 1925 grand, for instance.

I like Renner parts personally, but the NY IMP parts we are seeing now are very good also. Damper Guide rail bushing cloth from NY stock is exactly the right width and thickness to make a perfect job very easy if the holes have not been enlarged. I use a drop of glue. The factory doesn't. Suit yourself.

Keybushing cloth from NY stock is very thick, so I usually use a thin or medium thin strip from a supply house. Damper felt from NY stock is now excellent quality and cut exactly right. NY has given lots of attention to this in the last few years.

I get sets of bass strings from NY because I don't want string winders getting creative or sloppy on me. If they send something wrong to the factory it will be rejected before it ever has a chance to get to me. A few extra dollars for that insurance is worth it, especially if you're working up high profile performance pianos.

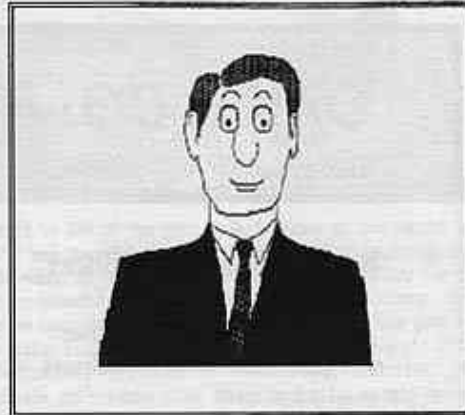
The bottom line is don't get too caught up in saving a few bucks. Shop the Steinway parts list first. Most times it's the best way to go.

Peter Krauss, Associate

TUNER TALK

WITH

BOB BARNHOFF



Dear Bob:

I've been out of town a lot lately and was wondering just what the technical presentation was going to be for this month's meeting? I always feel better informed if I know what to expect. Can you clue me in?

Wondering in Wellston

Dear Wondering:

Ross Trawick is putting together a general discussion on Piano Moving. Rumor has it that he is trying to get into the Guinness Book of World Records by moving the most pianos in a month singlehandedly. He is inviting everyone with moving equipment to bring it to the meeting for a "Trailer & Tailgate Party" in the parking lot following the meeting. If any of you have been watching reruns of Home Improvement and feel like Tim Taylor and have some real "Power Piano Moving Equipment" bring it for show and tell.

Dear Bob:

After last month's meeting on professionalism and being a piano technician

"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 and opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild"

I was wondering if you had any feedback concerning the proper etiquette for Tuners as we go through the drive through at McDonalds on the way to our next appointment?

Suave in Sayre

Dear Suave:

A lot depends upon two things. First on whether or not you ordered extra sauce on your burger and second on just how many times you have personally tried to bankrupt the owner of the "All You Can Eat" buffet at Larry's Diner. Or to put a little more delicately, just how big a target are you providing for the sauce to hit. If things are getting out of hand (or belt) you might consider investing in a Monogrammed Tuner Poncho from Oakie Doakie Supply. This will keep you looking fresh when you arrive at your next appointment. I also recommend asking for lots of napkins. You can always use the extras to clean up glue squeeze out on the job.

Piano Proverbs

Learn from the mistakes of others
you can't live long enough to
make them all yourself

OAKIE DOAKIE PIANO SUPPLY

"Brittle String Conditioner"

Our latest in a fine line
of reconditioning products

Just apply a liberal amount to
broken strings before splicing or use
it as a preventative before raising pitch
on that rusty old upright.

It polishes and reconditions

CAUTION: Do not use as a hair conditioner
may cause premature baldness

4 oz. bottle	\$9.95
1/2 gallon	\$12.50

BIG SURPLUS SALE!

Red replacement bulbs for Accu Tuners
\$7.95 per box

Mother of Pearl Business Card Holders
2.50 Each

Oakie Doakie Supply Pocket Protectors
\$1.00 per dozen

Lavender Shower Curtain Rings
\$3.25 per gross

Candelabra Replacement Candles
Your choice of color
6.75 each

Grand Piano Shaped Coffee Mug
\$2.75 each

**Hurry Supplies Limited
When They're Gone
They're Gone**

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