



The President's Message

I was recently reading a book called "Ask the Ethicist". It's a collection taken from Randy Cohen's newspaper column, where people write in with questions about ethical dilemmas. One that caught my eye was about conflict of interest. The writer asked if it was ethical to refer a client to a particular business when one receives a commission for the referral. The author thought this was not ethical, though he acknowledged it is pretty standard in many types of business. There are a lot of cases of possible conflict of interest in the piano industry, such as the technician or music teacher who sends a client to a particular store or brand in exchange for a commission.

The most blatant example I have ever seen was when I was hired to evaluate an older piano at a used piano store. The store owner actually offered me a cut if I wrote a good report! Accepting that would be clearly unethical. But a more

subtle conflict of interest occurs every time we evaluate a piano. Is X amount of work on the piano a good value? Would the client be better off with a different piano? It's important to put the clients needs first. It's also a good idea to disclose your own bias. For example, whenever anyone asks me about digital pianos, I say, "Well, I'm biased, but..."

Your President

Clem Fortuna

MEETING NOTICE

Monday April 2, 2007

6:30- Dinner

7:00- Business Meeting

7:30- Technician's Roundtable

8:00-9:30 Main Technical

Main Technical:

Bob Grijalva

hosted at the

**University of Michigan
School of Music**

Directions (from the east):
Take M-14 west to US 23 south to the first exit (Plymouth Road)- turn right. Go past Nixon Road about 1 1/4 miles to Murfin(U of M North Campus). Turn left- go up and then partly down the hill, turning right at Duffield (a bit hard to see the sign-Bursley Hall fronts Duffield). Go to end and then turn left on Bates. Follow it into the parking lot. Room 2058 is upstairs, accessed off the drop-off circle you will have passed on the left.

Alternately: Because M-14 is under construction, there may be delays. You can take I-94 west instead, and then turn on US 23 North. Exit at Plymouth Road (Exit 41) and follow the directions above.

Phone: U of M Piano Technology,
(734) 764-6207

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Richard Bittner, RPT

**March 5 2007 Meeting Minutes**

PTG Business Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Jeremy Bielecki (Associate)

1. Jeff Mossington (Vice-President) filling in for Clem Fortuna (President) for this meeting
2. Meeting minutes from last month
 - a. published in Newsletter
 - b. accepted by general consent
 - c. Treasurer's report
 - d. reflection of banquet charge to go to next month
 - e. accepted by general consent
 - f. Attendance 11 RPT, 10 Associate 4 Guest
 - g. New business
 - h. Nominating committee for next year's officers determined; Paul Hornberger and Richard Bittner will comprise the nominating committee
 - i. Chapter Delegate for National Convention in Kansas City determined; Clark Sprague nominated; 1st motion to accept by Scott Nelson, 2nd motion to accept by Cal Champine; if someone would like to be an alternate, please let PTG know
 - j. Announcement for Mid-Atlantic Conference (www.ptgmarc.org), April 19-22 in Valley Forge

Future Technicals

- i. April meeting will be in Ann Arbor with Bob Grijalva
- ii. May meeting will be on May 14 (Monday) at Jim Reeder's shop in Lansing; 1st motion to accept by Paul Hornberger, 2nd motion to accept by Scott Nelson; general acceptance; don't know time yet, but probably during the day and we may have regular meeting at night (?); may rent a bus or simply carpool out to Lansing; 6-8 people currently interested.
- iii. No June meeting due to convention during that month
- e. New member applicant – Paul from Evola Music
- f. Richard Bittner made announcement for need for new CTE for Detroit Chapter Motion to adjourn; 1st motion to accept by Richard Bittner; 2nd motion to accept by Clark Sprague meeting adjourned.



Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward from March 2007:

7748.06

Income:

2 application fees

150.00

Balance before Expenses

7898.06

No expenses reported

Balance Forward

7898.06



Disclaimer:

"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."



The Piano Technicians Guild, the official organization of the Registered Piano Technician, is the world's premiere source of expertise in piano service and technology. Based in Kansas City, KS, the PTG has over 4100 members throughout the United States, Canada and around the world.

The mission of the Piano Technicians Guild is to promote the highest possible standards of piano service by providing members with opportunities for professional development, by recognizing technical competence through examinations and by advancing the interests of its members.

*The Piano Technicians Guild (PTG) is a trade association with membership open to anyone with a professional or avocational interest in piano technology. However, the title of **Registered Piano Technician** must be earned by passing a series of rigorous examinations. PTG members who have not passed the RPT examinations may avail themselves of PTG's extensive educational offerings in preparation for their taking the RPT exams, and may advertise their PTG memberships.*



**Special Notice:
PTG Phases Out Associate Logo**

All members of PTG may advertise their PTG membership.

RPT members may use both the PTG RPT logo and the RPT (round) emblem. See the Graphics Standards Manual.

Associate members are encouraged to advertise their PTG membership using the words "Associate Member, Piano Technicians Guild". (Bylaws Art. II, Sec. D, No. 2 specifies that the "Piano Technicians Guild" name must be accompanied by the words "Associate Member" in let-

ters no smaller than those used for "Piano Technicians Guild".)

By vote of the 2006 Council, the use of any "Associate logo" is to be phased out: *"After July 1, 2006, Associate members shall not print any new materials that include the PTG logo and shall cease to renew current advertising utilizing the logo. Associate members shall have until December 31, 2007 to use up and/or distribute any existing supplies of printed materials (business cards, letterhead, envelopes, invoices, etc.) that include the PTG logo. After December*

31, 2007, Associate members shall cease to use any remaining stock of printed material that includes the PTG logo."

The PTG logo with the appropriate category line may be used to promote chapter and regional events/ seminars.

See the Graphics Standards Manual for examples and more detailed information



Associate members are no longer allowed to use the PTG logo on future promotional material.