



Letters to the Editor concerning all aspects of the theatre organ hobby are encouraged. Send them to the editor concerned. Unless it's stated clearly on the letter "not for publication," the editors feel free to reproduce it, in whole or part.

*Address: P.O. Box 1314
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Dear Editor,

I want to comment on the statement by Lloyd Klos, my friend, in your April 1973 issue, Volume 15, No. 2, on page 22, at the top of column 3. He says that a "64' Ophicleide Gravissimo" has been added to the huge West Point Cadet Chapel organ — mostly Moller — as a further enlargement of its resources.

As I frequently play this magnificent "monster" and have seen its well-maintained pipework, I know that no such octave of pipes exists in it. In talking to the organist, John Davis, and the two men who so conscientiously nurse its forests of spotted metal and teakwood, I am told that there is no space available for such an octave of long bass pipes.

Their published specification makes provision for a unit of stopped Bourdons at 64', 42 2/3' (the deepest Quint), 32', 21 1/3', 16', 10 2/3', 8', and 4'. These pipes are all in and in use except the lowest octave from the notes called CCCCC up to BBBBB. There is no room for the pipes of the 64' octave (the profound low CCCCC would make only 8.17 cycles or vibrations per second).

Now where are the real full-length 64' pipes that don't turn out upon inspection to be the usual "Resultants" or "Vox Gravissimas?" There are two of them in the whole world. One is a real reed of brass and is the Contra Trombone 64' in Town Hall, Sydney, Australia. It was finished in 1896 and has wood tubes of great thickness, about four feet square in

the low CCCCC. It is said by persons who have heard it to sound like "tuned thunder."

The one in this country is in Convention Hall, Atlantic City, New Jersey. I have often looked down its deep crevasses and Bill Rosser, its maintainer, has shouted at me, "Don't fall in any of those pipes, or we'll never get you out!" I once played "The Star Spangled Banner" on this 455-rank organ with every stop and coupler on. The ass't. mgr. came running and the 200 workmen getting ready for the next ice show dropped their tools and no doubt any rats around promptly headed back for the nearby sea. The lowest CCCCC pipe is actually 67 feet long, and not just 64. It has a beater, and not a brass reed. It speaks promptly and the whole rank of 85 pipes is on 35 inches of wind pressure.

Stevens Irwin
St. Petersburg, Florida

To the Editor:

I think the following letter that was written to me and the Motor City Chapter would be of interest to the readers of THEATRE ORGAN.

David Lau

Dear Mr. Lau:

I would like to thank you and all the other members of the Motor City Theatre Organ Society for all that you did to make George Lamphere's program on October 8th such a success. I think it was so wonderful that all the people attending the Organ Conference here at the University had a chance to hear and enjoy the organ. Your Society deserves all credit due for what is certainly an excellent rebuild of a fine theatre organ. As one dedicated to the preservation of all pipe organs, I was most impressed with the job that has been done at the Michigan Theatre.

As Dean of the Student Chapter, I would like to offer our services to you in publicizing and selling tickets to any of your future concerts. I am sure that there are many interested students in our department who would appreciate knowing about your concerts so that they might plan to attend. Also, I hope that it might be possible for our chapter to come and have a crawl through the organ so that we can find out just what makes a theatre organ work. I think all organists should know how the organ plays, and not

just how to play it.

In short, I hope that there can be more cooperation between the A.G.O. and the Theatre Organ Society as there was on October 8th. I know all involved put a tremendous effort into the program which was an outstanding success. The organ sounded great, and, according to George, everything worked beautifully. I just wish I could say that about the organs here at U-M. If we can ever help you out in any way, please feel free to let us know.

Again, many thanks for a job well done.

Sincerely yours,
Bill Herndon, Dean
American Guild of Organists
University of Michigan
Student Chapter
Organ Department — School of Music
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105.

Dear Captain Young,

Thank you very much for inducting me into the ATOS Hall of Fame.

What a pleasant surprise! I am deeply touched by the honor you conferred on me, and it is most gratifying to learn that I was elected by unanimous vote.

Thank you again, and I am delighted that this honor was awarded me, while I am still alive and kicking.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,
C.A.J. Parmentier

LONELY HEARTS DEPARTMENT

Dear Mr. Thompson,

Received my first copy of THEATRE ORGAN a couple of weeks ago since becoming a member of ATOS, and have nothing but praise for such a great journal! I borrowed many past issues from a friend, and think it's terrific that such comradery exists between the members... Let's hope that more members will contribute to this fine magazine, and spreading the gospel about theatre organs.

Here I am, sitting at the typewriter, wondering how many young gals are interested in theatre organs? I am a bachelor, and consider myself very eligible. So, if this gets published in a future THEATRE ORGAN magazine, I hope that some eligible (girl(s)) will respond!

Sincerely yours,
David Burke