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Dear Gabrielle:

Because I started my education in piano technology through a correspondence course, I felt that it might be beneficial for prospective students to know of my career in the field of piano tuning and rebuilding.

When I first started my study, I was employed full time in industry. I realized it would take a while to become a Registered Technician since my study time was limited to nights and weekends. I was very motivated to progress as rapidly as possible, however, so I joined the Piano Technicians Guild and, through its members, gained a lot of general knowledge and made valuable contacts. I attended every meeting that I could because I realized that any "technical tip" that I received was mine for my career.

I began to pick up floor tunings at some of the piano stores and performed minor repairs as my knowledge progressed. Some of these old pianos were less than desirable to work on, however, repairing them provided great "trouble shooting" experience. I became a Registered Technician and, as soon as I felt confident of my technical skills and had begun to build a reputation with some good clients, I established my own business as a full-time tuner technician.

After a career of 40 years, I can honestly say that I never "hated" Monday morning. I looked forward to my work. I served as President of the Denver Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild for many years, I tuned for the Central City Opera in Colorado for approximately 20 years and I was the piano technician for the University of Northern Colorado, College of Visual and Performing Arts School of Music in Greeley, Colorado for 14 years. In addition, I had my own tuning and rebuilding/repairing business.

Personally, I hated to leave my business and long-time customers when I retired. In my opinion, piano tuning is an excellent career choice.

Sincerely,

Willard M. Leverett

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PIANO

by WILLARD M. LEVERETT

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