

# THE SOONER TUNER

Central Oklahoma Chapter 731 Newsletter

Piano Technicians Guild

April 2015



Co-Presidents  
David Bonham, RPT      Gary Bruce, RPT



## President's Letter

Some jobs remind us that we all are students of a complex trade. I felt humbled last week on a job that had me baffled for about twenty minutes. I was called to work on a spinet. It was a Grand, but not a grand piano: just a Grand spinet. We have gone to move grand pianos before that turned out to be Grand spinets, but this was not that kind of surprise. Beside the need to raise the pitch 25 cents, this instrument had a whole lot of lost motion. I showed this to my customer and explained that I would try to eliminate as much of this as possible. Noticing that the stickers (or abstracts) were connected to the keys with the square style rubber grommets that have the metal inside, I warned him that if the rubber was old and brittle on this 45-year-old piano I might have trouble with them disintegrating. I set out to try adjusting middle-C. The grommet did not turn easily, so I removed the kneeboard to allow me to reach in and grasp the lower portion of that sticker so as to avoid breaking the elbow piece attached to it. I was able to turn it and the rubber did not break. However, after turning it a couple full turns, the key would not return to normal playing position and the jack would not get back under the hammer butt. If I lifted the front of the key, the jack would return and there was still significant lost motion. I could not get the key to fully return after playing, and the jack would not return without the key being lifted back up (or the rear of the key being pushed down.) This was new to me. After staring at this and checking such things as key dip and blow distance, I just felt inadequate! I moved to C#. The same exact symptoms occurred. The key would not return to normal, but stayed about 1/8" depressed after I had just removed some of the lost motion. I tried another note and got the same results. I was glad my customer was in the other room... I googled Grand Piano Company on my phone and got some interesting opinions on what one should do with one of these pianos, but other than giving me a chuckle this wasn't helpful.

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Some of you may be thinking I was slow to figure this out. That's what I was thinking. I got the urge to explore the beginning of a theory I was coming up with, and so on the next note I turned the grommet to increase instead of decrease the lost motion. I got the same result: another key that wouldn't work! My thought was that any attempt to adjust a grommet was causing that grommet to put the sticker in enough of a bind to prevent the key from returning and playing normally. That last grommet had cracked when being turned, and when I went to remove it, it fell apart. I replaced it with a new one and I was able to adjust nearly all of the lost motion with the key working just fine. I did the same with the other three keys I had disturbed, and they all worked properly. My customer did not choose to have me replace the whole set on that day, so he still has the annoying amount of lost motion on 84 remaining keys. We both know why and what it will take to fix this problem, and I learned from the experience. Perhaps this will help one of you when you encounter this situation some day. By the way, the tuning went well and my customer was very pleased!

I hope to see you at the next meeting. We have gotten good feedback on these past two meetings, and we expect to be able to complete the self-evaluation at this one.

David Bonham, RPT

Next Meeting  
April 16th  
8:15am

**Bruce Piano Services & Storage Facility**   
13782 N Lincoln Blvd.  
Edmond, OK 73013  
405-285-8324

Breakfast will be served starting at 8:15.

During our technical section we will try to finish up the self-evaluation that we've been working on for the last 3 months, focusing on the Voicing, Repairs and Design sections.

In our business meeting we will be choosing our slate of officers for 2015-2016 for a vote in May and firming up plans for the October 17, 2015 Associates Seminar we've agreed to host.

