



**FEBRUARY 2012**

## Chapter Meeting - January 2012

The Phoenix Chapter Seminar took place at Az Piano on Jan. 28th, and the well-attended event included fellow technicians from as far away as Prescott, Flagstaff, Parker, and even Sioux City, Iowa. Early birds were greeted with an assortment of pastries and coffee, and Larry Messerly, our Regional VP had a table loaded with PTG offerings.



At 9AM, Nick Gravagne began by giving recognition to Peg Browne, who organized the event and supplied the food; also to Steve Gevirtz for providing tables and Richard Valencia for setting up the rooms. Then, with comedic flair, Nick introduced the presenter for the day, Kawai's own Mr. Don Mannino, RPT. The first session covered vertical piano regulation, of which a wealth of experience was shared, not only of tools and techniques, but also an overview of assessing the job and relating to the customer.

A handout was provided in conjunction with a slide show that listed the sequence of steps to follow.



### Looking Ahead

Feb. 6; Monthly meeting @ AZ Piano (tuning w/ Jim Sr.)

Feb. 22-25; WestPac II In Salt Lake City

March 5; Monthly meeting @ Pete Knobloch's (pneumatic players)

April 2; Monthly meeting @ AZ Piano (myptg w/ Larry M)



**President:**  
Peg Browne, RPT

**Vice President:**  
Lucas Hathcock, RPT

**Treasurer:**  
Wendell Smock

**Recording Secretary:**  
Lyle Cherry

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## Newsletter of the Phoenix Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

The next session delved into tuning stability, again with a slide show and accompanying handout explaining the factors that affect tuning, and Don gave some good demonstrations of how to identify and deal with several of the problems encountered while trying to make a piano settle in. He also had some good advice on methods of pitch raising and performing other refinements to enhance the efficiency of string movement and energy transfer.



After a very satisfying lunch, the subject matter of the last session was enough to ward off the tendency to doze as Mr. Mannino gave a riveting tutorial on voicing. This was a take on his ‘from rocks to cream puffs’ class given at many larger PTG events. There were detailed descriptions of how hammers are manufactured, including the processing of the wool, and

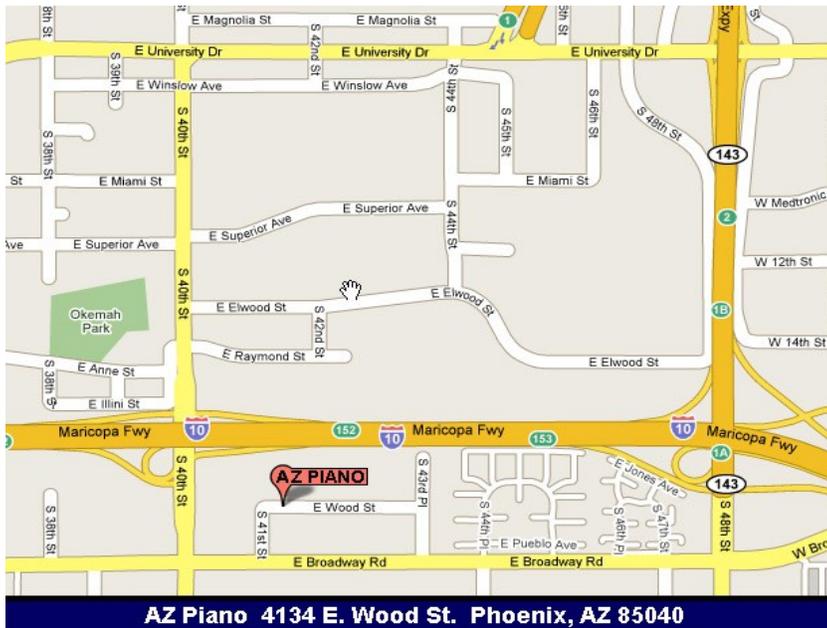
how the physical characteristics of tone production are affected by shaping, needling, juicing, etc. A Kawai grand had been prepped with several hammers of varying hardness, and Don worked some real magic as he demonstrated techniques to adjust for the desired sound. Thanks to Don Mannino for sharing some valuable knowledge-I think it’s safe to say on behalf of all who attended that this was definitely worth the price of admission, and all of us took something away with us (especially those who won the door prizes). Also, thanks again to our host, Jason Sipe for providing the space.



Our next meeting will be at AZ Piano on Monday, Feb. 6th at 7 PM. The technical will be given by Jim Coleman Sr. on the aural temperament method entitled “Both Ways From The Middle”. Get your ears on and come on down! Hope to see you there.

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Map to our next meeting  
Monday, Feb. 6th at **7:00 PM**  
AZ Piano 4134 E. Wood St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85040

From: Phoenix PTG  
c/o Lyle Cherry  
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Phoenix, AZ 85032

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