

THE SOONER TUNER

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

[Piano Technicians Guild](#)

October 2012

On the previous business cards I “I’d like to help your dreams” my name. I this might seem a



Oklahoma Chapter President
David Bonham, RPT

printing of my had the words you realize printed beneath decided that bit grandiose to

my customers, and so I left it off subsequent printings, but not because I don’t take that role seriously. We are in a job that often puts us between our customer’s dreams and their realities. We can help make their dreams come true. What an awesome task and opportunity! A normal tuning might not seem to rise to this lofty level, but consider the person I am working for this morning. Nancy had a decent old upright when I started tuning for her a decade ago. I did some restoration work for her, and she still plays and enjoys it. But her long-held dream was to own and play a baby grand.

Nancy and her husband attended the auction of Albert Evans Pianos, where we had our last chapter meeting. They had looked at the grand pianos in his store and picked out one to bid on. They waited patiently but excitedly for the time to raise their hand in the hope of claiming it in the auction process. I wasn’t there to witness it; I had already left after getting my curiosity satisfied about how the auction was going and what kinds of prices the first twenty pianos were selling for. But they had a dream on the line. The number for that piano came up and they bid. Others bid. They raised their bid. So did others. Soon the gavel had hit the table, and they had won the piano! Two days later I went to the store, picked up the old grand and delivered it to their home. That was two weeks ago.

The “dream come true” part of the story is now waiting to unfold. The piano needs a lot of work. It was in Albert’s workshop, possibly waiting to be rebuilt eventually. It is low in pitch, terribly out of regulation, and the soundboard is cracked. Nancy is not in a position to have it rebuilt, so my task involves that familiar challenge of matching skills with available resources. Can I perform an affordable makeover, or better yet, a miracle? We are not always brought into the dream process at the ideal point, and some client’s dreams have the potential to become our nightmares! I am reminded that my client is the customer; not the piano. How well can I do at making her dream come true with this piano on her budget? Ask me in a few weeks.

I hope to see several of you at the SCRC Seminar in Kerrville next week.

David Bonham



Oklahoma Chapter Vice President
Gary Bruce, RPT

There will be no regular chapter meeting in October since the SCRC is scheduled for October 15-17. Several of our members will be attending. We will look forward to learning and sharing experiences from the seminar in our November newsletter and at our November meeting which will be on Thursday, November 15.

As some of you know I recently "retired" from my worship minister position after 18 years, the last 8 of which were full time. I am enjoying getting back into full time piano service now, although I am teaching about 1/2 day per week. As I hone some of my skills, I know that as long as I continue to work there will never be a time when that process comes to an end. There will always be areas in which I can improve. There will also be new areas to explore and then the responsibility and privilege to share that knowledge with others who are younger or less experienced. I am grateful for those (some older, some younger than me) who have shared their experience and knowledge with me. Our chapter is blessed with some seriously talented, experienced, creative and generous members. Thank you all for what you contribute.



Oklahoma Chapter Secretary
Bob Scheer, RPT

The September, 2012 Oklahoma Chapter PTG meeting was held at Dakil Auctioneers at 200 N. W. 114th st. Okc, on September 22. The meeting began at 9:30 AM. Members present were Dale Probst, Gary Bruce, Norman Cantrell, David Bonham, and Bob Scheer. Guests included Thomas Foster, and Mike Gilliam.

Our treasurers report yields a balance of \$3043.95.

The meeting that was postponed due to the auction was tentatively rescheduled for Jan. 19, 2013 at Dale Probst and Liz Ward's shop in Wichita Falls, Texas. There will be no October meeting due to the SCRC in Kerrville, Texas. The Annual Christmas get together is tentatively set for December 7, the location and time will be announced.

The auction of Albert Evans Piano store started promptly at 10:00 AM, and by 4:30 PM everything from buildings to bridle straps was sold.



Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

[Vladimir Horowitz](#)
(1903-1989)

[Il Silenzio](#)
Melissa Vanema

[Dinamica Pianos e Som](#)
(piano tech clips)

[Bugs Bunny](#)
Hungarian Rhapsody No.2

Oklahoma Chapter Officers
June 2012 – May 2013

President – [David Bonham](#), RPT

Vice President – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT

Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), RPT

Treasurer - [Gary Bruce](#), RPT

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SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE (SCRC)

