



Tucson Chapter (857) Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.

<http://my.ptg.org/tucson/home>
<http://tucsonpianotuners.net/home.htm>

April

2020

Tucson Chapter Meeting

Date: Friday, May 1, 2020

(I'm still flexible. If this date/time is bad, let me know.
We want a date that works for most everyone.)

Time: 10 am

Where: Your house (via Zoom)

refreshments: whatever you have at home

Tech Topic

**Lubricants: What Kind for What Purposes—Flanges to
Pedals to.....**

Bob Anderson, Presenter

Bob has been experimenting with a variety of methods to treat tight flanges. He'll share what he has learned and then we'll open the discussion.

USING ZOOM

Okay, it's a challenge. We have to learn some new techy thing. And didn't I hear or read somewhere that the Zoom app has problems with security? Yes, all those things have been out there in the media. But, taking up a new challenge is good for the brain. Techy things can be fun even if they're sometimes frustrating. And Zoom is improving and trying hard to provide a safe service. Actually, the biggest problem may be your chapter secretary. I'm new at this, too. I've been in a few

Zoom meetings and your Tucson Chapter officers have experimented and tried getting together with a Zoom meeting. There was a user glitch at the beginning, but we worked it out. The meeting went fine. So, let's jump in!!

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

1. You can check in using about any device (computer, tablet, cellphone, etc.).
2. Next week you'll be getting an email from me with meeting information. There will be a link to the meeting in the email. Our meeting will have a title, meeting number and a password. Click on the link. You'll be asked to download the Zoom app. Just follow the directions. If you want to get the app early before the meeting, you can download the app any time. It's free at [Zoom.us.com](https://zoom.us.com) Be sure you only get the app from the Zoom site/address.
3. You can enter the password.
4. Once you're in, check out some of the controls at the bottom of the page. It's a good idea to keep the microphone muted unless you want to say something. Otherwise, noise in your room will trigger the mike and everyone will hear. Could be the dog; could be something more embarrassing
5. Think about the lighting and position of your computer, if you're worried about how you'll look using your computer camera. We don't provide make up artists or camera consultants. You can choose to just listen/speak and leave the video off.
6. We'll probably spend some time at the beginning just getting everyone signed in. That's just part of the learning curve. My experience so far is that Zoom is fairly easy to use.
7. There's a more detailed description of the whole process at the end of this newsletter.

Potential problems: If your computer equipment is "old" (7 years? 10 years?) you may have problems because the information coming in is faster than your computer is able to receive the information. Things get slow and pixelated.

Your browser can be an issue. A browser is that main window that allows you to search and shop and move around the world wide web. Firefox and Chrome work best. Safari may not be as good. It's not that hard to change your browser. Go to

either the Firefox or Chrome website and download the browser app, and then install it. The browsers are all very similar, but there may be a few things that you'll have to work with, because they might be somewhat unfamiliar. That would be something you should take care of before the meeting.

February Meeting

Tucson chapter meeting minutes, Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Minutes by Sarah Hong Soto

Refreshments provided by Sarah Hong Soto

Facilities provided by Hachenberg & Sons Pianos

In attendance:

Members

Bob Anderson

Neil Flint

Randy Prentice

Sarah Soto

Kirby Tucker

Rick Woodruff

Isaac Wynn

Guest

Victor Rosano (nephew of Enrique Rosano)

Treasurer's Report: The account currently held at Washington Federal bank contains \$2,453.31. There are no outstanding debts.

Technical Topic: The Tucson Convention Last Summer and Miscellaneous Other Items Randy showed everyone his new cordless Milwaukee wet/dry shop vac. It comes in a compact case with a 5 amp rechargeable battery, and runs about \$250 at Home Depot. Randy says it is very convenient not to have to plug anything in, and it will run for about 10 minutes.

Bob brought his C-shaped tuning lever designed by Dan Levitan, so Randy could try it out on some of the grand pianos in the showroom. Bob reports that the C-lever provides a great mechanical advantage when a piano has tight pins, and even uses it on upright pianos. Isaac said he used to live near Dan Levitan in New York, and in spite of the C-Lever being designed to turn pins without flagpoling them, Dan would say he would tip the lever up at the end to bring the pitch down into tune. So the C-lever seems to be designed not to prevent all flagpoling, but to give the technician great control over when and how to flagpole if needed. Bob had covered the

underside of the horizontal section with a strip of red felt, presumably to keep it from damaging the piano's finish.

Bob reported attending a class taught by Dan Levitan at the recent annual convention. One of the tools modified by Dan was a rubber mute, with magnets added through the widest part of the wedge. This helps the mute stay in place when used right next to plate struts, as the magnets would hold it in place. Rick Woodruff showed photos of a variation of this theme, using two such magnetized mutes stuck together. Bob gave out very small powerful magnets for those wanting to make them at home. He advised covering the magnet surface with electrical tape to prevent scratching.

