

GOOD Vibrations

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE PIANO TECHNICIAN'S GUILD, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patricia Selemo, RPT

A customer and I were chatting in his driveway before I left his home last month. He appears to be in his late 60's and looks healthy probably helped by the fact he lives in an upside down house (kitchen on the top floor) and walks up and down stairs a lot.

He mentioned he worked out at the local cardiac rehab place and I said "You look good!" He threw up his arms in horror. "Don't say that! Don't you know the three phases of life?"

YOUTH -- MIDDLE AGE -- "YOU LOOK GOOD"

Attend to your work schedule with good humor.
Pat

April Technical Review: Doshie Powers, RPT

Bedding the keyframe is the fundamental start to regulation and voicing for a grand piano. A poorly bedded keyframe results in loss of power and projection. This will be a "hands-on" class designed to de-mystify the task. Everyone will get a chance to mess it up and bruise their hands....

Doshie Powers learned to tune pianos at the re-building shop of David McCord in Boston, 1977. She tuned pianos at Berklee College of Music as a work-study student until 1980. After Berklee, she worked in various shops around Boston while building her own business. In addition to the home, ship, tee-pee, stage, television, concert hall, and recording studio work, she has worked at MIT for 20 years for the Campus Activities Department and at Milton Academy's Music and Performing Arts Department. Doshie divides her time with road work and in-shop rebuilding. In 2000 she raised money to completely outfit a piano shop in Cuba. She then traveled to Havana, Cuba where she spent 3 months setting up the shop and assisting the Cuban technicians. Two years later, the Cubans officially opened the Newton Hunt School of Piano Technology and have since graduated 2 classes in Piano Technology and Woodwind repair/restoration; 12 students with heart and fortitude, Doshie is very proud of them.

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Technical Doshie Powers, RPT

April 20, 2006
7:00 pm

Meeting at
Avery Piano Co.
256 Weybosset St.
Providence, RI

Remember to join us for dinner
5:15 Trinity Brew House before
the meeting. Trinity Brew House
is at 186 Fountain Street on the
corner of Empire Street.

Tid Bits.....

“Ah, music. A magic beyond all we do here!”

— J. K. Rowling

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone,
1997

**Updating Your Membership information
- National Piano Technician’s Guild Website**

There have been a number of questions about updating the list of services that appear with your name in the member listings at ptg.org. If you filled out the survey that was done a year or two ago, we put that data in the online system. You can update this information yourself.

To update your list of services:

- Login to the member area with your member number and password
- Click or hover over “Administration” in the left navigation area with the black background.
- Choose List of Services
- It should show your name and give you a list of checkboxes for the services you offer.
- Click the boxes to check the ones you want to be listed and click again to clear any you don’t want to show up.
- The boxes at the bottom are for Home Office information and don’t show up on the web site.
- Click “Update my Record” and the changes will be recorded.
- You are then given a link to look at your listing.

Remember that the public area only lists RPTs, but the Associates are listed in the similar member directory in the members area. You get to that by clicking “Member Directory” in the left navigational bar.

Members list info: <http://ptg.org/mailman/listinfo/members>

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Free to R.I. Chapter members, certain National PTG officers, and reciprocally to other newsletter editors. Non-members may subscribe for \$8.00 per year.

“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.”

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2006 Annual PTG Convention - Have You Revisited Your Tuning Education?

Contributed by Jim Geiger, RPT (reprint from The A-Chord newsletter of Central Illinois Chapter)

Education is largely the process of finding out how much we do not know. My own knowledge is like one grain of sand in all the world's oceans of sand. My knowledge is finite: my ignorance infinite. At PTG conventions, all of our best and brightest technicians share their knowledge (sand), and pretty soon, if we attend and listen regularly, we each have two or three grains of sand. A nineteen-year-old piano technician once told me that he already knew all there was to know about pianos. In my book, he ranked at best a tenth of a grain. Do you want to be a tenth grain technician, or a two, three or four grain technician? Come to the 2006 Annual PTG Convention June 21-25th and get some sand!

Do we have tuning classes? Yes! We have tuning classes taught by some of the finest tuners in the country, as well as in the world:

1 First we have **"If I Had a Hammer"**—a basic class in hammer technique, the foundation of solid tuning. While this class is basic, (and I have been tuning for 50 years) I still would personally attend this class because it would be a bad day when I could not learn something from **Jack Stebbins**.

2 Then, we have **Ward Guthrie** teaching, **"Where Are Those Beats?"** This class covers beats, coincident partials, proofs, and temperaments.

3 **Kent Swafford** will teach, **"Turning an OK Tuning into a Great Tuning,"** a class which deals with refinement techniques necessary for the finest quality tunings.

4 **Kathy Smith** will teach **"Temperament Troubleshooting,"** how to efficiently refine the temperament without chasing one's tail around and around.

5 **Ed Foote** has a class on **"Selling the Other Temperaments,"** a presentation of the "other" temperament values, both musical and economic.

6 For something different and cutting edge, **Bill Bremmer** will perform a **Tuning Concert**, in which he demonstrates innovative temperament and octave tuning.

7 And yes, we have electronic tuning classes. **Dean Reyburn** will teach his class on **"Introduction to Advanced Reyburn Cyber Tuner,"** analyzing inharmonicity, creating smoother transitions, better tunings, and quick and accurate pitch raises.

8 **Dave Carpenter** and his **"Tuning With the Verituner"** will demonstrate how to perform pitch raises, fine-tuning, setting standard pitch, temperament, and much more!

9 **Robert Scott** will teach a class, **"Tuning With Tune Lab,"** measuring inharmonicity, adjusting the tuning curve, Auto Note Switching, Phase Display and Spectrum Display, saving files, non-standard pitches, calibration, historical temperaments, and more.

10 Finally, we will have **Dr. Al and Paul Sanderson** teaching **"Customized Tunings with Aural/Sat III Method."** Under discussion will be customizing tunings, Double-Octave Beat (DOB) control, compensating for gaps in the piano scale, and overcoming the Virgil Smith Effect. (This class is worth the time just to find out what that is!)

The more you know, the more you are capable of learning. You could go home with a whole pocket full of sand! **WWW.PTG.ORG/CONV/2006**

REVIEW OF THE MARCH TECHNICAL

By David Flanders, RPT

Despite the lackluster attendance at the March Meeting, the technical portion, though brief, was quite worthwhile. Wade showed us a recent tool purchase he had made, after balking at the cost for a good many years. We all agreed that it was well worth the price for the invaluable job that it can perform. David then demonstrated two tools that he had made one which had been seen before by some, that can prevent the accidental breaking of hammers; and one which is a great help prior to rebuilding an action. Barbara then demonstrated a couple of voicing tools that are actually common household items easily available. They are used as that final touch-up, and which may only last for the length of the recital. All in all, it was a valuable technical session, one that we should reproduce when attendance is greater. We all have something to share, it turns out, and the results can be surprising.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER, RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER, PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD, APRIL, 2006

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March Meeting Technical: Doshie Powers, RPT - Bedding the keyframe

April 20, 2006 at 7:00 pm

No NEECSO or Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention's this spring.

June 21- 25, 2006

PTG 49th ANNUAL CONVENTION AND INSTITUTE

Rochester, NY



Rhode Island Chapter

www.RI-PTG.org