October 15-17, 2012

YO Ranch Hotel, Kerrville, TX

Contact: Dale Probst

wardprobst@wardprobst.com, 940-691-3682

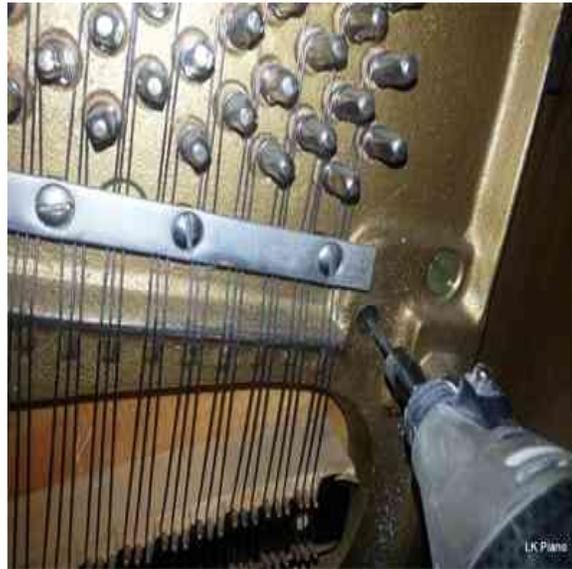
www.scrptg.org

A Technical Tidbit

RE:Screw removal

Leslie Koltvedt, LK Piano, Canton MI
September 2012

I had a piano with a broken action screw with no access to remove. Used a [Dremel](#) to create a dimple in the end of the broken screw, worked my way up with the drill and then tapped an easy out in and out it came. Yes, it is a Wurlitzer and they were screws with spacers. Replaced with hex head lag bolts.



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02



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(continued next page)

A Technical Tidbit

RE:Screw removal

Leslie Koltvedt, LK Piano, Canton MI

(continued from previous page)



04



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Following links added by [Editor](#)

[Dremel Tools](#)

[Easy Out](#)  
[Video Demonstration](#)

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September 2012

Executive Outlook

Submitted by
Barbara Cassaday
PTG Executive Director



PTG has taken a giant step toward ensuring your future success—actually, 37-Steps.

At the 2012 Convention Opening Session, with Mr. Yoshi Suzuki, Piano Service Director, Yamaha Corporation of America and PTG Past President David Durben, Piano Service Specialist, Yamaha, and the PTG Executive Committee on stage, an agreement was signed between Yamaha and the Piano Technicians Guild. The Agreement effectively transferred rights and title to The Little Red Schoolhouse's signature class, *Grand Action Regulation in 37 Steps*, to the Piano Technicians Guild.

"This agreement between Yamaha and the PTG is very important to us," said Mr. Suzuki. "We are proud to be working with the PTG to further the education of piano technicians. Yamaha looks forward to a successful transition for this class and has more plans to work with PTG in the future."

Yamaha has not only offered all rights to the program, but they have gone out of their way to provide all the material for teaching the class. In addition, they have arranged for LaRoy Edwards to teach our instructors how to give the class, just to ensure that we have consistency in how the class is taught and enough instructors to move forward.

"Yamaha is now excited to make available even more advanced training," said Mr. Suzuki, "trusting that the great tradition of 37 Steps will continue with PTG."

Considering all that is being done as part of the transfer, including the fact that Yamaha has an ongoing waiting list for the 37-Steps class, PTG is receiving a very valuable gift and is quite honored to be doing so.

"The offer made to transfer 37-Steps to PTG came as quite a shock," said PTG President Jim Coleman Jr. "Since that time, Barb and the Executive Committee have put together a two-year implementation plan, completed the first instructor training class, and are now ready to announce that the first-ever PTG Academy class, *Grand Action Regulation in 37 Steps* is ready to go."

The PTG Academy is the umbrella under which all PTG educational programs will be associated. Past Boards laid the framework for the Academy—the curriculum is just now being written. Plans for other programs are currently being finalized. Look for more information to come in the next few months.

Because this is PTG's first 37-Steps class, it is being offered at a reduced price of \$999. On November 1-3, you can expect to have one-on-one instruction, including that of LaRoy Edwards himself. We won't be able to offer this opportunity at this price again, and the class is limited to eight (no wait, seven more) students. For complete information, see the ad on the next page or contact Kathy at the PTG Home Office. Online registration will not be available for this class.

Welcome to the PTG Academy – *Welcome to Grand Action Regulation in 37 Steps.*

You are invited!
This is a free event,
but pre-registration is required,
as we will be providing a complimentary dinner afterwards!

Warmly,
Kim Koch
Saied Music School
9320 E. 71st Street
Tulsa, OK 74133
Cell 918-760-8035
School 918-742-5541

How To Speak Piano *with Kent Webb*

Manager-Technical Service and Support, Steinway & Sons.

Wednesday 10/24

Saied South

4:00-5:30pm

Steinway Voicing

Voicing is an area of service that is a constant learning process. Finding the balance between power and dynamics and meeting the expectations of artists can often be a moving target.

In this class, Kent will cover the techniques, tools, and materials used in the Concert Service Department to meet the demands of the musicians who rely on the Steinway sound.



About Kent Webb

Kent Webb - Manager, Technical Service and Support, Steinway & Sons

Kent is the Manager of Technical Service and Support for Steinway & Sons. In this position, Kent oversees and conducts the Steinway Technical Training Academy. He also works closely with All-Steinway Schools and

Institutions to develop and maintain service strategies and resources. In addition, Kent coordinates service literature and publications, works closely with music festivals, and participates extensively in educational events.

Complimentary dinner will be provided following the workshop.

This event is free, but pre-registration is required by phone or email. You may pre-register by calling Saied Music South at 918-252-5541 or by email at kim.koch@saiedmusic.com



STEINWAY & SONS

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