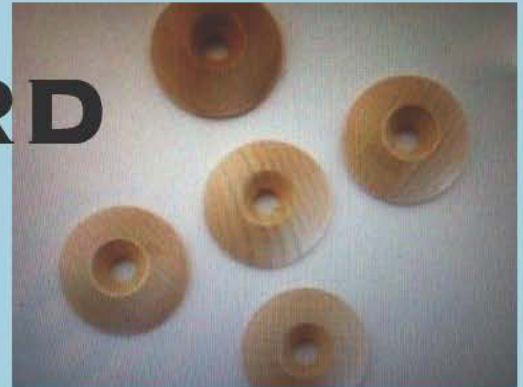


SOUNDBOARD BUTTONS

May 2017

Newsletter of the Twin Cities MN Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild



NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Monday May 15th, 2017

Schmitt Music Brooklyn Center, 2400 Freeway Blvd Brooklyn Center, MN

6:00 PM – Pizza taste-testing

7:00 PM - Technical Session

Business Meeting will follow Technical Session

7:00 PM Technical Session

How to Survive in this Business, and Prosper

Bruce Genck, RPT

The piano business has changed.....a lot, so how are you doing? Want to do better? This class will give you more information in one hour than you've seen in a long time. Bruce has years of helpful tips that will cover what you are doing wrong, and how you can change it. You'll see how Bruce organizes all of his tool cases, and why he has them that way. You'll see helpful tools to improve your work, and relieve stress. Plus, helpful suggestions will be shared on good communication, scheduling, pricing, and numerous technical ideas that are a must. This class has something for everyone, and is guaranteed to give you lots of practical applications that can be applied to your own business to help increase your income. Don't miss this opportunity to see a national caliber class offered right here in your area!

Bruce Genck has been a professional piano technician in the Twin Cities for 36 years. He has built up his business to include over 700 regular clients and offers a wide range of services. He designed, and developed the Genck tool case for the piano industry 35 years ago, which is still being sold by Schaff Piano Supply. As a popular national instructor, his classes have been some of the highest rated, and he has written technical articles for the Piano Technician's Journal. Bruce has two grown daughters, and resides with his wife in St. Louis Park.

Twin Cities Chapter, PTG

General Information

TCPTG monthly meetings: 7 PM

3rd Monday of January, February, March,
April, May, September, and November.





Paul Klitzke, RPT

Torger Baland recently found out he is a PTG Foundation Scholarship recipient. The convention and exam fees are waived. To qualify for the scholarship one needs to be an associate member who already has passed two of the three RPT exams, written, technical, and tuning. In Torger's case he now gets to take the tuning exam at this summer's national convention in St. Louis. The application deadline is April 1st and information about the scholarship and the application can be found in the member section of ptg.org. Good luck to Torger and we're all rooting for you!

A

Look Back

Jonathan Nye, RPT



TCC Examinations Part 3 (Final) TCC becomes a PTG Exam Center

The 1970's were exploratory on a national scale, as talk of having a standardized tuning test gradually became a reality. The final years of this decade culminated at the 1980 convention (see below). Whether the chapter was aware there were new standards for testing being discussed on a national scale isn't recorded, but this quote from the November 19, 1979 minutes hints of that:

"San Francisco Chapter's Poll Regarding New Standards for Testing." Discussion ensued about the way in which the San Francisco chapter was handling the questions in their poll. Straw vote was taken; zero votes that we change the tuning examination standards for our RTT classification, 17 votes that the stand-

ards remain at their present level. 4 abstention votes." The Twin Cities Chapter seemed not interested at the time, then....

In the June 1980 Minutes: "Our convention delegates Dennis Kurk and Dick Flegle surveyed those attending about a variety of issues which were to be heard by the council. They included a dues increase....and others. The majority of the time however, was spent discussing the new testing procedure."

At the July 1980 convention in Philadelphia, PA, the new Examinations and Test Standards were adopted on a national scale.

