

The Sooner Tuner

Official Newsletter of the Oklahoma Chapter 731
Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.

July 2010

Welcome to the July issue of the Sooner tuner. This months meeting will not be held on the normal 3rd Thursday of the month which is tomorrow the 15th. It will be held at David and Barbara Bonham's house on July 22nd at 8:30am. They are located at 10717 Eastlake cir. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73162 near the intersection of Hefner rd. and Macarthur blvd in the Ski Island community. This month the technical will be a presentation on replacing key bushings using the Teflon caul method and will be given by Bob Scheer with Barbara Bonham assisting. This plans to be an informative presentation with an extensive Q and A afterward.

If you have not attended a PTG meeting lately we encourage you to come. There are some new young budding piano technicians that need your expertise and it's always good for us newer technicians to meet the faces of the names we see on the inside of previously tuned pianos. For instance I met Gene Black a couple of meetings ago. I had seen his name on many pianos and it was a great pleasure to meet such a nice gentleman. Please consider this my personal plea to meet you. The PTG meeting is usually the only place for such comradery. The annual summer picnic plans to be an exciting event at Bob Scheer's house on August 28th located at 4305 Sycamore Ln. Edmond, Ok. 73034 at 6:00pm. It will be a pot luck feast with Bob providing the meat and the rest of us providing the sides, drinks and deserts. Come join us for an exciting evening of fellowship and tales of the unfortunate.

September's monthly PTG meeting will be held on the 16th and the presentation is to be determined. If there is a specific topic you would like to cover please come to the July meeting and let us know.

For those who don't know please keep Peter Krauss in your prayer's. He developed saddle embolis which is a type of blood clot and was very near death and thanks to Lisa pushing for a cat scan they found the problem in time. Peter was out of commission for a month and is now back in the field. This very serious issue opens the question of what happens if we get seriously ill or injured. Where is our sick time. We don't get any. So how can we help. David Bohnam had a broken pinky. Can you tune with a broken pinky? Ben davis had a heart attack and carple tunnel syndrome corrective surgery. We never know when it is out turn. Can we fellow technicians donate and cover our sick or injured technician friends when needed and called upon?. If everyone could donate three or four tuning to the cause we might enjoy tuning that much more.....a doctors note might be required.....What do you think?

From the President

Beware of the Quick Fix! We live in a world of High Speed Modems, fast food restaurants and microwave ovens. Faster and easier seems to be the best way to go. But is it really? In our world of Piano Technology, we have a variety of relatively new products such as Protek, McLube, superglues, fast drying epoxies,etc., and a variety of ways these products can be used as a " quick fix".

Many times our customers will call for an appointment, not because they are particularly troubled by the sound of an out of tune piano, but because a key is sticking or a pedal squeeks. Although a quick shot of your favorite lube will usually instantly fix the symptom, it won't always cure the problem. After the lubricant wears off, sometimes the problem comes back. Although it may take longer, re-pinning that tight flange is the better "fix".

There are chronic problems in many pianos that can't always be easily addressed. One example is the Pittman in older Steinway grands. {The Pittman is the dowel that goes through the key-bed and raises the damper tray when the sustaining pedal is used. No matter how much greasy type lubricant you might use to stop it from squeaking, it will eventually come back to haunt you. Steinway corrected the problem years ago by pinning both ends of the Pittman and making the entry hole larger. We will have to modify the older ones ourselves, or the problem won't go away.

Although, there are times when a quick fix is effective, it's a good idea to consider the long term effect before we take action.

Bob

The Piano-Scroll Precedent - Industry Trend or Event

Whenever a new technology appears -- whether it's photocopiers or Napster -- the law has to scramble to catch up.

METALLICA, DR. DRE AND OTHER artists singing the Internet blues might try counting their cosmic blessings. At least they weren't making music before Edison invented the phonograph.

That's not to say that 19th century American composers were not protected by copyright laws. From 1831 on, their sheet music was copyright-protected, and they were legally entitled to royalties from performances of it. Then technologies came along that reproduced sound. In 1908, in the case of White-Smith Music Publishing vs. Apollo, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that Apollo wasn't infringing on White-Smith's music copyrights. Apollo, the justices figured, was making not music but machinery -- scrolls for player pianos. "Sound-reproducing technology," a legal scholar would observe generations later, "apparently baffled the Supreme Court."

What in retrospect may seem quaint and funny "was as deadly serious to them then as

Napster is now," says Paul Goldstein, a Stanford Law School professor and copyright expert. It took a newact by Congress in 1909 to extend the copyright law to address technological advances, including the phonograph Edison invented in 1877.

This was only a small excerpt from an article written by Scott Harris. Its interesting to note that the scroll was considered machinery and not a reproduction of music-

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