

Piano Technicians Guild
Detroit-Windsor
Chapter #481
Nov 2011

The Bridge



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Dave Foster
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Meeting Notice

Date: Monday, Nov 14th, 2011

Time:

<i>Applied Skills</i>	6:30pm
<i>Dinner</i>	7:00ish
<i>Business meeting</i>	7:15pm
<i>Main Technical</i>	8:00pm

Where: The Piano Place
1307 E. Maple Rd.
Troy, MI 48083

Applied Skills

Richard Bittner, RPT will demonstrate how to lighten the piano action without removing or adding any materials. He will also show how down weight and up weight works.

Main Technical

"New Research on Touch Weight Control"
by Frank Emerson of the Hailun Piano Company.

George F. Emerson, more commonly known as Frank, is a thirty-eight year RPT member of the Piano Technicians Guild. The first fifteen of those years were spent providing tuning and piano service to the public and as a full-time university technician, at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. The last twenty-three years have been dedicated to piano manufacturing, as an engineer and piano designer. His design work includes new models, from consoles to concert grands, for Baldwin, Wurlitzer, Chickering, Mason & Hamlin, and now Hailun. Emerson has been awarded the Friendship Medal from the Peoples Republic of China, their highest honor to foreign experts.

Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2011

Meeting was held at Steinway Piano Gallery in Commerce Township.
Called to order by President Hugh Gullledge at 7:30 p.m.

There were 8 RPT's and 6 Associates present.

Secretary Ron Harris called attention to the September minutes of some typo errors and that the total number of people present in September for the main technical by LaRoy Edwards was 19 RPT'S, 11 Associated and 4 visitors.

Richard Bittner moved and Bob Grijalva seconded to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Richard Bittner moved and Clem Fortune seconded to accept the treasurers report as in the October Bridge. Motion carried.

Report by President Hugh,

- *Working to find an exam piano.

- *Bill Edwards, vice president, is working on a cover letter for the Chapter, when needed to be used for communications, and Bill is working on a list of known piano tuners in the Detroit Windsor area. He is asking for assistance with finding the names of such tuners.

- *Encourage Associates to take the PTG exam.

- *The Chapter to set a day for Associate members to learn and improve their skills.

- *RPTs to help set up an exam piano.

Discussion was held on the use and distribution of String Covers for grand pianos.

Hugh asked for any other business or items any one wanted to bring to our attention.
None was mentioned.

Bob Grijalva moved and Clem Fortuna seconded to Adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER, 2011

Balance Brought Forward:			\$11,054.16
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Income:	None	\$0.00	
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	Total		\$0.00
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Expenses:	Yahoo	\$12.95	
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	Total		\$12.95
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Balance forwarded to September, 2011			\$11,041.21
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Special chapter notices

House for Sale from Previous Member of Piano Technicians Guild, Sigi Bossner

2 story Stone Cape Cod house in Sterling Heights, MI

- 1700 square foot
- built in 1950
- approximately 0.8 acres
- house sits 100 feet off road
- park-like setting
- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- spacious country kitchen with ample cupboards/closets
- large family room
- cozy den
- full basement, mostly finished
- property also has a finished shop (cinder block) with new roof and gas furnace (38' x 22')
- ample counter space/cupboards
- property also has cinder block storage 'out-building' with new roof and electricity (20' x 16')
- Asking Price: \$150K

If interested, please contact Frank Caradonna (Keller Williams Reality) @ 586-612-4627

Mark Haas is selling all of his moving equipment, including trailer. If you are interested, please call him at (313) 381-7799



President's Message

The Technician as an Educator

As technicians, we need not only to be skillful in our trade, but also to be good educators. Yes, we need to be constantly honing and improving our skills, but we also need to be giving attention to educating our customers and the musical community about the need of proper piano maintenance. Francis Adams, a long time member of our chapter, once said many years ago that the reason we do what we do is to enhance and enrich peoples' lives. What he said has really stuck with me. We do this, of course, by providing excellent service on their instruments, but also educating them about the importance of proper maintenance and about how their instruments could be improved to make their musical experience more enjoyable. People generally just do not understand much about their pianos. I feel that we have fallen short sometimes in giving them the information that they need. The PTG home office has a series of excellent Technical Bulletins on pitch raising, voicing, regulation, humidity control, finish care and rebuilding that are excellent tools in helping to fill in this gap. What about the piano teachers? We should look for opportunities to make technical information available to them. Why not give a presentation at a meeting of local piano teachers? Why not have a booth at a Michigan Music Teachers Association Convention? Many times I have had the experience of informing a customer about some technical matter relating to their piano and having them say, "No one ever told me about this before. They just tuned the piano and left. Thank you, thank you for telling me about this!" If we have not done something to educate our customers, we really have not finished the job. What kind of technician do you want to be?

PTG DETROIT-WINDSOR CH. 481
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