

The Tuner's Beat

Randy Rush, editor randyrush@earthlink.net

May, 2003

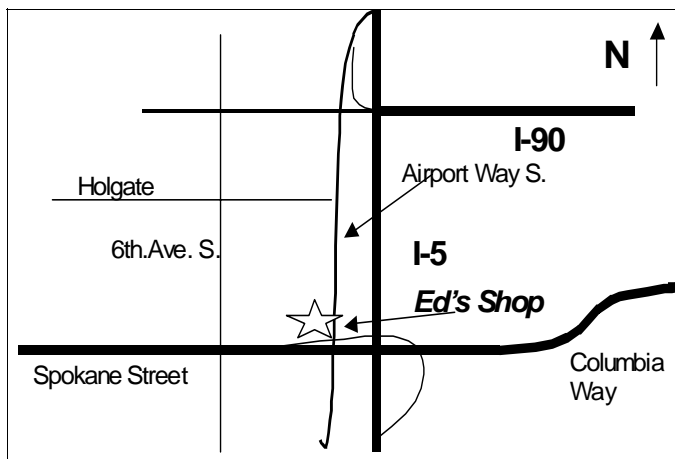
May Program

A Grand Overview of Piano Rebuilding - *Should Your Belly Have A Pedigree?*

Presented by Ed McMorrow

Randy Rush

The technical program for this month's chapter meeting will be presented by one of our long time local experts in piano rebuilding, Ed McMorrow. You won't find many in our area who know as much about piano engineering and the art of piano tone as Ed, and a trip to his shop reveals a room full of quality pianos that Ed has rebuilt for customers and for his resale business. As a matter of fact, you will get to see Ed's shop if you attend the June meeting; it will be held at the rebuilding shop at 3429 Airport Way S., land of Tully's coffee roasting.



Ed will focus on the belly portion of piano rebuilding, taking a good hard look at the techniques encompassed in soundboard replacement. Expect a thorough exploration of belly issues, including questions such as

"should you really buy a mail-order soundboard?"

To reach Ed's shop from the south, take the "West Seattle" exit from I-5, to Spokane street, continue west to

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NEXT MEETING:
Monday, May 19th
Board Meeting at 6:30 PM
General Meeting at 7:30PM
Ed McMorrow's Shop
3429 Airport Way S.
Seattle
Technical Program:
Ed McMorrow on Belly Rebuilding

Dates To Remember:

May 19th, 2003
Chapter Meeting
Ed McMorrow's Shop

June 16, 2003
Chapter Meeting
Location TBA

July, 2003
No Chapter Meeting
Location: Nowhere

July 3 - 6
PTG Annual Convention
Dallas, TX

Elections On Tap For June Meeting

Elections of officers and delegates to the annual convention will be held during the business portion of the June chapter meeting. Please plan to attend and exercise your right to vote for these fine folks. The

slate of candidates for office include:

Pres: Bob Dillinger
Vice Pres: Jeannie Grassi
Sec: Mike Ashburn
Treas: Bill Barber
Board: Scott Craven

New Member

We are pleased to announce new member John Osborn of Lynnwood, accepted by vote at last month's meeting. Welcome, John.

Board: Jason Kantor
Board: Roger Gable
Delegates: Roger Gable and alternate yet to be determined.



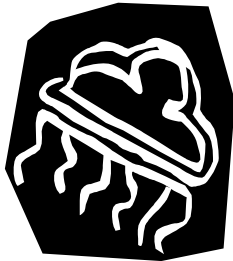
Seattle Chapter Minutes April 21, 2003

The Seattle Chapter of the PTG met at Classical Grands at 1900 4th Ave., downtown Seattle on 4/21/03. President Roger Gable opened the meeting at 7:35 pm. In attendance were 11 RPTs, 5 associates and 2 guests. A quorum was not achieved. The minutes from the February meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer:

Bill Barber reported \$3365.37 in the checking account, \$1,999.34 in the savings account, \$5,532.19 in the CD account.

Notes:



Chapter dues for 2003 deposited - \$2,274.00

Visitors:

Del and Barbara Fandrich
Todd Loomis
Judith Cohen

Announcements:

John Osborn has been voted on and accepted as an Associate Member of the Seattle Chapter. Welcome John.

The Pacific NW Conference was a success with over 130 members attending. Next year's conference will be sponsored by the Puget Sound Chapter in Tacoma.

