



The Voicing Tool

February Chapter Meeting

The February 11 meeting will be at Wichita State University, Piano Shop, 7 pm (same place as before).

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

1. Call To Order
— welcome, introductions, & additions to the agenda

2. Minutes of the October, and November, and December meetings
3. Officers' Reports including Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association Piano Festival collaboration (This is the last planning meeting before we participate in the March 8, 7 Festival);
4. Unfinished Business including the Website proposal.
5. New Business
6. Tech Session: The Tech Session will be presented by Chuck Vetter, Associate Member, reporting on his recent trip to this year's winter [NAMM Show](#) in Anaheim, CA.
7. Networking

Chapter Officers

President

H. Joe Wisner, RPT

Vice-President

Alan Crane, RPT

Secretary

David Norman, Associate

Treasurer

Marty Hess, RPT

Newsletter Editor

Roy E. Howard, Ph.D.

2rhoward@att.net

316 634 1148

Wichita PTG chapter met January 14, 2010 at the home of Joe Wisner

Members in attendance:

Roy Howard
Larry Ray
Marty Hess
Kevin Gruetter
Alan Crane
Joe Wisner
David Norman

Meeting was called to order by President Joe Wisner at 7:15 pm.

Minutes for the October, November, and December meetings were read and accepted with corrections.

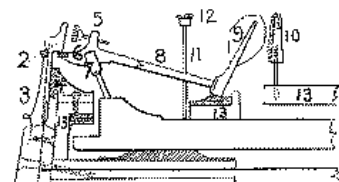
Alan Crane reported on Gene Somer's health condition.

sympathy card was signed by the members present for Ann Fell's father.

Marty Hess reported the treasury bank account has \$4519.87

New and old business:

- Music Festival "Back to the Future" displays, handouts, speeches, demonstrations and other possible activities were discussed.
- Ideas discussed:
- Video display of the PTG code of ethics



Action by Andreas and Nanette (Stein), Steiner Viennese escapement
1. Key
2. Jack
3. Jack opening spring
4. Cushion linking rebound of jack
5. Button and screw regulating escapement of hammer
6. Hammer butt and operating face 7. Hammer butt pivot
8. Hammer shank
9. Hammer head
10. Check
11. Damper lifter
12. Damper head
13. Action rails

Quote for Today: "If you have to ask, you'll never know." --Miles Davis' answer to the question, "What is Jazz?"

Quote for Tomorrow: "I always make sure that the lid over the keyboard is open before I start to play." -- Artur Schnabel, Australian pianist, asked the secret of piano playing.





- Why you should own a regular piano as opposed to electronic instruments.
- Cristofori piano presentation
- Care of the piano
- Presentation of a composition by Roy Howard and participants
- Brief tuning demonstration
- A membership list for possible contacts for future reference and tunings
- The Voicing Tool will be sent 10 days before the meeting. An email reminder of the meeting will be sent the day before.

•Kevin Gruetter gave a very informative presentation about a proposed chapter web site. Following the presentation the Wichita chapter approved investing the necessary funds to establish a web site. Kevin Gruetter and Alan Crane will spearhead the web site development. The chapter also discussed the cost, contents, and oversight for the future.

•Larry Ray is hosting a meeting at his shop on Wednesday nights to prepare for PTG exams with 5 in attendance so far. All chapter members are invited to come by and learn or teach. Call Larry Ray to find the meeting place.

•The February 11 meeting is in the WSU piano tech. shop:

Duerksen Fine Arts Center is the next building south of Koch Arena (corner of Hillside / 21st Street) on the WSU campus. The building is mostly red brick, large, and strangely shaped.

On the west side of the building is a Faculty parking lot (which becomes Open Parking at 6:45pm). At the south end of that Faculty lot, right next to the building, is a loading dock with a sidewalk running up one side of it.

At the back of the loading dock platform is a double entry door (marked "Dance Dept.").



BACK TO THE FUTURE

Celebrating the Piano!

*A Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association Festival
with the Piano Technicians Guild*

March 6-7, 2010
Wichita's Botanica

2010 Central West Regional Seminar March 18-21, 2010 University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Classes

Wapin Bridge System Installation—Tim Coates
The Ups and Downs of Vertical Regulation—Ann Fell
Basic Repairs—Ann Fell
"TouchRail"—Scott Jones
New Hammers on an Old Upright—Vince Mrykalo
1-2-3 Temperament—Eric Nikiforoff
Aural/ETD Tuning Strategies—Eric Nikiforoff
Touchweight—Trevor Nelson
Your Money or Your Life—Business Tips Dale Probst
Damper Love—Dale Probst
ConcertPrep/Voicing—Kevin Stock
Grand Regulation—Joe Swenson and Don Fortner
Restringing: My Place or Yours—Lucy Urlacher
"Tips"what works—Lucy Urlacher
Steinway Grand Service for Touch and Tone—Kent Webb
Composite Action Parts Installation—Wessel, Nickel & Gross