The Twin Cities Chapter responded quickly to this new change. September 1980 minutes—under new business "MSC by Phil Bach and Ed Fesler that our chapter become a test center. An informal discussion about the new testing procedure took place. Steve Nicholson offered his house as a test center." Again, in October 1980 under "Exam: Jonathan Nye reported that Ed Fesler had been in contact with Al Sanderson in an effort to fully understand the necessary steps in programming his computer to check test results for the new exam."

November 1980 minutes: "Marlyn (Desens) reported that we are currently in need of a permanent place to administer the new exam. Bill Sadler said that the U of M might be a place we could set it up." and in February 1981 "The Exam Committee reported that a piano at the U of M will be given a 'super tuning' soon and will be used for local tuning exams."

Rough spots were inevitable—March 1981 minutes: "Steve Nicholson reported that the national exam committee was having problems developing a program for the new exam. He sent to Dr. Sanderson for advice." And again, in the June 1981 minutes "Marlyn Desens indicated that the new testing procedure is receiving a mixed reception around the country. He said the test procedure requires quite a lot of paperwork."

Clearly, the National Exam Committee wasn't going back! September 1981 "Exam: There is now an exam manual available from the national office. Marlyn Desens and Steve Nicholson said they would get together and send the results of a program from Steve's

computer to see if it can get approval from national to be used in our local testing." Was there room for compromise? No.

October 1981 "The meeting was preceded by a technical session explaining the new national testing procedure. It was presented by Jonathan Nye and Mark Bunker with assistance from Marion Seller and Marlyn Desens."

At last, the rubber hit the road in the Twin Cities Chapter, and equipment was purchased. February 1982, "MSC that we purchase the new exam equipment: a Sight-O-Tuner, TI-59 programmable calculator, and PC-1000 printer at a total cost of about \$800."

Nothing could make this more official than when Dick Flegle, former Chapter President and the 'Master' of designing attractive tool cases offered in March 1982 "Our new testing equipment was presented to the chapter by Dick Flegle...(who) donated a case for carrying the equipment..."

Bylaws of the Twin Cities Chapter Article Six, dated October 1982:

Section B "Board of Examiners...will consist of all certified tuning examiners (CTE) in the chapter membership plus other RTT's who will assist. A minimum of one CTE along with two other RTT's will be present for every examination which will be conducted according to procedures set forth by the National Examinations and Test Standards Committee.

The Twin Cities Chapter would no longer have one person, as in the earliest days, or a group of 2-3 "Craftsman members" agreeing on a prospective tuner's abilities determine who is to be a Registered Tuner-Technician (RTT). Just like the advertisement jingle, "You've come a long way baby!"... the chapter did just that.

The Twin Cities Chapter moved quickly as several current RTT's stepped up to the plate, subjected themselves to the new "standard test," passed at the level required of Examiners, and learned the official testing procedure to become CTE's.

In September 1983, "Exam Committee Budget for 1984 was presented by Jonathan Nye, Chairman and stated that 4 exam dates will be scheduled in 1984 at the University of Minnesota. This included the possibility of

purchasing optional equipment such as the Sanderson Accu-Tuner which would make reading the exam go much more quickly and be more accurate as well. The cost of this instrument would be \$950." Things were going well with the new testing procedure!

November 1982 another RTT, Mark Humphrey, passed at the CTE level. At this time there were five CTE's: Marlyn Desens, Jonathan Nye, Mark Bunker, Marion Seller and now Mark Humphrey.

In April 1984, Paul Olsen passed the test necessary to become a CTE, and in May of 1984 it was announced that Bruce Genck joined the Exam Committee.

These RTT's were in a sense, the transition team from the beginnings of standardized tests to the even more refined tests we have today. This was over 30 years ago, but was an important part of the history of our Chapter relative to exams. The professionalism that has come from standardized tests was a long time in coming, but a necessary addition.

During these years, membership classifications were changed: RTT (Registered Tuner-Technician) became RPT (Registered Piano Technician), Apprentice and Student categories were dropped and the Associate category took their place.

Standardized tests continued to evolve and improve over time. New local CTE's have arisen to share in this important duty: Mitch Kiel, Brian Mahaffy, Paul Klitzke, Dennis Johnson, John Keane as well as many RPT's who helped with Exams and became Exam Chairs. Mary Kiel is our current Exam Chair.

