



Agraffe

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October, 2007

Newsletter of the Phoenix Chapter, Piano Technicians Guild



Breaking News!!

Thanks to the help of Associate member Mark Purney, the Phoenix Chapter now has a group email list!

This list is similar to other "list-serve" lists you may be familiar with, such as the Pianotech or PTG-L lists on the national website. If you've never participated in a list-serve, here's how it works: you send an email to the list administrator expressing an interest in subscribing. Once you are subscribed to the list, you can send emails to, and receive them from, everyone else who subscribes. It's an easy one-click way to contact everyone at once, but you don't have to type out everybody's email address in the "to" box, or even in your address book.

The Phoenix Chapter list will be very handy for communication among our members. For example, if someone in the chapter is looking for a certain piano part, they can write a post asking if anyone has what they're looking for. If there are questions about a chapter event, how to fix a problem in a piano, or who to call for piano moving or other services, those questions can be posted on the list and all subscribers will be able to respond. It can also be a great forum for discussion of piano-related topics, similar to what you read in the "Q&A" column in the PTG Journal every month.

A concern of some who have subscribed to the national lists is that their inbox is inundated with email posts from the list-serve. This will not be a problem with the Phoenix Chapter list, because it will be a much smaller body of subscribers. Even if everyone on the list responds to someone's post, the email would number no more than 15 or 20, as opposed to the hundreds that are possible on the national

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lists. Subscribing to the list is simple:

1. Send an email to phoenix_ptg-subscribe@googlegroups.com
2. A confirmation email will be sent back to you automatically
3. Click on the link in the confirmation email to confirm your subscription

To post a message to the group, simply reply to any previous posts, or send an email to phoenix_ptg@googlegroups.com. We're hoping to get every chapter member on the list, so email today!

Next Meeting:

The Evolution of Temperament

Monday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.

Arizona Piano

4134 E. Wood St., Phoenix

(just north of Broadway between 40th St & 43rd Pl)

Jim Coleman, Sr. will demonstrate various historical tunings, from Pythagorean to Equal Temperament. We will hear pieces from each period, played on an instrument that's tuned the way it would have been in the composer's era. Entertainment and history in one sitting!

Coming Events:

November Meeting: Player pianos & organs, at Pete Knobloch's home.

Texas State Seminar: Crowne Plaza OKC, Oklahoma City, OK, Oct. 11-14. Contact Gary Bruce, 405-348-3213, or visit www.ptg.org/tsa.

Southeast Regional Conference: Crowne Plaza Airport, Atlanta, GA, Oct. 25-28. Contact Chuck Cook, 770-229-4298, or visit www.sercptg.com.

ARIZONA STATE SEMINAR: The Soul of the Craft: Inside the Intentional Technician. Classic Piano Restoration, 25214 S. 182nd Pl, Queen Creek, AZ, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008. Gary Telleen will again host our state seminar this year, which will feature instructor David Andersen of Malibu, California. Mark your calendar now!

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The *Agraffe Graffiti* is the official newsletter of the Phoenix Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild.

Chapter Officers:

President: Gary Telleen
Vice President: Eliot Lee
Secretary: Scott Helms
Treasurer: Wendell Smock

To volunteer to teach a technical session or to suggest possible topics or instructors, please contact Eliot Lee at 602-957-1711.

To submit newsletter articles, suggestions, corrections, or address changes, please contact Scott Helms at 480-818-3871, or send an email to: tuner@helmsmusic.net. Newsletter deadline is the 22nd of each month.

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Chapter website:

www.ptg.org/chapters.php?Chapter=851

Chapter Meeting - September 10, 2007



President Gary Telleen gives much-deserved kudos to chapter member Michael Spreeman, RPT. The front cover of the September Piano Technicians Journal featured a photo of the Ravenscroft piano, built by Michael, with a reflection of a Cristofori replica on the case. The photo was taken at the PTG Convention & Technical Institute in Kansas City in June. The piano has impressed technicians and professional musicians alike with its tone, touch, and responsiveness. Michael has also welcomed many technicians into his shop in Scottsdale to see the Ravenscroft piano in its "native habitat". Give him a call if you'd like to visit!

The chapter will soon be implementing a mentoring program. The goal is to have RPT's strike up a mentoring relationship with chapter members (either Associates or other RPT's) to focus on whatever areas of piano work are of interest. If you are interested in either mentoring or being mentored, please email Gary Telleen at gary@telleenpiano.com.

Around early Spring, the chapter will begin offering PACE program classes for Associates. This program is designed by the national PTG organization to help Associates prepare for their RPT exams. We will need several teachers to help with running the PACE classes, so if you are interested in helping out, please let Gary know. We

have several Associates in our chapter who are working to upgrade to RPT status, so we need to help them achieve this goal!

The technical session, "Voicing the Steinway



Hammer", was presented by Steinway of Phoenix technician Marc DeCotiis. Mark is shown above using a diagram representing a grand hammer to discuss lacquering and needling techniques. Steinway hammers are intended to be lacquered and voiced as a matter of course. Mark suggests using a 4:1 or 5:1 ratio of lacquer thinner to clear nitrocellulose lacquer for hammer work. He also discussed the similarity between a basketball and a hammer head. Upon impact, the shoulders should compress and then rebound. This is where power and sustain come from; noise and sizzle come from the strike point.



BUSINESS BUZZ

COLEMAN SUPERIOR VIDEO TAPES. Video tape and DVD tutorials on piano tuning are available for \$35 each. Randy Potter uses them in his course. Contact Jim Coleman Sr., 480-966-9159, or by email at jimsr@pianotapes.com.

WOOD FINISH REPAIR. Piano finish repair, including polyester finishes, is available locally from Dennis Denny, 480-580-0619, or from Jean Perault at 480-246-7951.

FINDERS FEE. Craftsman Piano Restoration offers a finder's fee for referrals leading to the sale of their fine quality Steinway and Mason and Hamlin pianos. Contact Michael Alosi at 602-482-8511.

FIND A PIANO TEACHER IN THE VALLEY. Ever have a customer ask you for a referral to a piano teacher? Send them to the Phoenix Music Teachers Association website. Visitors can search teachers in 8 different areas of the valley. The site also has a calendar of events for PMTA. <http://www.phoenixmusicteachers.org/findteacher.html>

PRIVATE TUNING TUTORING. Jim Coleman Sr. is privately tutoring at his home in Tempe. Advanced whole day tutoring is \$200/day. This is a terrific opportunity for you to learn from one of the best in the business, and he's a member of our chapter! Contact him at 480-966-9159, or by email at jimsr@pianotapes.com.

PTG National Website Resources

Business and Marketing

The PTG national website (www.ptg.org) is not only for technical information. Let's take a look at the business and marketing resources that are available.

1. Log in with your PTG username and password (your username is your PTG membership number found on your membership card and on your dues bill.)
2. Click the Resources (on the left-hand side of the screen).
3. Click the Business and Marketing link
4. You'll then need to click the link, "Go to the Business & Marketing area" and supply your username and password again, even though you've already logged in.

NOTE: Resources for RPT's require that you log in AGAIN, with your user Name and Password.

You've arrived! Scroll down the list of resources. You'll see a wealth of information that will help you build your piano business.