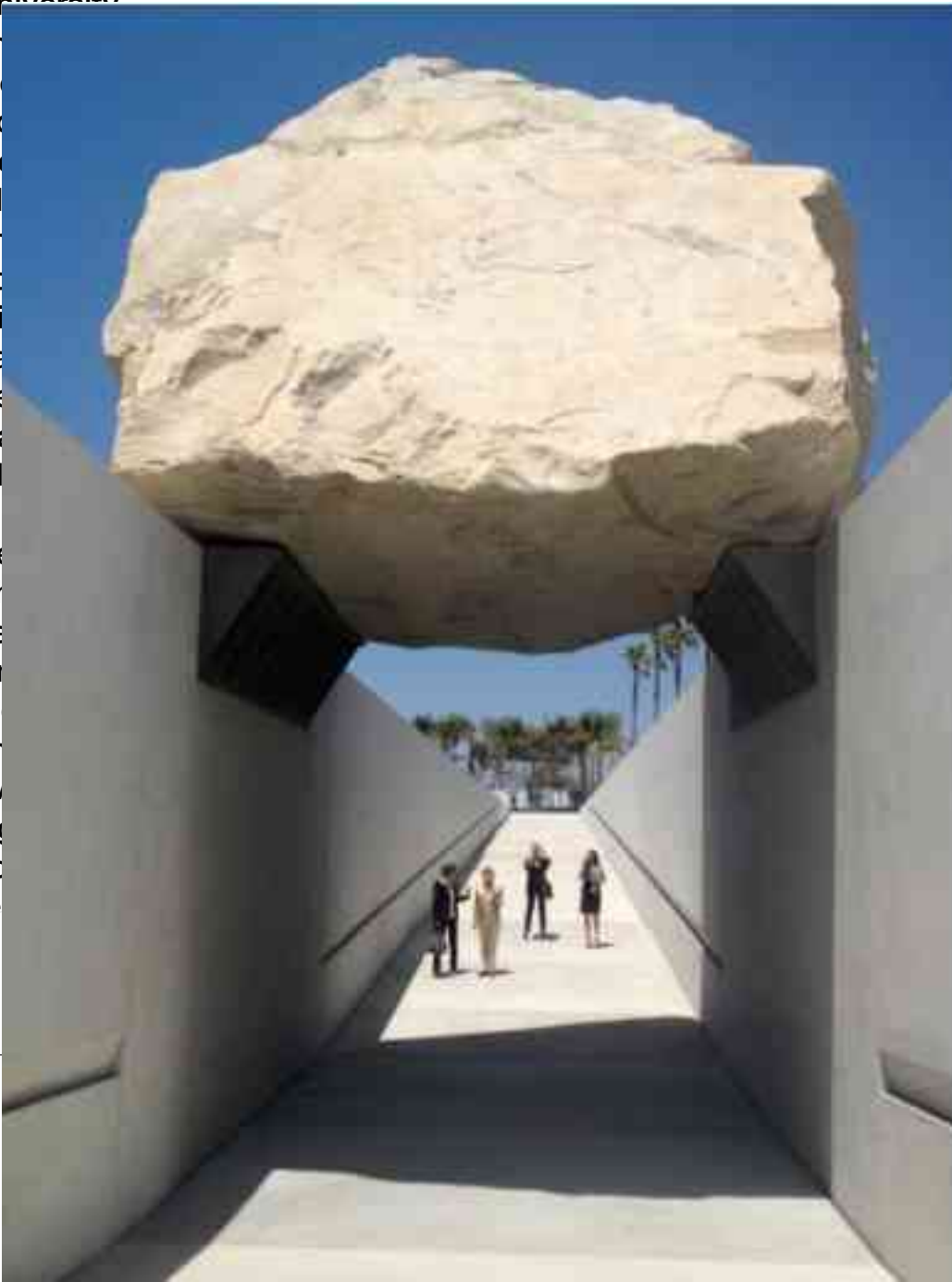


Secretary  
Bob Scheer, RPT

### Chapter Minutes

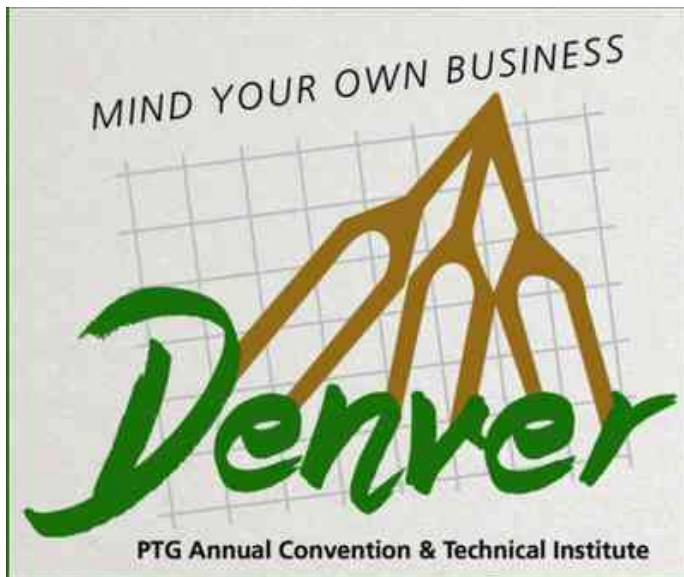
- The March 19, 2015 PTG meeting was held at Oklahoma Christian University.

