

THE SOONER TUNER

Official newsletter of the [Oklahoma Chapter 731](#)

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

August 2012

Next Meeting

Thursday

August 16, 2012

8:30am

[Oklahoma Christian University](#)

Location

[Garvey Fine Arts Center](#) ~ [Directions](#)

405-348-3213 ~ 405-413-8863

I am tuning today at one of the local colleges. I confess to feeling frustration when my tuning efforts seem to be chasing unnecessarily drastic humidity changes. I know that is an important part of what keeps us employed year-round, but I want my clients to enjoy the benefits of my hard work for a reasonable length of time. I just tuned a Yamaha studio that uneven in pitch. I had last when I recorded a degrees and a relative Today those numbers are It's no wonder the piano drop in temperature stiffens and contracts the steel strings, making the pitch rise, and a 28 percent higher humidity represents almost a ninety percent increase from what it was six months ago, swelling the soundboard and further stretching the strings.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE RANT

So what? What else is new? February was not a dry month. And we are in a drought this month, with temperatures outside over 100 degrees. This tuning situation is mostly caused by college music buildings not being designed to take into account the effects of humidity on musical instruments. The design and management of their heating and cooling systems is much to blame. The building I am in today was built only five years ago. I was asked for input in the design, because of the 14 pianos to be placed here. I stressed that maintaining a stable humidity was very important and I was promised that this would be built into the system. When the system was installed, guess what they left out in order to save money? You guessed it: humidity control.

Do you think that if they built a computer lab without humidity control, and it caused all the electronics to operate at only 65 percent of their design capacity, that they would just accept that? I doubt it.

Oh well, I better get back to work so that these instruments will sound good until the next weather change or until the next HVAC technician comes on duty. I hope to see you at the next meeting!

David



Minutes from the July meeting

The meeting was held at Oklahoma Christian University campus in Edmond. The meeting began at 8:45 AM with a prayer by Eric Williams.

Members present were: Keith McGavern, David Bonham, Gary Bruce, Jordan Bruce, Eric Williams and Bob Scheer.

The minutes from the April meeting were read by Gary Bruce and approved. The May meeting consisted of an all day presentation by Jamie Marks, representing the Wessell, Nickel and Gross piano action company. The meeting was very well received, and well attended.

Treasurers report: \$3,350.85 balance

New business consisted of discussions concerning focus on the upcoming year, including; topics for future technicals.

Some reading materials were suggested
The Piano Shop on the Left Bank by Thad Earhart
The Piano Inside Out by Mario Igrec
Under the Lid by Stephen Brady
Piano Obsession by Perri Knize

Following the regular business meeting, a series of short mini- techs were given by the members present.

Topics included:

- 1) Removal of the XR Steinway grand action
- 2) An easy way to remove vertical damper felts
- 3) An ingenious way of coping with slipping Baldwin bridle strap wires
- 4) A clever and small tool for installing a treble string under the bass strings
- 5) A custom made tool for moving big grands in small elevators
- 6) A demonstration of moving a vertical piano with an all terrain dolly.

Regards,
Bob Scheer, Secretary

**"We're all one thing, Lieutenant. That's what I've come to realize.
Like cells in a body. 'Cept we can't see the body. The way fish can't see
the ocean. And so we envy each other. Hurt each other. Hate each other.
How silly is that? A heart cell hating a lung cell."
– Cassie from THE THREE**

from the film Adaption



~ SOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS MONTH ~

[Hiromi Uehara](#)
(jazz pianist and composer)

[Luciano Pavarotti](#)
(italian operatic tenor)

[Gum \(silly putty\)](#)

Regards,
[Keith McGavern](#)
Newsletter Editor

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June 2012 – May 2013

President – [David Bonham](#), RPT
Vice President – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT
Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), RPT
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A Technical Tidbit

Lowery Lock

by Larry Messerly, RPT
Posted on Pianotech,
June 15, 2012 1:23 PM



Message from Larry:

See... lock located front and center on the music desk, use tuning tip to turn.

Keith McGavern responds

June 15, 2012 4:15 PM

That is very interesting, Larry. So instead of using a Robertson driver bit, your tuning lever tip actually fit on the circumference of that lock. Amazing

What do you think? ... [Editor](#)

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APRIL 2012

Executive Outlook

Submitted by [Phil Bondi, RPT](#)  
Southeast Regional Vice President  
(Phil is now [Secretary-Treasurer](#), 2012-13)



## Moving Forward

The mention of these two words conjures up memories for most of us. Usually those memories involve losses or unpleasant times in our lives. I could fill an entire Journal edition with examples from history of brave or goal-driven people, militaries, or government agencies bent on moving forward. In this article I will focus on some personal experience and on our organization's need to do the same.

It's 1995. I've been in Florida for two years with two kids (15 and 10 at the time), and my marriage is over. I'm a full-time musician, trying to make a living, picking up everything from solo piano in restaurants to country and western gigs in small clubs. It was soon after my marriage ended that I realized that if I did not do something different with my life, I was never going to be a happy person. There were hours of soul-searching, thoughts of moving back to New York. I didn't want to be far from my children. They were the glue keeping me in Florida and physically close to them. Thank God for them.

I decided that a service-based business with the client calling me instead of me calling on the client was the way to go, but I needed to stay close to my strength, the piano. I chose piano tuning and repair as the next step in my life. I can't say thank you enough to Larry Crabb, Jim Bryant, Newton Hunt, and many others for guiding me through some rough personal waters. I now have a recognized name in the business, and am a contributor to the arts and other endeavors in my community. This success came with many a brick wall to break down. There are a few more that remain standing, and I will be successful in conquering those walls in time.

The Piano Technicians Guild has its foot on the accelerator. As we all know, this ship moves quite slowly at times. It is designed that way, so there are no renegade situations that take our established successes and ruin them in a short time. These safeguards are for the benefit of all, yet PTG is in need of moving forward. Establishing two new Web sites is one result of that need. We had "the deal of the century" for a very long time, so long that it was taken for granted that the deal would always be there. This transition has had its share of bad road, just as any "moving forward" situation will have. Countless hours have been eaten up and many pounds of coffee have been consumed taking this ship into the 21st century. Recently, we lost Clint Sears to an opportunity he needed to explore. "Oh my God—now what?" Well, Jason Wheeler was hired and he has produced seamlessly. The Home Office moved forward.

PTG is moving forward. No one will promise a smooth ride. The end result will be a stronger and better-informed organization. Larry, Jim, Newton and countless others said there would be days like these, but focus on the light at the end of the tunnel. It is not an oncoming train. It is professional growth and personal freedom. I listened.

*Phil Bondi, RPT*