Mini Classes

Fujan Tuning Levers—Steve Fujan
PitchLock—Scott Jones
Bedding the Steinway Keyframe—Paul Williams
Regulating the Sostenuto—Bob Erlandson
Piano Math—Steve Lehr
Dampp-Chaser Installation Problems—Larry Caldwell

Seminar Coordinator: Richard West Email:
rwest1@unl.edu Phone: 402 477-7198

<http://ptg.org/cwrs2010/>





Go in that door and turn left through another door (don't go down any stairs) into a large storage-type room. Proceed straight across the large room to the far corner.

In that far corner, next to a fire-door leading into a small hallway, is the door to the shop (on the left).

"Alan Crane" is on the door, but it will be more easily recognized by the string of colored Christmas lights which are (still) hung around it and the body of an old string bass which leans up against the corner of the doorway.

If all else fails, either ask someone where the shop is, or call Alan's phone (978 - 6167) and he'll talk you in.

The address: "1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260" will generate a helpfully labeled Google Map with a good satellite photo view as well.

FESTIVAL

The Wichita Chapter PTG will join with the Wichita Metropolitan Music Teachers Association (WMMTA) for a spring festival: **"Back to the Future - Celebrating the Piano!"**. Dates: March 6 and 7, 2010 at Botanica. The "Back to the Future" Festival will put pianos and piano playing in historical context to help us all work toward a future WITH pianos.



PTG CONVENTION & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

June 26, 2010 to June 30, 2010

Bally's Resort & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

Contact: Sandy Roady

4444 Forest Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66106

Phone: 913-432-9975



Gene Somer Remembered

Gene Rodney Somer, RPT, of Winfield, died Jan. 26, 2010, at his home after a courageous battle with cancer. He tuned and repaired pianos for more than 30 years.

Gene was born Jan. 21, 1940, at West Point, Neb. He graduated from North High School in Omaha in 1958. He received a music education degree from the University of Nebraska in Omaha, and a master's of music education degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He taught elementary and high school band classes for 17 years in Curtis, Adams and Sterling, Neb. Playing his trumpet and piano simultaneously, he entertained many public groups as well as residents in nursing homes. He especially enjoyed having his son Chris accompany him on drums.

The past five years, Gene enjoyed playing the trombone with the Winfield Municipal Band and the Southwestern College orchestra, band and jazz groups.

The funeral was attended by 6 piano technicians including one from Nebraska. Chapter members also supported Ann Fell at the funeral of her father.

The effect of good music is not caused by novelty. On the contrary, it strikes us more the more we are familiar with it. Goethe



Gene was the driving force behind the Chapter's barbershop quartet



Men profess to be lovers of music, but for the most part they give no evidence in their opinions and lives that they have heard it.

~Henry David Thoreau



After the fire, clean the piano thoroughly inside and out!

Calendar

February 11, 2010

February [meeting](#) and tech session, 7 pm. at the WSU Piano shop.

Grand Action Rebuilding

Home Office Feb 4-6

www.ptg.org/conv/grandaction.pdf

March 4 - 7, 2010

[PNWC 2010](#) Hyatt Regency, Bellevue, WA
<http://pnwcptg.org/>

March 6-7, 2010

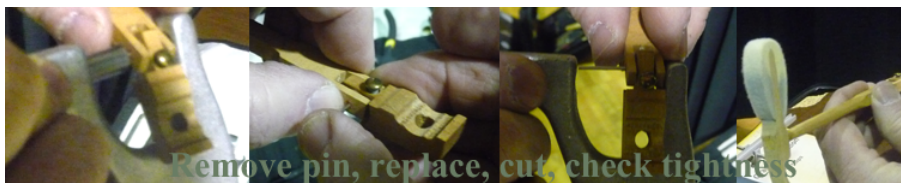
Back to the Future Festival at Botanica
Hosted by our [Chapter](#) and the [WMMTA](#). to promote the future of the piano.