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# Levitated Mass



JULY 15TH-18TH  
Registration began February 1st

Central Oklahoma Chapter Officers  
June 2014 – May 2015

Co-Presidents

[David Bonham](#), RPT

[Gary Bruce](#), RPT

Secretary – [Bob Scheer](#), RPT

Treasurer – [Gary Bruce](#), RPT

Newsletter Editor – [Keith McGavern](#), RPT

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#### DISCLAIMER

“All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the editor as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild.”



Martha Washington Console Harpinette  
Serial No. 170371, Year 1947  
(from Jesse French numbers listed in the Pierce Piano Atlas, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition)





Oklahoma Chapter Newsletter Editor  
Keith McGavern, RPT

~ High Lights ~

[Little Dog steals Big Dogs Sauages](#)

[Adrift](#)  
(vimeo)

[Arno Pianos](#)

[Valentia Lisitsa](#)  
(Beethoven "Moonlight" Sonata op 27 #2 Mov 3)

[Helder Guimarães - TED](#)  
(A magical search for a coincidence)

[Engineering Connections](#)  
[Millau Bridge](#)  
(Richard Hammond, Part 1)

[Johnny Maddox](#)  
([American Treasures](#))  
([The Crazy Otto Medley 1955](#))

[Kris Kristofferson](#)  
(Loving Her was Easier)

[Old books reborn as art](#)  
(TED)

[Turtle and dog play Keep-Away with Ball](#)

[Yuja Wang](#)  
(Liszt Sonata B minor)

[Invisible Worlds](#)  
[Speed Limits](#)  
(Richard Hammond, 1 of 3)

Executive Outlook  
April 2015  
**Embracing Change**  
*Norman Cantrell, RPT*  
*PTG President*



Small changes in life happen around us all the time. We may not notice, depending on our interaction with a particular entity. Perhaps you are driving down the road and notice a building that used to be there is gone and an empty lot sits in its place, or perhaps a new building may be occupying previously unoccupied territory. How we react to change says a lot about us and about where we are in life.

Most of us in this industry are fairly creative people. We don't work in traditional nine-to-five jobs, and most of us travel from place to place to service our clients' pianos. We are more likely to respond favorably to change than do other people whose job environments are more static. But even in our jobs, there is a predictable rhythm. We have busy seasons that correspond to events on the calendar, such as school starting or the holidays. Then there are some ebbs and flows in the work schedule that we can predict after a few years in this business.

One small change that may go unnoticed will soon occur with the PTG Resource Guide. We have provided this valuable piece for many years. It costs more to produce than the revenue generated by the advertising contained within its pages, yet it continues to score high as a member benefit on surveys. For several years the PTG Board of Directors has debated whether to continue this publication or move to electronic delivery of the same information. We have a demographic that tends to favor the use of the paper style of delivery over an electronic format. All of the information in the Guide is on the PTG website, but not in the same format. At the present time we will continue to produce the paper copy, but starting this year we will have a PDF copy of the Resource Guide on the [ptg.org](http://ptg.org) website. It is a step toward an electronic format for those who insist we embrace technology, but it still preserves a familiar format for those of us who regularly use the spiral-bound book.

Bigger changes are a challenge to face. I have a couple of close friends who are facing very serious cancers. To say that their lives have changed as a result of this diagnosis is an understatement. Something was discovered that was a problem and needed immediate attention.

Certain lights on the dashboards of our vehicles carry the same urgency with them. The old saying is that change is inevitable. How we face it and how we respond are the things that define our character. Just be prepared: Something in your world will change today.



