

# THE BRIDGE



## MEETING NOTICE

**Monday November 3, 2003**

**6:30 - 7:15 Applied Skills  
6:30 - 7:30 Board Meeting  
7:15 - 7:45 Food Served  
7:45 - 8:00 Business Mtg.  
8:00 - 9:30 Main Technical**

### **Applied Skills:**

**Scott Nelson, RPT**

### **Main Technical:**

**Ben McKlveen - Ben Wiant**

**Meeting will be hosted at  
Evola Music Warehouse by  
Ben and Jim Evola**

**Evola Music Warehouse  
45222 Woodward Ave.,  
Pontiac, MI  
phone: (248) 332-4055**

**Directions: On the  
East side of Woodward  
North of South Blvd.**

**CHAPTER PROJECT** will be on  
November 15, 10:00 am. It will be  
held at The Piano Place, 444 W  
Maple, Suite E, Troy. North side of  
Maple between Livernois and  
Crooks, next to Thunder Bird Lanes.  
This month's main focus will be on  
key bushing and hammer hanging.  
Soundboard and bridge repair will  
be covered in the near future. See  
you there!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### - GIVING THANKS -

**November is the month of Thanksgiving.**

**This time of year we will be giving thanks for the many opportunities life has given us. As piano technicians we have a lot to be thankful for. Our fellow technicians who have shared their knowledge with us so we can become better at our job. The customers who believe in us to do the best we can with their pianos. The finicky piano teacher who would like their piano to sound and play better than it is. We may not like to hear this but it makes us a better person when we succeed. The piano dealers who give us new customers so our business can grow and prosper.**

**The manufactures who will send out their technicians to educate us on their pianos. The supply companies who provide us with the necessary tools so we can work more efficiently. We have a great deal to be thankful for like our families, our health and being blessed that we have one of the most interesting jobs a person could have.**

**Being a piano technician has its rewards and we should give thanks for the opportunity to work in such a great business.**

**Your President,**

**Richard Bittner, RPT**

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## Detroit-Windsor Chapter Officers

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## Chapter Chairs

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### Technical and Written Exams

Richard Bittner, RPT



## Piano Technician's Guild, Detroit/Windsor Chapter 481

The Detroit-Windsor Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild met Monday October 6, 2003 at Hammell Music in Bloomfield Hills. In attendance were 13 RPTs, 11 Associates and 6 Guests for a total of 30 attendees, in addition to the speaker Ron Berry, RPT from the Indianapolis chapter. A quorum was established. The 6 guests were Jeff Mossington, Tony Profota, Arno Patin, Sam Wiersma, Don Erkfritz, and Matt Lavender.

The Minutes from the September meeting as printed in The Bridge were approved by general consent. The Treasurer's Report will be tabled until next meeting.

The update on upcoming programs was given by Jan Otto-Bittner and included the following:

- November 3 - Ben McKlveen from the Cincinnati chapter at Evola Warehouse (Pontiac) on troubleshooting.

- January 5 - Yat-Lam Hong from the Western Michigan chapter at Pianoworks (Ferndale), topic not yet known.

Social Committee (a.k.a. Fun Committee) presentation by Roberta Brown on the choice of dinner venues.

- Taiwan Buffet (as in last year) - wide variety of food, all-you-can-eat, very reasonable (drinks extra)

- Clawson Steak House - separate banquet room, choice of 3 menus, non-alcoholic drinks included, will be slightly more expensive than Taiwan Buffet.

Please indicate choices to Roberta very soon so she may make a reservation and arrange for a down payment.

The question came up about any difficulties in receiving the electronic version of the newsletter. This month's e-mailed edition arrived as a zipped file.

New Business: Next meeting, Rick Bowen and Ted McGuire will be bringing in the tools and supplies from the estate of Frank DiMeglio. The only request Mrs. DiMeglio made was that Associates be allowed to have first choice in the goods.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Bruce Carter, seconded by Dennis Penney. Motion passed.

The mini technical presentation was on painless pitch raises by Clem Fortuna, RPT.

The main technical was presented by Ron Berry and showcased numerous tools and tricks, as well as ideas on organizing a seemingly endless assortment of tools.

Food was provided by Hammell Music.

Respectfully submitted by

Z! Reinhardt, RPT and Secretary.

**MAIN TECHNICAL**  
**- Preserving the Woods of the World -**  
**Ben McKlveen, RPT & RPT & Ben Wiant, RPT**

**November's main technical will describe a system for appraising pianos with basis for comparison the big three: Steinway, Bosendorfer and Mason & Hamlin. Ben and Ben have recorded many examples of pianos which underwent rebuilds that failed to bring out their inherent suburb qualities. This technical will cover historical and conservation elements in our industry, as well as discussing the isolation and diagnosis of piano problems. This technical is for anyone who wishes to expand their general knowledge of pianos and aspects to be aware of when evaluating them.**

*Ben McKlveen began his tuning career in 1948 at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. In 1952 after the retirement of his teacher, he was hired to teach tuning at CCM. He joined the old ASPT in 1953 and is a charter member of P.T.G. He has taught many classes at local, regional and national levels and is an alumnus of the original National Institute Committee, where during his tenure he directed five national institutes.*

*Ben Wiant studied basic technology with Ben McKlveen. Over the years Wiant taught McKlveen many refinements concerning tone production and voicing evaluation. Wiant is the artist tuner for piano performance in Columbus, Ohio and the summer technician for the Grant Teton Music Festival.*

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**APPLIED SKILLS**

The secret of a good regulation is a good foundation. Scott Nelson will demonstrate the method of bedding the key frame. Scott has a quick and simple way of doing this procedure. A must see for everyone!

Larry Young, Editor  
4379 Walden Dr.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105



**November 2003**

*November meeting will be at Evola Music Warehouse in Pontiac, MI !*

**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."*

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visit our website at:  
<http://ptg-ch481.org/>

***P***lease note:

- at the November meeting the following non-members to be voted on for membership: Matt Lavender, Jeff Mossington.
- there will be no Chapter meeting or Chapter project in December 2003.
- correction in the September Newsletter: Robert Hundley should have been mentioned that he also received his 40 year pin.

***I***mportant Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:

- November 1: Dues invoices mailed, check your personal information carefully, note any/all changes and corrections. This is the information that will appear in the Membership Directory issued by the Home Office.
- December 31:- Bylaws proposals.
- December 31: Award nominations.
- January 31: Dues will be delinquent if not paid by this day. Delinquent members can expect phone calls from the Chapter President.
- February 1: PTG officer nominations due.