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Mid-winter hello! The setting for the next PTG meeting will be at Gerrero Organ Sales outlet on **February 5**, beginning at **6:15pm** with a "Cybertuner Hour." Randy Mangus will direct a seminar on the innovative tuning aid, Reyburn Cybertuner, which is comprised of four software components: Chameleon, CyberEar, Pianalyzer and CyberEQ. He will reveal the basic capabilities, the latest upgrades (such as customizing over-pull charts for pitch-raising), how to deal with foibles that sporadically occur, plus how to acquire the package if interested. Also, Randy will furnish updates via Compact Flash cards. Currently, there are as many as seven local members who use this application in their work.



Ron Gordon will lead the technical seminar at **7:15pm** in discussing the vital 'people skill' of customer relations. Discretion in educating the customer on what needs serviced besides tuning the piano is important. Some clients need explanations, while some trust your judgment based on an estimate cost. Listening to the customer's concerns and tactful communication is prudent and professional. The ability to deal with different people in a helpful and courteous manner is essential, including the occasional difficult client. Of course, building good customer relations will help generate repeat business.

During the previous Associates' session, Peter Stumpf demonstrated how he executes the 'Alpha and Omega' of the tuning task, which is setting the pitch and tweaking unisons. Peter normally uses an A-435 fork to set an A-440 pitch. Holding the fork in his teeth (although holding it on a hard wooden surface is fine), he adjusts the middle string of A4 by hearing 5 cycles / second sharper than the fork's pitch. To set the note an octave lower (A3), he uses F3-A3 and F3-A4 intervals to verify equal beat rates. Based on his experience, Peter prefers to use long felt mutes because they offer a better 'muteness' quality than the rubber counterparts - leaving the damped strings 'speechless'!

Unison tuning is a meticulous process. Use a hard blow on the keys with your other hand to ensure string stability from both ends of its speaking length. Among those who are piano technicians, there are slight variations to hammer technique to set the pin where it needs to stay. Certainly, your discriminating ear should provide as much 'impact' as your tuning lever in the pursuit of wave-less unisons!

Jonathan Langham made evident his pitch-raising methodology and demonstrated his routine for last meeting's technical presentation. The formula to determine how much to raise each string above the objective pitch is as follows: First, divide the number of cycles flat based on the worst set of notes and divide it by 3, then pull the pins by the dividend amount of cycles sharp. (i.e. 10 cycles flat = raising pins 3.3ish cycles sharp)



Using projection from his laptop, Jonathan revealed how he mutes all the outer strings. He uses a long wide red felt strip to mute out one side of tri-chords and bi-chords; then he applies a similar-sized green felt strip to do same on the other side. He gradually removes one felt strip, over-pulling the unstripped strings, and then follows suit with the other. Jonathan likes to employ various sizes of mutes, both the felt type and vintage rubber. Making use of a new Boston grand that needed a slight to moderate pitch-raise, he exhibited his skill of muting and lifting up the overall tone in an expeditious manner!

News regarding the Katrina project: Back on January 5, some PTG volunteers came to Gerrero's and worked on six donated pianos. These instruments, along with 6 to 8 other contributions will be ready to haul sometime in February. Pictured to the right is James Logue from Dubois making fine adjustments on a Gulf Coast bound vertical using an Accu-tuner. Another guy who attended to assist with the effort was the former chapter treasurer, Bill Sorenson.



Since this past fall, three men and a woman have displayed interest in piano technology by attending some chapter meetings. Recently, a few of these newcomers became PTG Pittsburgh chapter members: William Kearns, Jason Leininger and Larry Keeling. Last week, Penny Anderson sent her application in to join the guild. The chapter membership is up to 42 members. Based upon circumstances of a long-time member wanting to retire from PTG, Dennis Myers will be proposed as a Chapter Sustaining member at the next National PTG Council meeting in June.

About a week ago, Ken Jankura, a PTG colleague from the south central PA chapter (# 170) had surgery to remove a marble-sized brain tumor and is gradually recovering. In trying to find what caused the tumor, an abdominal scan fortunately discovered something else that needed an operation, his cancerous pancreas. Surgery on this organ is scheduled for Jan. 31. For more on his enduring condition, go to [www.thestatus.com](http://www.thestatus.com) - screen name: 'Jankura' and password: 'kenrpt1'.

As it pertains to Hershey Bar Kid award, a separate motion was passed to have the latest recipient of the award (currently Randy Mangus) decide on the next awardee for 2007-8; his choice will be announced at the June PTG meeting. By then, we also anticipate to have the commemorative award prepared to be given to the worthy individual. The four years (from 2002-3 to 2005-6) that were previously considered to be decided will not be included on the plaque.