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**ADVANCED PIANO TUNING COURSE**

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**CLASSES:**

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**COURSES...3**  
**INTRODUCTION...4**  
**CLASS OUTLINE...5**

# COURSES



## LEARN TO TUNE and REPAIR PIANOS!

### MR.TUNER'S SCHOOL OF PIANO TECHNOLOGY

Since 2005, Mr. Tuner's School of Piano Technology has given courses on piano tuning and repair to over 80 students. Our students range from piano owners who want to learn to tune their own piano, to working piano technicians who want to improve their own tuning and repair skills.

The main instructor for the courses is Mark Cerisano who has been a Registered Piano Technician since 2005. He is also a Mechanical Engineer and has been a certified teacher in Ontario and Quebec. All the courses have been designed by him and resources have been created and selected by Mark to make learning the material as easy as possible.

#### Courses (10 weeks)

\$600.00 Class Instruction

\$1,200 Private Instruction

Course includes 20 hours of class time

If you are interested in dates, times and or other inquiries, please contact us:

[mrtuner.com/courses.htm](http://mrtuner.com/courses.htm)

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514-771-8666

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#### **Introduction to Piano Tuning**

Basic techniques and practice to allow one to tune a piano to a minimum level.

#### **Advanced Piano Tuning**

Advanced theory to allow one to improve their tuning skill to a more professional level.

#### **Piano Repair**

Basic repairs needed to service most pianos in most circumstances

#### **Piano Rebuilding**

Techniques needed to completely rebuild a piano. Includes assessing a piano for rebuilding, installing new hammers, dampers, strings, keytops. Repairing ivory keytops, bridges, soundboards. Striping and refinishing. Regulation. Action repair.

# INTRODUCTION

## Advanced Piano Tuning

This course is designed to prepare you to take the Registered Piano Technicians (RPT) tuning exam offered by the Piano Technicians Guild. (PTG).

*While the focus of the course is on skills and skill level deemed necessary to pass the exam, and the methods used focus on aspects of the exam learned by the instructor, knowledge of the actual exam is not public and therefore we cannot guarantee that we will cover all aspects of the exam. We will however strive to improve your tuning to the RPT level and beyond, if possible.*

Techniques employed will be self evaluation using a mock exam spreadsheet and piano tuning software, and peer collaboration. Students are required to bring a laptop with a working microphone and battery or extension cord. We will be using Tunelab 97 and a spreadsheet developed by Mr. Tuner Piano Service specifically for self evaluation using an Electronic Tuning Device. Software will be provided.

Areas of concentration will be:

- Quick and accurate tuning of the temperament.
- Consistent octave sizes.
- Achieving accurate stability quickly without excessive test blows.
- Speed.
- Elements that may be on the RPT exam, etc.

We will spend most of the time tuning and self-evaluating using the exam spreadsheet and analyzing each other's technique and collaborating on how to improve.

It is hoped that all students will be at a sufficient level to be able to contribute to the class occasionally.

Students who are PTG members and have passed the written exam may be eligible to take the RPT official tuning exam at the end of the course. It will depend on your ability and the availability of PTG members capable of testing technicians.

# CLASS OUTLINE



**Advanced Piano Tuning**  
**10 Classes – 2 hours each**

## **Class 1**

**Introduction of students. Collection of school fees. Installation of software and spreadsheet if needed. Tour of facilities. General questions.**

**Temperament Tuning. The instructor will demonstrate their own technique for tuning the temperament while pausing often for questions and suggestions from the students and also to quiz the students on their own techniques. In this way the instructor hopes to get a general idea of the skill level of each student which will help the instructor pace the rest of the classes.**

## **Class 2**

**The instructor will guide students on the general procedure for the exam by having them tune a piano using the exam procedure and then the instructor will mark them using the Exam spreadsheet and Tunelab. This will create a base mark that the students will try to improve upon during the week.**

## **Class 3**

**Continuation of initial testing from last class, if needed.**

**Overview of Tunelab.**

**Calibration of Tunelab on student's computer.**

**Calibration of student's A440 reference.**

**Creating a stretch file in Tunelab.**

**Demonstration of Exam Spreadsheet and how to use it to test one's self.**

**Students will begin tuning a piano using the exam procedure and evaluate themselves using the exam spreadsheet.**

## **Class 4**

**Continuation of tuning and self-evaluation on each of the exam area concentrations. The instructor will circulate and help students with any questions.**

## **Class 5**

**Stability. What elements of a particular piano's design make it more difficult to achieve good stability. How pianos respond to different tuning hammer techniques. What elements of the piano's design make it more difficult to achieve good stability. How to achieve a stable tuning without using an excessive number of test blows. How to achieve tuning stability quickly.**

**Students will then retune for stability re-evaluate their stability using any new techniques they may have learned.**

## **Class 6**

**Tuning consistent octaves using the pure 12<sup>th</sup> and the Phasing technique.**

**Bass octaves - what size is best?**

**Re-tuning and re-evaluating octave tuning**

## **Class 7**

**Continuation of octave self-evaluation, if needed.**

**Unison techniques. How to test aurally. How to get a good unison.**

**Re-tuning and re-evaluation of unisons**

## **Class 8**

**Re-tuning and re-testing of entire piano as per exam procedure.**

## **Class 9**

**Testing continued**

## **Class 10**

**Master tuning of a piano by instructor and students. Students will take turns "in the chair".**