



"Home of the Emil Fries Piano Hospital and Training Center"

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B#

Never Bb

Always B#

PIANO WIRE

SPRING 2009

You're Invited ! Founder's Day Celebration

February 11, 2009



Emil B. Fries 1901-1997

Please join as we celebrate

Emil Fries' birthday & our 60th Anniversary (1949-2009)

School Tours from 10 am to 3pm

Musical Entertainment 4:00-6:00pm

Cake and Refreshments

6:15 – Dedication of Wall of Fame

There is no charge for this event.

It is a party to celebrate our founder and our mission

It's an opportunity to thank our students, staff, alumni and friends.

We hope you can join us at the Piano Hospital

2510 E. Evergreen Blvd, (360) 693-1511

Email: info@pianotuningschool.org Website: www.pianotuningschool.org

Why I'm A Piano Tuner—Ken Serviss



Ken Serviss

Returning from a tuning today, I listed some of the advantages this single tuning brought to mind. First and foremost, I used skills and techniques I learned 60 years ago. Remarkably, those tuning skills are just as avant-garde today as they were in 1949. I was fortunate to receive training from a great teacher who taught his pupils the need to do the best work they could. This morning's client is one I have worked with for 29 years, which is not that unusual. Many pianos are valued as members of their family, making our skills very much appreciated. Everything I produce is a work of art every bit as important as the artist's ability to express his/her artistic ability. My client this morning said, "I hope you never quit tuning." It made me feel needed. Since she's about the same age as I am, it will be interesting to see who the winner is.

Another challenge is the piano itself. While it has not changed in basic makeup in the last 100 years, there is so much scientific and musical mystery. I could spend a lifetime in research and barely touch the surface. Piano related research is as intense today as in any period in the past. I'm also proud of making a decent living and supporting a family. Since leaving school, I've never been unemployed. I've worked in small towns and large cities. My clients include recording studios, schools, churches and many wonderful individuals.

Yes, this is a profession I recommend to any qualified person. It's worth a try and I guarantee at times it will be the hardest thing you've ever done. You'll also meet some great individuals in the process and open doors to new experiences never dreamed of.

A Message from the President of the Board of Trustees



Kim J. Capeloto

What a year it has been! While the majority of us are certainly happy to see this year end, it is important to recognize that there were definitely some success stories from 2008. I am happy to say the School of Piano Technology for the Blind is one of those success stories. The goals put in place for last year included continued profitability, an enrollment increase of legally blind students and continued outreach to funding sources. The team of the School's employees have focused an incredible amount of effort this past year to ensure we met these goals. They deserve a huge "congratulations" and have made us all very proud.

Regarding the financial status of the School, we once again exceeded the annual budgeted income numbers. This is not an easy task and we foresee a more challenging environment as the current economic crisis unfolds. The focus on fundraising will be the top priority for the upcoming year.

Enrollment increased to eight full time students and there is a waiting list of potential students. We are looking at ways to increase enrollment, however due to the complexity of the teaching methods employed, it is currently not feasible. We must ensure the high level of education for which the School has always been known.

Grants will be critical to our continue success. The Management team and the Board of Trustees are working hard to ensure adequate funding for the School to continue to thrive, but we can't do it alone. As you plan your charitable giving or estate planning, please keep us in mind. The students, employees and Board truly appreciate the support this community has shown us over the years and we look forward to many more years together!

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Wilson Charles

I am honored to share some of my experiences with you as a student of the School of Piano Technology for the Blind. During the summer of 2007, I was studying political science at a university back East. One day I thought about the challenge of supporting myself as a Political Science major without an advanced degree. I had heard about a school of piano technology, so I began research on the internet. That is how I found the School of Piano Technology for the Blind. I contacted the School and was fascinated by the information I received. I called the School to schedule a career exploration and evaluation workshop. After the workshop, I was accepted.

In February 2008, I started studying Piano Technology. I must say that I am proud to be a student of the School of Piano Technology for the Blind. The people working here have a positive attitude and a very good sense of humor. We have such a good time and mutually respect each other. This laughter creates a great atmosphere. Happiness is like medicine for the body and soul. When I graduate in January 2010, my knowledge will be that of a Piano Technician who will be able to tune and make repairs to pianos. In addition, I will have gained business knowledge so that I may open a successful business of my own someday.