March 18-21, 2010

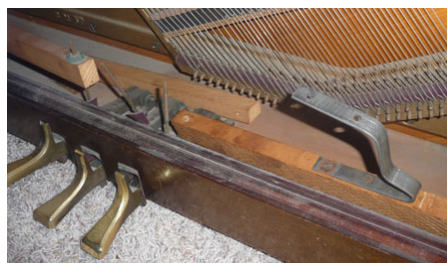
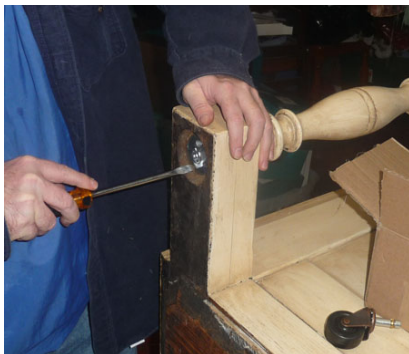
[Central West Regional](#), at the University of Nebraska

June 26-30, 2010

PTG Convention & Technical Institute, Bally's Restort, Las Vegas, NV
www.ptg.org/conv/2010



Piano Rebuilding Shop



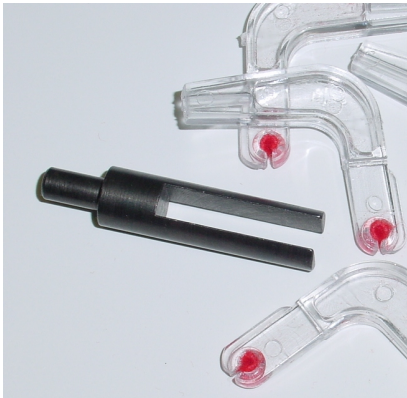
You need special tools and parts with you wherever you go.





ELBOW SPINNER

Save time & effort



This nifty little tool fits into any power drill for quick removal and installation of spinet elbows.

First secure the lifter wire with pliers or a vise. Then position the elbow spinners' slot onto the elbow. Spin!

#EL-100
Elbow Spinner \$8.95

MITUTOYO THICKNESS GAUGE



Selecting the correct thickness for action cloth and felt is a difficult task without the right tool. Measuring cloth and felt with standard rulers or micrometers can be very inaccurate and many times results in ordering the wrong size for your application.

The Mitutoyo Thickness Gauge is spring loaded and very sensitive. This is the perfect tool to measure cloth and felt to the nearest .001" and ensures that you order the correct size. The Mitutoyo

Thickness Gauge also works great for other applications such as thin paper punchings, and is especially effective for tuning pins, and much faster than using a micrometer.

FEATURES:

- Superb Mitutoyo construction.
- Large, easy to read dial.
- Range: Up to .400" in .001" graduations.
- One-hand operation.
- Measures 4-1/2" high x 3-3/4" wide.

#7300 Mitutoyo Thickness Gauge
\$122.00

HAMMER-LAC

Pianotek's Hammer Voicing Lacquer



Pianotek now offers a very special lacquer specifically for voicing hammers. Apply it to piano hammers in the traditional manner to increase hammer tone. This unique formulation builds slowly, allowing you to make up to 3 or 4 applications **without over-hardening** like conventional lacquers.

Hammer-Lac should be thinned with a high grade lacquer thinner for deep penetration. However, acetone is also an acceptable thinner. Acetone evaporates quicker, leaving more lacquer on the surface, which can increase clarity in soft playing.

On average, mix 4 parts lacquer thinner or acetone with 1 part Hammer-Lac. With newer hammers, you may want to

try a 3 to 1 ratio, and for dead hammers you can go as high as 1 to 1.

Apply Hammer-Lac to the hammer shoulders, or to the strike point for more aggressive results. Allow about 24 hours drying time to get an 80% cure. While the piano will be playable at this point, the full potential will be realized when the lacquer has completely cured in about 2 to 4 weeks.

#LAC-32 Hammer-Lac Quart \$24.95

SOUNDBOARD SERVICES

Installation DVD for Pre-Crowned & Ribbed Soundboards



Thinking about installing your first soundboard but don't know where to start? Our pre-crowned and ribbed grand soundboard DVD from Pianotek Andre Bolduc is the perfect place to begin. This 4 DVD set from Canada's master woodworkers, is nearly six hours long and covers every aspect of the installation process. The advantage of a pre-crowned and ribbed soundboard is that it allows the technician to install the board in a small shop environment without the need for special fixtures or equipment. The DVD is condensed from an actual two-day installation and covers all aspects of the process including teardown, bridge placement, all necessary tools (mostly clamps), final fit and installation. Every technician who studied the DVD and went on to order and install their first pre-crowned and ribbed soundboard from Pianotek reported back to us with their success. That's a great track record!

#DVD-B10 Pre-Crowned Grand Soundboard DVD . \$47.00 (and 3 others)

www.pianoteksupply.com

(This page is not an endorsement of any supplier, just a place for tech ideas)



The Future of the Piano

The Piano only has a future if people of all ages play the piano.



What can you do to keep this tradition alive?

Be a part of the future of the piano: participate in the "Back to the Future Festival", March 6, 7 at Botanica Gardens in Wichita.

<http://www.cantos.org/Piano/future>

[Is this the future of the piano?](#)

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Wichita, KS 67220

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