



Tucson Chapter (857) Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.

December

2019

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Happy holidays to everyone. I trust the holiday demand for your services is making the season financially bright for you. I also hope that holiday demand isn't taking away from your personal enjoyment of the season. There's the joyousness that people extol; but there can be a loneliness in the busyness. Find happiness in family and friends. But find happiness in yourself as well regardless of what the season brings this year.

I think 2019 has been good to our Tucson Chapter. Having the annual convention here is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. And the event didn't disappoint. And we've been able to reach out to technicians in the area. We've added some new people. My email list has grown.

The year 2020 will soon be upon us. I hope we'll continue to reach out, grow, and improve. No matter how long any of us have been working on pianos, there are things to learn, and there are new people who seek learning opportunities. Sharing knowledge willingly and openly is a central mission of PTG.

In the coming year I'd like to see all of our chapter RPTs give a presentation. I'd like to see all of our Members share their knowledge and experience. New technicians bring their own knowledge and experiences that may have applications to piano work. Welcoming new people gives us all a chance to explore new ideas, while we advocate for the highest quality standards.

FYI, this newsletter has a different look because my laptop crashed and I have lost recent files. I thought a simple, letter format might be something I should try as I rebuild and start anew. Even though the past year has had some rather spectacular turns and twists in my life, I'm happy to put 2019 behind me, and start 2020 with a new look.

Finally, if you have some idea, or comment, that you'd like to write about for the chapter newsletter, I'll include it, so that others can benefit.

Richard West, Secretary, Tucson Chapter, Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.

Phoenix Chapter News

2020 Arizona State Seminar—Saturday, January 11th.

Stillwell Pianos, 1941 W Guadalupe Rd #115, Mesa, AZ 85202

Instruction for the morning period will begin at **9AM**, with registration occurring before that. There will be a lunch break and then the afternoon instruction will finish around 5PM. We'll have more information on class topics and registration details soon.

October Meeting Notes

Tucson Chapter Meeting, October 9, 2019, Jack Phelps' shop

A summary in lieu of meeting minutes—

Last night's meeting was great fun, but a small group. Jack Phelps, Mike Erickson, Rick Woodruff, and myself attended, in Jack's modest but comfortable shop. We determined there was no quorum for business meeting purposes. Jack suggested we postpone his rather long presentation on Mason and Hamlin to a future meeting, so more people could benefit from it and watch the video, and we agreed that was a good idea. So the discussion forum was open to a wide range of topics. Mike shared some information from hard-won experience about vintage pianos with tapered tuning pins and how to tighten them by tapping them further into their conical holes. Jack was able to answer Mike's questions about the modified pedal trapwork in a piano that has the older larger PianoDisc solenoids, and converting it back to standard pedal structure sounds very complex and involved. I gave a brief overview of the PTG Board's long-range strategic plans and the Tucson convention. Rick Woodruff looked at Jack's white Wurlitzer grand rebuild project in the shop and gave us a brief overview of how to measure the downbearing on the strings, and how he adjusts it while rebuilding, changing amounts of downbearing as he moves from treble to midrange to the bass section.

He also talked about soundboards and how to measure the crown, and discussed how sometimes the strings pulling upward on the bridge pins are the only thing creating any crown, so removing the strings can sometimes result in a flat soundboard. He also shared some of his insights of designing downbearing amounts on the early Monserrat piano prototype, and talked about his experiences working with Daniel Ley on the initial Monserrat. Rick answered Jack's questions in great detail about how to adjust the dampers and spoons to coordinate with the sostenuto rod, since the sostenuto rod is not height-adjustable in that Wurlitzer. Tips, tricks, and cautionary tales about CA glue, its accelerant, and various applicator devices were shared to the insight and amusement of all.

Jack is recovering from carpal tunnel surgery on his left wrist, but fortunately he is right-handed. We all are united in our moral support of Bob Anderson and his wife at this difficult time, and miss him fondly. Actually we missed everyone else, too, but we hope to get together at another meeting sometime soon.

Sarah Hong-Soto

Email Updates

Since I'm rebuilding my computer files, I'd like you to check the email list below. Some addresses may be old, or incorrect. Send corrections to me at 440richard@gmail.com

If you know of anyone who might want to receive chapter information, let me know.

Tucson Chapter RPTs

Robert A. Anderson	randerson79@cox.net
Robert Conrad	bob@pianotuningtucson.com
Neal R. Flint	nflint@cox.net
Randy A. Prentice	prenticepiano@gmail.com
Kirby E. Tucker	ktucker1022@yahoo.com
Cassie Van Gelder	cvg@email.arizona.edu
Richard E. West	440richard@gmail.com
Tim Wilson	timwilson235@gmail.com
Isaac Wynn	arollapianoco@gmail.com

Tucson Chapter Members

Stephen Dexter	dextereno@gmail.com
Mike D. Erickson	merick1948@yahoo.com
Steven J. Fogleman	kf7yt@juno.com
Steven Fujan	sjfujan@gmail.com
Sarah Hong Soto	hong290457@gmail.com
Everett H. Lowman	
Jack Phelps	Keys.N.Tune@gmail.com

Non-members

Dee Evans	dvns20@gmail.com
Jason Lawson	jason@jplawsoninstruments.com
Daniel Ley	leypiano@yahoo.com
Richard Lowman	rip.lowman@gmail.com
Todd Martin	pianotodd@gmail.com
Brady Parker	TotalOctave@outlook.com

Victor Rosanovic
Monica Starkey
Jens Witter
Rich Woodruff

rosanovic6@gmail.com
starkey_m@hotmail.com
PianoDoctorUSA@gmail.com
rpwoodruff@email.arizona.edu

Phoenix Chapter

Jim Coleman, Sr.
Mark Purney
Michael Stillwell
Robert Springer

jimsr@pianotapes.com
mark@mesapiano.com
michael@stilwellpianos.com
sec@phoenixptg.org

Tucson Chapter Officers—Contact Information

President: Kirby E. Tucker, RPT
Phone: 520-954-0951
Email: ktucker1022@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Robert Anderson, RPT
Phone: 520-326-4048
Email: randerson79@cox.net

Vice President: Randy A. Prentice, RPT
Phone: 520-749-3788
Email: prenticepiano@gmail.com

Secretary: Richard West, RPT
Phone: 402-570-4409
Email: 440richard@gmail.com