Those who wish to receive their \$50.

reimbursement check from attending the Pacific NW Conference, please contact Bill Barber.

Dean Petrich is requesting articles for publication on the chapter web site. Please contact Dean.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

New board members are to be voted on next month.

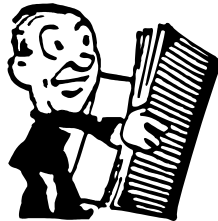
Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Ashburn

"The Piano Tuner", by Daniel Mason

A Book Review (Sort Of) by Randy Rush

If you ever let some book or movie that features a piano tuner slip by you, you can be sure your customers will keep you up to speed. That's why one of my long time client's insisted that I read "The Piano Tuner" by first time author Daniel Mason. "Okay", I thought, "I'm game for some piano tuner hero stuff." I dug right in, made it through the first chapter of turgid prose—and fell asleep. (Well, I do end up doing most of my reading at bedtime.) Eventually,



I knew I had to return the book, so I dug in, and believe me, I can summarize it for you in a few sentences: Piano tuner in 1886 London gets hired by the army to travel to a military outpost in Burma to work on an 1840 Erard that needs help. Piano tuner travels via the Red Sea, India, other "exotic" places, meets "interesting" people along the way (soldiers, bandits, storytellers). Piano tuner arrives at said Burmese outpost, meets eccentric doctor in charge of out-

post, blah, blah, blah; works on Erard (described in great enough detail that it must be very tedious to the non-piano tuning reader), falls in love with local woman, who turns out to be spoken for by the outpost commander (ooh, conflict!); turns out doctor/commander is a renegade setting up his own kingdom (didn't Conrad already do this with Kurtz in "Heart Of Darkness"?), and piano tuner gets accused of collusion (ooh, twist ending!). Who knew piano tuners lead such interesting lives?

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The Fine Print

The Tuner's Beat is the official newsletter for the Seattle chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild. It is published 10 to 12 times a year at a subscription rate of \$6 (free to members and exchanging newsletter editors). All articles may be reprinted if credit is given to the Tuner's Beat, as the Seattle chapter newsletter and to individual authors, when indicated. Please address all inquiries or articles to Randy Rush, 2627 NE 86th Street, Seattle, WA 98115 (randyrush@earthlink.net). The Seattle Chapter PTG usually meets on the third Monday of every month.

"All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this Chapter or the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild."

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Newsletter of the Seattle Chapter of
The Piano Technicians Guild

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We're on the web!
<http://users.iglide.net/dpetrich>

June Technical

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6th, right on 6th to Holgate, then right on Airport Way S. From the north, from I-5 follow the signs as if you were exiting to I-90, but stay in the right hand lane; follow the signs to the "Airport Way S." exit, and take Airport Way almost to Spokane Street (if you go under the viaduct, you've gone too far). Look for Elo's Philly Grill - the entrance to the shop is to the right of the grill. Enter through the front door, wind your way to the rear of the building and to the stairs which will take you to the second floor. See you there!

Tech Tip

(Continued from page 3)

states that if, while doing a tuning, you go to all the trouble to remove screws and case parts in order to pull the action and fix some problem you've discovered, then reinstall the action and put everything back together, you will discover another problem before you complete the tuning, which will require you to pull the action all over again. Never fails. Leave it all unsecured until you are completely done with the tuning.

Trust me on this one.

Classified Ads

Sanderson Accutuner For Sale - Good condition, serial #2470, \$600. Please contact Roz Annin at 425-454-3545.

Palm m505, color screen PDA, with accessories (keyboard, two cradles, several cases). Very good condition, works fine - \$175. Call Randy Rush at 206-525-7601, or send email to randyrush@earthlink.net.

Roger's Reasons

Reasons to attend chapter meetings # 3

If you didn't attend last month's meeting, you missed a rare opportunity to engage in a technical discussion about piano tone. The last meeting featured an impromptu discussion of the tone and touch differences exhibited in the various pianos at Classical Grand Pianos. What do we as technicians, as well as our customers, look for in a piano? What design features produce these unique features? How do we intelligently discuss tone and touch? Those members who receive most if not all of their technical information via print would have benefited from a meeting of this nature. There are times where it is necessary to connect the aural impression with the verbal description of the piano tone.

Roger Gable, president