

THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD ANNUAL CONVENTION AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OF 2018



The PTG Convention is the world's largest gathering of piano technicians...The people who come to this event know this is the place to come to challenge yourself with long days of learning from the best technicians in the business.

-Paul Brown, RPT
PTG President

In the USA, there exists an organization known as the Piano Technicians Guild. It is an organization of 3,600 like-minded people that strive to provide the best possible piano service available. Though it is mostly a US based organization, it does have international members from other places around the globe. I am a certified (I passed a written exam, a tuning exam, and a regulation/repair exam to obtain the classification of Registered Piano Technician) member of this guild of piano technicians and I recently attended this year's week long 61st annual convention and technical institute in Lancaster, PA along with 600 other members.

At the convention I attended four days of classes from 8:00am to 5:00pm focusing on a collection of topics related to pianos including regulation, tuning, voicing, rebuilding, ergonomics, and business practices. Some classes, taught by university technicians, world class rebuilders and concert technicians, were interactive and some were more geared toward presenting information. I attended a three hour long class about how to appropriately

regulate and service a Mason & Hamlin grand piano taught by the head technician from the factory, just to give an example.



What I learned that I believe will be most beneficial to my clients is a complete overview of how to regulate and voice an upright piano to be of as high quality as a well prepared grand piano. This three hour class presented and explained everything I needed to know about how to make the touch of an upright piano responsive and easy to play, but also how to make it sing. I had understood the end goal before and could make my way through a good regulation, but after attending this lecture, I have a new confidence about what needs to be done to make a clunky upright into a refined instrument.

Not only did I attend classes, but this year I decided to be the delegate for my local group (referred to in the guild as “chapters”) of piano technicians and to represent them in a meeting between the board of directors and the council of representatives. As a member of council, I participated in discussions pertaining to the direction of the organization and cast my vote to elect new or returning board and committee members. It was an exhilarating process as this year we re-examined major changes made to the organization implemented at last year’s convention.

I certainly learned a lot that will benefit my business and more importantly, you, my client. I plan to attend the convention next year to continue to learn for the betterment of my service of your piano.

The Piano Technicians Guild is the world’s premier source of piano service expertise. It promotes the highest possible standards of piano service by providing opportunities for professional development, by recognizing technical competence through examinations and by advancing the interests of its members.

\$5 OFF YOUR NEXT TUNING

For every person you refer me to that I complete work for, I will give you a \$5 credit toward your next tuning as my thanks. This only applies to private piano owners and not to institutions (Churches, Schools, Piano dealerships, etc.).