Bob is trying a new lubricant offered by Supply 88, and is interested in testing different lubricants on center pins. The discussion ranged off into causes of verdigris, and the use of paraffin and other water-displacement wood treatments by manufacturers. Bob says he has caused wooden flanges to "boil" and produce fumes, by using a heat gun, though this is not something to be attempted indoors, or by the faint of heart.

Another convention topic that resurfaced in the Arizona State seminar was Angel-shot voicing. Bob and Neil have used these techniques and like the results, and Isaac had many questions for them regarding its appropriate application. Rick cautioned that the needling should only be done on the tone side of the hammer (the far side, if standing before a grand piano), not the "power" side of the hammer. Neil uses dental tools for voicing, and Bob said he had made his own tools out of broken dental tools from his dentist.

Sarah summarized some of the Council meeting news from last July. PTG is a debt-free nonprofit, and has purchased property next to the Home Office either as a location for a future school or simply as an investment. The new long-range planning will emphasize education of technicians, in online and other formats. Encouraging technicians to strive for RPT status is another challenge, but no one wants to accomplish this by reducing the testing standards. Finding enough RPTs qualified and willing to administer the exams is another challenge, but the testing fees are kept relatively low compared to the cost of providing the quality piano and manpower to administer the exams.

Sarah raised the subject of rewriting the Tucson By-laws, which were last updated in 1998 and are currently out of compliance with PTG Home Office rules. Using the Phoenix chapter's bylaws as a model, we swiftly went through and left what the group agreed with and made changes as necessary. The results will be reviewed for compliance and brought back to the Tucson chapter for any further necessary changes or for a final vote on their approval. Randy, as current vice president, is in charge of arranging programming for future meetings, so if anyone has an idea for a presentation or a technical, please let Randy know. The next meeting of the Tucson chapter has yet to be scheduled, but the group agreed that giving 10 days' notice for future meetings is reasonable. Our guest Victor said he enjoyed tonight's meeting and learned a couple things. We look forward to seeing him again at our next meeting.

Zoom meeting overview By Eric Johnson

(taken from the my.ptg.org web site)

I've been advocating Zoom meetings for a while as a way of engaging members disinclined to attend meetings for whatever reason. Now, there is another reason!

Zoom is dead simple and costs \$15 a month for a subscription that gives you way more meeting resources than you will use in a month. You can cancel anytime. There is a free version but it restricts meetings to 40 minutes and ending the meeting and starting another one because you ran out of time is annoying.

One person is the account holder and schedules, starts and stops the meetings. That person does not have to participate in the actual discussion but must have his or her account open on Zoom. I imagine you could give your Zoom meeting login info to somebody else to use your account to have a meeting you are not interested in.

When you schedule a meeting, you are given a meeting id that you email to interested attendees. They then click on that link to register.

Zoom requires a plug in that downloads automatically the first time you use it on a device. Good advice is to always start the meeting 10 minutes early to give new comers the chance to get things figured out.

Zoom is very resource friendly. I've run meetings on 2 different phones including a very cheap LG POS, an ipad, a macbook and a Chromebook and they've all worked well.

Zoom works with the video on your computer or phone. You CAN connect external webcams and that is highly recommended if you're presenting anything technical.

Zoom allows you to easily share anything on your computer, so you can show photos, PowerPoint (ick) and such. Anybody attending the meeting can share a screen, not just the presenter.

Sound is important! The quality you experience will only be as good as the audio capability of your set up. If you're primarily listening, running it through external speakers or headphones helps you understand what is being said.

If you're presenting, do trial runs. For example using my UEBoom external speaker, which I love, greatly improves the sound to me but the sound of my voice to others is lower quality than using the ipad mic and speakers. When I use a lavalier mic with my ipad, I can't hear audio.

Best practice: MUTE YOUR MIC. With Zoom anyone can speak and the system will figure out who is speaking and show that person's face. So if you sneeze, Zoom will cut to your face in large screen showing you wiping...well, you know. Just mute the mic (you'll see the mute button in the corner of the Zoom screen) and unmute when you want to say something.

You do not have to use video. I hosted a meeting from my car with only my cell phone. Everybody else could see each other. I was audio only.

IF YOU ARE PRESENTING

TRY IT FIRST. Set things up and have a quick dry run with a friend. Make sure they can hear you, the angles look good etc.

Lighting is important. Make sure there is enough light and be aware that some types of light make you look like you just woke up under a rock.

Camera angle is important. If your camera is mounted low people will get a detailed view of the inside of your nostril. Experiment...do it right.

DON'T DO HANDHELD. It will be awful and you'll be dropped from most xmas card lists. Figure out some way to position your camera solidly so you have both hands free AND it doesn't bounce around making all your viewers seasick.

If you're doing anything other than simple talking heads and screen share, then take the time to set things up properly.

Make sure batteries are charged and camera lens clean. Check your data service. I learned the hard way that Zoom has a hard time if your data speed is throttled due to using up your quota.

There's a Zoom support page. There's a lot to look at there, but check it out if you want or if you get hung up. Here's the support page: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>

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