



Chapter News

Tucson Chapter (857)
Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
Tucson, Arizona

September

2018

Tucson Chapter Meeting Wednesday, September 12, 2018 Hachenberg & Sons Piano 4333 E. Broadway Blvd.

Located on the north side of Broadway Blvd.,
west of the Broadway/Swan intersection.
Refreshments & snacks will be provided.

5:30, refreshments; 6:30, meeting
Meeting Topic: Tuning Pin Repinning
Neal Flint, presenter

Hey, what happened to "Gluing tuning pins??" Miscommunication happened. But we'll be talking about pinblocks, and loose tuning pins and addressing all of that; I'm sure "gluing" will undoubtedly come up. Come and share your thoughts.

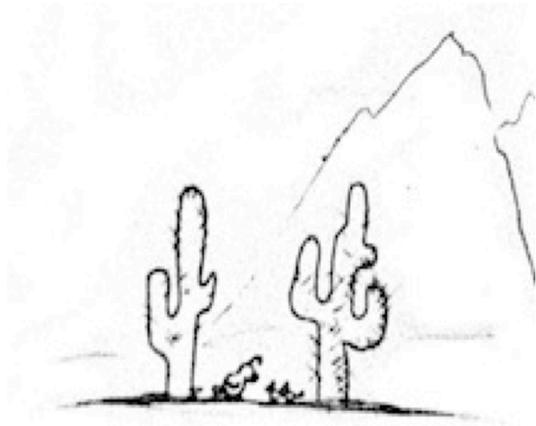
PTG Annual Convention and Institute Coming to Tucson, Arizona!!

July 10-13, 2019

Starr Pass Resort, Tucson, AZ

To get an idea of what a convention is all about,
check out last-year's convention website:

<http://my.ptg.org/2018convention/home>



Notes from the last chapter meeting May 2, 2018

Tech Topic: Servicing the Grand Piano Robert Anderson, Presenter

Bob shared interesting concepts in a thought provoking fashion, concepts that had been conveyed by Ace Ugai, Yamaha's Piano Service Manager at a one-on-one 2-day seminar which Bob had attended near L.A. in September 2017. Although Ace's seminar was geared toward new grands, the suggestions really could be translated to servicing any grand at any point, especially if movers may have hooked up or adjusted the lyre and trap incorrectly, or a previous tech had not done a full regulation, but only regulated for one symptom. Also, materials may have settled or worn over time.

In the to-do list order of prep and regulation it was suggested to check and/or adjust simpler things before doing the more time consuming things. This would save time having to go back and forth and redo previous adjustments.

Prerequisites before starting regulation

Certain areas should be examined first such as:

- * On a grand the hammer shanks should not be bottomed out on the stop cushions. The shanks should be elevated slightly above the stop cushion material. (On an upright the hammers should rest completely on the rail, but check that the rail is not being held up off the action bracket artificially by a maladjusted soft pedal dowel or anything else.)
- * The grand keyframe should be bedded before doing letoff.
- * Check that the damper stop rail has not fallen low or been adjusted artificially low. If the rail is low it could ultimately stop complete key/damper lever travel. This could make the key dip appear too shallow. Later in the regulation you would discover the misplaced rail position and regretably have to completely readjust key dip because the previously low stop rail was throwing off the dip.
- * Some attendees agreed that sustain pedal adjustments may need to be varied on an individual piano to a particular individual owner's "taste," as non-standard lift adjustments may "feel" better for them than standard, or they may want what to feel what they have been accustomed to.
- * The drop adjustment needs to be made low enough to be able to detect letoff and make the letoff adjustment.
- * Repetition springs need at least "some" tension before setting hammer lines.

Bob used a charming low-tech display—a large pad of paper on an easel—to draw any graphics and compose text points—totally functional and easy to read!

The final order of efficient regulation according to Mr. Ugai:

1. Key height
2. letoff
3. white key dip
4. hammer blow distance
5. sharp dip (to match aftertouch of whites)
6. back checking
7. Repetition spring tension
8. Jack position in window
9. Repetition lever height
10. Drop

Bob also conveyed points on Ace's preferences when tuning. 1. Body position facing somewhat toward the bass end of the piano. 2. 12 o'clock lever position. 3. Use medium blows to strike the key, and, then, hold the tone to listen to the duration (versus fast hard blows).

On voicing: The best tone is when sustained tone "audibly appears" to be elevated above the strings.

As some comments and suggestions were made from Bob's class to certain aspects of Mr. Ugai's points, Bob responded with a joke he remembered: How many piano technicians does it take to screw in a light bulb? Eleven, one technician to screw it in, and ten technicians to suggest the correct way to do it. Bob said that sometimes a slower way or different way of performing a procedure can be one's choice, even if less efficient, if that's the way they have gotten comfortable doing it, as long as the results have proven to be successful and reliable.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Mike Erickson who prepared these notes, since I was in Nebraska for my daughter's wedding. He also took the meeting minutes which also appear in this newsletter.

Richard West

Chapter Minutes

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 PTG Meeting:

8 Attendees:

Robert Anderson
Mike Erickson
Neal Flint
Sarah Hong
Jack Phelps
Randy Prentice
Kirby Tucker
D. Evans (visiting guest, former Tucson RPT)

Business:

- * Richard West is Delegate for the annual PTG Convention which is in Lancaster, PA this year.
- * Chapter Voting: A quorum can now consist of any 4 chapter members willing to vote. Previously only RPT members were allowed to vote.
- * Treasury report by Bob Anderson: Balance is \$2,326.27

Sarah supplied copies of Jim Coleman, Sr's memoir *My Beginning as a Piano Technician*. Jim writes of some of his most memorable events while learning the ropes of pianos. His failures motivated a more intense desire to learn, practice, and hone skills. He touches on many of his achievements, along with people who helped and inspired him throughout his career .

He begins from his childhood. Honest accounts of jumping into the often murky waters of piano knowledge and working his way through the unknown by asking questions and attempting unfamiliar challenges. He was involved in the earliest attempts of starting the first Tucson Chapter.

Delegate Report

You will find the complete delegate report in the Tucson Chapter website that is hosted by PTG.

Go to: <http://my.ptg.org/tucson/home>

Log in and click on the "members only" link. I enjoyed being your delegate and learned a lot about how PTG is currently being run. I have the feeling that the board is experiencing a deer in the headlights sense as they exercise their new power to decide. Adjustments in Board/member communication are needed. And I think adjustments will be made. I'm glad that the Board is committed to addressing pressing problems and issues. There have been some stumbles and learning given the new governance. I hope and believe the decision making may slow down a bit in order to ensure full deliberation, access to good information, and full use of resources and research.

Richard West, Delegate

PS Don't forget that our chapter has two websites. You'll find the other site at:
<http://tucsonpianotuners.net/home.htm>

Phoenix Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, September 4, 2018
7:00PM

LOCATION: Stilwell Pianos, [1941 W Guadalupe Rd #115, Mesa, AZ 85202](#)

MEETING: INSTRUCTOR: Bill Kaye, RPT and Jim Coleman, Sr., RPT
SUBJECT: "Convention Institute Class Highlights" Includes concert prep with a 9-step regulation, a new hammer hardening solution, agraffe repair, tuning exam prep, upright piano service, and more!

Carpooling to Phoenix: A group from Tucson is making the trip. Contact me (see information below) if you want to join us for the short drive, plus dinner and good piano related conversation!

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