Times will change and new standards will likely evolve and perhaps another "exam history" will cover these years of change. There is no doubt our chapter is indebted to the many Tuner-Technicians who have offered their time and talent to improve testing procedures. Our thanks to them all!

Twin Cities Chapter Officers

President: Paul Klitzke

Vice President: Mark Willink

Treasurer: Michal Sinak

Secretary: John Reitan

From Torger, found in an old piano bench:



Odds and Ends

Don Gilberg, RPT

A tip of the hat to Melinda Powell, RPT, who will be stepping down this summer after several years as Central West Regional Vice President (CWRVP). Some of our newer members may not be aware that Melinda has served well in many capacities over the years at the local, regional, and national levels. In addition to sitting on numerous committees she also has served as chapter president (1995-1997) and institute director at the 50th Annual PTG Convention held in Kansas City in 2007. Thanks, Melinda!

Nominating Committee Report

A reminder that our election of chapter officers will take place at the May chapter meeting. The nominating committee has put forth a slate of candidates as follows: Mark Willink, RPT, President; Ron Poire, RPT, Vice President; John Reitan, RPT, Secretary; Michal Sinak, Treasurer.

Other nominations may be made from the floor. Our thanks to all the current board members who have served so well this past year.

Next, Paul Olsen shares an interesting occurrence. Maybe some of us can identify with the article below.

Those Pleasing Sounds (Or Are They?)

Paul Olsen, RPT

Last week while tuning a Baldwin SD in a large church I noticed the rear double doors were open. I considered closing them but thought to myself that anyone bothered by my tuning would probably close the doors themselves. Upon finishing I brought the bill to the secretary and to my surprise, she told me the tuning was so pleasing that she fell asleep. This is not always the case, however.

A few years ago while tuning a piano, the customer told me that if I hear pounding coming from the apartment below, just ignore it. Sure enough, about ten minutes into the tuning I heard bang, bang, bang coming from under my feet. The tenants in the lower apartment disliked the piano sound so much they would pound the ceiling with a broom handle. This happened several times throughout the tuning with very little concern by my client. I was glad to finish and be on my way.

Sometimes a client must leave while their piano is being tuned. For several years I've tuned for a piano teacher, and just as I got started she left saying she would be back in about an hour. Approximately twenty minutes into the tuning I heard a knock at the door. Upon opening the door my first glance was on a gun that was in the holster of a police officer. He said he had a complaint of excessive noise coming from the home. I told him that the lady of the house had hired me to tune the piano and that's what I was doing. With a smile on his face he said "I can't stop you from tuning the piano" and left. For some a piano tuning is not pleasing but for me its music to my ears and money in my pocket. What more could you ask for?

TCPTG Minutes April 17th, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:20pm by President Paul Klitzke, RPT.

The March 2017 meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the April 2017 Soundboard Buttons newsletter.

Membership in attendance tonight: 8 RPTs and 4 Associates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Michal Sinak presented the 2017-2018 Budget—Income-\$3940 and Expenses-\$3225 with Net Income \$715. The budget was approved.

A Financial Review Board was set up with members Mark Willink, Hannah Rediske Sturm, and Dave Erb.

Programs: Torger Baland reported that Bruce Genck will present the May Technical on the subject—"How to Thrive in this Business." The meeting will be held at Schmitt Music Center in Brooklyn Center on May 15, 2017. Malinda suggested a 3 person committee to head Programs, rather than the current 1 person program chair. Torger agreed. No Associate Technical planned for May at this point.

Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for next year: Mark Willink, President; Ron Poire, Vice President; John Reitan, Secretary; Michal Sinak, Treasurer. At the next meeting these officers will be voted on after hearing nominations from the floor.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

President Klitzke reported that Ron Poire and John Keane have volunteered to serve as Delegates at the PTG Convention in July. No one else volunteered, so these two RPT's were approved to be Delegates.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm

Jonathan Nye, Recorder for John Reitan, Secretary

Soundboard Buttons Twin Cities MN Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.

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