

GOOD Vibrations

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

FEBRUARY 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patricia Selemon, RPT

Happy New Year!

I believe our group of 22 enjoys a surge of pride when one of our own members leads a discussion.

This Feb 15th we have our own Barbara Pease Renner as speaker. She's always seemed a wee bit mysterious to me as I would hear of her travels to Europe tuning for recording studios and artists. Many years ago I called her as I was tuning in a studio and wanted to know how often she tuned during a daily recording session. Every 20 minutes, she said!

As I write this message she is in London tuning for a great name at an important location.

So come to the February interactive meeting if you can and pick her brain. Hear her before she disappears again!

Pat

FEBRUARY MEETING

Barbara Pease Renner, RPT

"Fun" Tuning — a technical aimed at anyone who wants to hear her opinion about anything.

NOTE: She asked for everyone attending to bring their own tuning hammers, mutes and any tuning devices they might use to compare equipment.

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Business Mtg & Technical

February 15, 2007
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.

You're invited to join us for
The 50th Annual PTG Convention
June 20th -24th 2007

Hi!

I'm Malinda Powell, Institute Director for the 50th Annual PTG Convention and Technical Institute in Kansas City, June 20th - 24th, 2007.

Some of our "Special Classes" are: Making and Playing a Cristofori Copy: See, hear, and play a reproduction of the pianoforte Cristofori created in 1722. This class will be presented by Ted Good. The builders of this Cristofori copy will be co-teaching this class.

The Extraordinary Ear: Join Diane Hostetter for this class. Diane will also be conducting hearing tests and will be selling earplugs.

Piano Microphone Placement: A Sound Engineering Class by Keith and Aaron Kopp. This is an opportunity to learn about proper microphone usage in live piano sound reinforcement situations.

And... Our Supply houses will be back in the Exhibit Hall !!!

Tid Bits.....
"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.."
— Aesop (620 BC - 560 BC)
The Lion and the Mouse



Newsletter

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CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP THOUGHTS

By David Flanders, RPT

It's that time of year again, when our Nominations Committee is going through the biennial throes of trying to come up with a creative solution for Chapter Officer vacancies. Our Bylaws state that the President and Vice-President can only be re-elected once, before turning over the seat to another; *and* they state that only RPTs can hold these two offices. That's where the conundrum comes in.

If one were to look over the Chapter Member Roster, it would be quickly evident that all RPTs who even come to the meetings have held every office, and in many cases, more than once or even twice. Frankly, I believe that this game of musical chairs has gotten old, and that, if Our Chapter can't do better, maybe we'd better rethink just what it is we're trying to accomplish as a chapter.

2007 marks the 20th year since I became an RPT. Since then, *only 2* Associates have moved up to become an RPT. That's 2 in twenty years. Not good. Part of the problem is due to the national organization's taking some bad legal advice in 1986, and, as a result, gave Associate members many of the privileges previously enjoyed only by RPTs, effectively taking away much of the incentive to move up. The national roster looks much like ours, with regard to the ratio of Associates to RPTs. In this month's Journal alone, 31 new Associates were admitted, and just 3 new RPTs were recognized. For an organization that refers to itself as "an organization of Registered Piano Technicians," it is certainly on shaky ground.

That having been said, it's not just the fault or responsibility of PTG that its members are not rising to the designation of proven professional. Like it or not, in our trade, "RPT" is the only standard of performance that we have, individual accomplishments aside. I think that we, as a chapter and individually, have to figure out this problem. To date, we have offered an Associates' Day, bought additional action models on which to practice (with more on the way), and offered RPTs on a one-on-one basis to Associate members. I think that we need to keep this discussion open, if the chapter is to continue at all. Immediately, if no one wants to step up to the plate and take the Presidency, we *will* cease to exist. Think about it.


Tech Tip

By David Flanders, RPT

This is a tip that was published in these virtual pages a few years ago, and bears repeating. Now that winter seems to finally show signs of life, and heating systems are cranking up, all the wood in our homes is now beginning to shrink. I've found it well worth while, when tuning vertical pianos, to take 45 seconds and snug up the screws that hold the let-off rail in its brackets.

Naturally, this idea didn't just come to me without a story behind it. I had tuned a decent vertical for a voice teacher one day, and got a call from her the day after, a Saturday, saying that the piano just wouldn't play. I actually went over on a Sunday (unheard of for me), to find the let-off rail dislodged. I re-hung it, made a few adjustments to the let-off, and left without charging. She was quite upset, and to this day, I feel as though she thought that I had screwed up her piano on purpose, just to make another fee. Needless to say, she never had me back. Lesson learned. Now I add 45 seconds to my routine.

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Annual PTG Convention & Technical Institute

June 20 - 24, 2007 Kansas City

Come for the Learning! Stay for the fun!

www.ptg.org/conv/2007