

THE SOONER TUNER

November 2011

Hello to all and welcome to the November edition of the Sooner Tuner. This month's meeting will be held on November seventeenth two thousand and eleven (11-17-2011 at 8:30am at.....

Quail Springs Church of Christ
14401 North May Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73134-5099
(405) 755-4790

Look for signage labeled PTG meeting. At the last meeting held at QSCOC we parked on the south side of the building... slightly behind the church.

This month's power point presentation will be given by Norman Cantrell on the evolution of the piano through the years and the advancements made to improve an instrument that has inspired the genius of humanity and the creativity of imagination. Come and witness a presentation guaranteed to knock your piano tuning hammer sock off.

From the desk of the President.....

Is it just me, or does it seem like Thanksgiving sneaked up on us this year?

Didn't we celebrate the 4th of July last month?

This is a great time to join our families and friends, over eat, watch football, and fall asleep on the couch. But, above all else, it's a time to reflect and be thankful for our many Blessings.

Although we regret the recent passing of our fellow RPT Albert Evans, we are grateful for his lifetime of serving the community, and his sharing of his talents.

We are also grateful that our newsletter editor, Eric Williams, is recovering nicely from his surgery.

Many of our fellow Guild members have contributed to our organization and our craft this past year, and a big THANK YOU goes out to all of you, and I hope all is well!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Bob

THE MINUTES FROM OKTOBER

Oklahoma Chapter 731 PTG

October 20, 2011

David & Barbara Bonham's Home, OKC

Action Items in Red

*Meeting called to order by Bob Scheer at 8:45a.m..

*Opened with prayer by Eric Williams

*Those in attendance: Bob Scheer; David Bonham; Gary Bruce; Keith Morgan; Jordan Bruce; Eric Williams; Blane Morris, Charles Belknap and Barbara Bonham.

*Minutes of the September meeting were circulated and received as written.

*Gary gave the Treasurers Report. The checking account balance is \$3,880.96 as of September 30, 2011 statement.

*Discussion about assessing a charge for Sooner Tuner. Since there is no cost to produce we have not charged since email is the only method of distribution.

*Eric was asked to add Todd Stewart (David), Terry Gilliam (Eric), Ken Sarkey (Bob) and Don Willis (Eric) to the email list. Addresses to be provided to Eric by those names in parenthesis.

*Discussion about a possible meeting with Tulsa Chapter. Bob will contact Tulsa members to determine interest level. Possible meeting in the spring.

*Discussion about possible meeting in Wichita Falls and/or Lawton.

*Discussion about controversy aired in public PTG forum about National Convention teacher selection.

*Keith shared humorous tuning experience at Tinker Air Force Base Chapel.

*Discussion about establishing some sort of lending library and how to facilitate same.

Gary offered to catalog whatever resources our chapter and individuals have that they are willing to share. Resources available to members only and some sort of accountability or report would be requested. Members should send their list of resources to Gary by email.

Gary.bruce@oc.edu

*Christmas Banquet will be Friday, December 2 at 6:30. Location to be determined.

Jordan will contact Inter Urban, Olive Garden, etc for cost/facility information.

*Gary will send minutes to members to remind them about action items.

*Next meeting, Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. at the Quail Springs Church of Christ 14401 North May Avenue OKC. Video presentation by Norman will be the technical. **David will contact Norman to determine what electronic devices he needs.**

*Meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Technical presentation followed by David on repairing a loose soundboard on Baldwin upright when it is separated from the perimeter of the case across the top . Clamping method decided upon was eyehooks and wood screws. Repair was done during the meeting. Very helpful to observe and participate in repair and to see results.

Gary Bruce
Adjunct Instructor of Music

Articles of Interest.....

[Never Start With The C Major Scale](#)

Editor's comment/ An interesting article that goes against most methods of teaching. Alex really has a good point here though about not starting with middle C. Read on and you will see why.

If you're starting to learn piano, you should never start with the C major scale. Here's why.

You see, most teachers will tell you to start identifying where the middle C is and then have you practice the C major scale. The problem with this is that you'll always have to look at your fingers when you're playing because there are no reference points for you to count on. Let me explain.

When you're starting out, you hardly have any sense of touch, meaning you can't feel one note from another without having to look at the keyboard. And when you can't feel where your fingers are at any given moment, you're more likely to look at your fingers on the keyboard to know where to play the next note.

This will dramatically affect your note reading ability. How many good sight readers do you know who constantly have to look at their fingers while reading a piece of music?

I know what you're thinking. You might say "I don't care much about sight reading, so what does it matter?" Well, it's true. If you just want to learn chord based piano, there's not much reading involved. BUT there's still SOME reading, and the less you depend on looking at your fingers, the more you'll enjoy music... faster.

So instead of starting with C major scale, try this...

Place your left fourth finger (wedding finger) on B and your RIGHT thumb on B, one octave apart. Now feel the next group of two black

notes (C# and D#, respectively). Play both at the same time with the appropriate fingers (2 and 3).

Next, Pivot your right thumb over to the next note, E. You do not need to pivot your left thumb since it should fall naturally on the next note, E (an octave lower than your right note, of course.)

Now play both notes at the same time, both hands.

Next, pivot your left fingers over to play the next group of three black notes (F#, G#, A#). The fingers should be 4,3,2, respectively. For your right hand you do not need to pivot this time. Just feel the group of three black notes with your second, third and fourth fingers on F#, G# and A#, one octave higher than your left hand notes.

Play all three notes, both hands at the same time.

Finally, end with B, one octave apart with your left thumb and right pinky.

Do it again, but this time play each note separately. You've just played the B major scale. The difference between this and the traditional C major scale that most people start with is that you're learning to develop a sense of touch from day one.

It'll give big dividends later on when you start reading notes because while others have to look at both their hands and the sheet music, you'll only have to focus on the sheet music. Your fingers will take care of the next notes automatically by "reference notes", namely the group of two and three black notes.

Practice this a few times and you'll be playing effortlessly without looking at your fingers. You could expand to 2,3,4 octaves if you wish. All you have to do is repeat the same pattern on the next octave.

Enjoy!

Alex

The Rapid Piano Expert

www.rapidpiano.com

Upcoming Events....

December 2, 2011- The Oklahoma Chapter of the PTG annual Christmas Dinner to be held at 6:30 pm at the Interurban in Oklahoma City Oklahoma. Northwest OKC 6100 W. Memorial Road. 405.720.8680 Fax: 720.5941 Email: nw@interurban.us [facebook](#) | [twitter](#)

Current Officers are as follows:

President - Bob Scheer

Vice President – David Bonham

Treasurer – Gary Bruce

Secretary – Jordan Bruce

Newsletter Editor – Eric Williams

South Central Regional Vice President - Steve Walthall

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