12 Piano Tuning Myths

By Mark Cerisano, RPT
http://www.howtotunepianos.com

Learning to tune pianos is difficult. Part of the reason is because of the false information out there.

When I was learning to tune pianos, it wasn't until I realized that some of the things told to me by other well meaning technicians, and even written in books, were *wrong*, that I could really start learning.

Maybe you've been told that some of these myths are true. If not yet, that's very good.

Get the right information from the start. Visit http://www.howtotunepianos.com. I teach people how to tune pianos aurally using the Go APE Aural Piano Tuning System which is based on science, research, and esthetics.

Watch: http://howtotunepianos.com/go-ape-intro-video-and-pre-order-optin/

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"Mark Cerisano is a Registered Piano Technician with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Diploma in Education. He has been teaching piano tuning and repair since 2005 and in that time, has been frustrated by the conventional aural piano tuning methods and has finally completed the ***Go APE Aural Piano Tuning System*** *which is a collection of all the methods and techniques he has devised from research and practice since starting to teach aural piano tuning - methods and techniques that make the student more Accurate, Precise, and Efficient."*

Here are the 12 Piano Tuning Myths:

PIANO TUNING MYTH #1
"P4 beat at 1bps wide and P5 beat at 3 beats per 5 seconds narrow."
They don't. All intervals increase in speed chromatically by 6%.

PIANO TUNING MYTH #2
"It takes time to learn to hear small differences in beat speeds"
It doesn't. All people are born able to hear down to 3%. Take my free ear training course and test your beat speed difference sensitivity. http://howtotunepianos.com/ear-training-for-piano-tuners-beta/

PIANO TUNING MYTH #3
"You must NOT bend the pin"
All tuners bend the pin because the hammer is above the pin. Know how and when to bend to get good stability and make fine pitch adjustments. Only the Go APE Method teaches this technique.

PIANO TUNING MYTH #4
"You must always use the same hammer technique on each tuning pin. This produces the best stability"
It doesn't. Each string has a different non-speaking length (NSL). This produces a different result.

PIANO TUNING MYTH #5
"You must always put your hammer at 12:00 for best stability"
No. 12:00 can produce bad stability on some strings. Knowing when and how to use 3:00 and 9:00 can get better stability and make it easier to tune.

PIANO TUNING MYTH #6
"You must play the key really hard to equalize string tensions across all the bearing points for the best stability"
Besides being hard on ears, joints, and piano, it is not needed. The "Bend Test", which I teach, is soft and confirms a stable tuning without the force and damage of the test blow.

PIANO TUNING MYTH #7
"The best size octave in the temperament is the pure 4:2" or "The best size octave is the wide 4:2/narrow 6:3"
Different pianos sound better with different size octaves. I teach how to measure inharmonicity aurally to get the best size octave for each specific piano.

PIANO TUNING MYTH #8
"Check notes are nice but they don't produce the best sounding octaves/larger intervals like P12, P19, P22, etc). You need to listen directly to the sound of these intervals to get the best size."
No. Check notes produce way better precision, and if you use the right criteria, better accuracy.

PIANO TUNING MYTH #9
"Using a slow pull technique produces poor stability"
No. If you know how and when to use it, it produces better, and *faster* stability!

PIANO TUNING MYTH #10
"For best stability, you must always go sharp and then ease the pin back down"
Not always. Easing down loosens the string. If the pin doesn't spring back (which it won't on long NSL) it will go flat on the first hard blow. Know how and when to use the "go sharp, ease down" technique.

PIANO TUNING MYTH #11
"The best stability occurs when all the string segments have equalized tensions."
No. Better stability needs a higher tension in the NSL. During hard playing the string needs the extra tension to keep it from going flat. Know how to get the NSL tension higher with the Go APE method.

PIANO TUNING MYTH #12
"Electronic Tuning Devices (ETDs) produce a better tuning than the ear does."
Not only is this wrong, but it is an insult to the centuries old tradition of aural piano tuning. Besides not being able to produce a stable tuning, technicians agree that the ear is still needed to produce singing unisons and even good octaves on some pianos. Go APE teaches you how.

Watch the introduction video on what the Go APE method is, here:
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