It is important to note that the School tries hard to do an incredible job. Even with the hard work the School still needs your support. Your support shows people like me that you care about our success. The more you help the School, the more you help society, economically and socially. Your support increases the School's capacity to take on more blind students. Again I would like to thank you for your generosity.

A Small Gift Can Make A Big Difference!



The media is full of news about the financial crisis facing our country. Corporations with successful track records have gone out of business. We are happy to report the financial situation at the School of Piano Technology for the Blind has not reached those dire straits. We are, however, feeling the impact of the financial crisis in the sale of reconditioned pianos and in the volume of piano tunings and service work.

We take pride in the fact that our school is able to earn almost 50% of its annual budget by tuning, repairing and selling pianos. Since we are a private, non-profit school; we are not on any state or federal budgets. We must be self sufficient and fiscally solvent. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have produced positive financial reports for the past three years. This year, the winter weather and the tough economy have combined to put a real strain on our budget. For that reason, we are asking for anyone who can to help by sending a contribution in any amount to support our mission to train Blind & visually impaired people.

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Executive Director's Report



LEN LEGER

In our 60th year, the spirit of Emil Fries permeates the School of Piano Technology for the Blind. We know Emil would be pleased with the commitment of the school's staff, alumni and Board of Trustees to focus only on providing highly individualized training to blind and visually impaired people in the field of piano technology. We continue to be the only school of its kind in the world. Emil would be proud of the 100% placement rate for our last three graduating classes – he was committed to helping graduates find opportunities to earn a good living. I, also, believe Emil would be pleased with our recruiting efforts which have led to a full enrollment of eight students. Finally, I know Emil would share our appreciation of all the community support our school receives from opportunities to tune, repair and sell pianos to donations from caring and generous people and companies who have helped us continue our life-changing mission since 1949.

Thank you so much!

Save The Date

April 24 at 7pm

Folk Music at the Fries

Tom May

Host of "River City Folk" – a nationally
Syndicated weekly radio program
-Singer/Song writer
-Story teller, humorist



Three Together

Doug Smith, Grammy winning
Guitarist & vocals
Judy Koch-Smith, Flute & Vocals
Don Mitchell, Guitarist, Vocals, & Humor



Advance sale tickets available now
Advance Price: \$15.00
Regular Price: \$20.00

A concert to benefit the

School of Piano Technology for the Blind

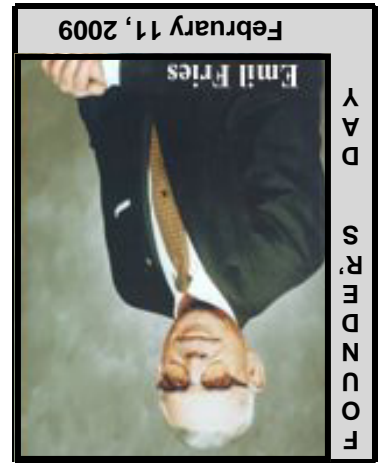
*****Corporate Sponsorship is Available*****

Alumni Spotlight—Loren Buntmeyer

After graduating from the Piano Hospital in 1965, I acquired a job at Jenkins Music Co. in Kansas City, MO. This was an excellent starting position as I had the responsibility of stock tuning all pianos for their 11 music stores. In 1967, I accepted a position at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind teaching piano technology to high school students. A year later, I returned to Kansas City to work for Wurlitzer Piano Company. While working for Wurlitzer, I expanded my profession by tuning and servicing private clientele, schools, churches and other organizations. When Wurlitzer closed in Kansas City, I accepted a position doing contract tuning work at the University of Kansas. This was the busiest time of my career. In 1983, my university position became full-time. I tuned, repaired and rebuilt pianos for many artists and musicians. This position required the ultimate tuning and adjustments possible. In 2003, I retired from the University of Kansas and now care for my private clientele work on a part time basis.

Since June 2008, I have served as the alumni representative on the School's Board of Trustees. I am honored to accept this position. Due to the excellent education I received from the school in 1965, I have been financially able to provide my family with a good standard of living. Now that I am semi-retired, I want to help the school continue with Emil's goal of providing blind persons with a profession of independence and opportunity.

Celebrating our 60th anniversary (1949-2009)



You're Invited

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"Home of the Emil Fries Piano Hospital & Training Center"

THE SCHOOL OF PIANO TECHNOLOGY FOR THE BLIND



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