

The organ, a 2/10 Wurlitzer, Style 215, Opus 1558, was mounted on an elevator. Joy Brown and Gunnar Anderson were the original organists.

After a successful career in Hollywood as recording organist for Universal Motion Picture Studios and resident organist for the Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, Gunnar Anderson returned to the northwest and is again organist for the Mt. Baker Theatre. From time to time he gives special Sunday afternoon concerts and has been featured on the same organ for the Puget Sound Chapter. He maintains an 80-foot music studio containing two organs and two grand pianos. He excels in both classical and popular music so his programs contain much versatility and diversified styling.

Anderson is heard weekly over KPUG radio station with his organ music emanating from the Mt. Baker Theatre. In former years, he was staff organist for KVI in Tacoma, Washington, and broadcasted daily on a large Robert Morton organ in the Music Box Theatre. He began playing in theatres at the age of 14 and later became a scholarship student at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

The Mt. Baker Theatre is probably the only theatre on the Pacific coast which is using live organ music dur-

ing intermissions between movie features.

After all these years, this organ is still in use due to the efforts of organ technicians Dick Warburton, Buck Strickland and Jeffrey Fox. □

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE

by Lance Johnson

1. I would like to know the difference, if any, in scale and tonality between the Wurlitzer 16' Tuba Profunda and the Wurlitzer 16' Ophicleide and their extensions, the Harmonic Tuba and the Tuba Horn.

Ans. The smaller Wurlitzers used the Tuba Horn which was medium to small scaled and softer than

most tubas. The Ophicleide which was the pedal 16' extension was only slightly louder than a 16' Diaphone. It was voiced quite smooth, mellow and soft. The style 185 (7 rk.) and the style 200 used the Tuba Horn as the only chorus reed instead of the style D Trumpet. We then skip all the way up to the twenty-rank Publix No. 1 where the Tuba Horn is larger scaled and on 15 inches of wind. It is now quite a bit louder and placed in the main chamber. The Harmonic Tuba was a slightly louder rank than the ten inch Tuba Horn on small organs but was even duller in voicing due to the fact that more pipes were harmonic (double length). They were found on larger two-manual organs from ten ranks up to 13 ranks and on small three-manual organs. Tuba scales varied on various sizes of organs.

2. Is there any difference between the Wurlitzer 16' Bass and the Wurlitzer 16' Diaphone? Between the Wurlitzer Diaphonic Diapason, the Open Diapason and Horn Diapason?

Ans. The 16' Bass stop was actually another name for the 16' Diaphone. The Diaphonic Diapason meant that the upper lips on the flues were leathered and the 12 or 18 bass notes were beater generated pipes. The Open Diapason may or may not have leather upper lips and would not have a beater generated bass extension. The Horn Diapason was slightly smaller scaled and brighter.

3. I have been using 2-mil perflex for several years instead of leather on my toy counter and it doesn't hold up as well as leather. Should I try 3-mil? What is your opinion of perflex?

Ans. Perflex was never meant to be used on high pressure systems. It stretches a great deal and will loosen on blow pneumatics. Try either the heaviest grade pouch leather or poly-lon.

4. I recently examined a Wicks-Morton organ in a Denver church. I know that Wicks built organs

Gunnar Anderson at the Mt. Baker console. He played this organ on opening night in 1927 and is again playing the same organ in the same location in 1977.



for Morton. When was this and what were the similarities or differences? The organ looks like a Wicks console, but has Morton relays in it. The chests look like Wicks on top, but there appears to be a Morton style electro-pneumatic action on the bottom.

Ans. I don't know the exact dates that Wicks built Morton organs. If the organ you examined has any electro-pneumatic gear, then Morton made it. If there is any direct-electric action, then this was produced by Wicks. Morton built their own electro-pneumatic system and they were not interchangeable with other systems because Morton made their own magnets, too. The organ in question was likely built by Wicks with Morton supplying those magnets.

5. **What is the best way to strip the insulation from double cotton covered organ wire such as Wur-litzer without nicking the wire and causing it to break at a later date?**

Ans. I use a small needle nose pliers. Just grab the wire and pull gently with only a slight amount of squeezing. It will take practice but the cotton should break loose at the nibs and slide off without nicking the wire. Use the type of pliers that have no teeth.

6. **Can you tell me where to get a schematic wiring diagram for the preset pistons and combination action for a 2/8 Robert-Morton? The cables are wrapped in friction tape and I hesitate to disturb them. The four white pistons, when pushed, cancel, then when released, put down whatever stops are preset in the drawers. The red cancel button is not connected to anything. I'd like to connect the red cancel button.**

Ans. You have raised a very complicated question. In order to find out where the wiring is all going, I would suggest building yourself a simple bell ringer for testing continuity. You will need a small 6 volt ac transformer, a door bell and some #22 bell wire. Connect the primary side of the transformer to a 110 v. source and connect the secondary to the door-bell. To switch the bell, use two

Do you have any questions?

Send them direct to:

QUIZ MASTER
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long lengths of the #22 wire and place an alligator clip on both ends. When the two wires touch, the bell should ring. All parts can be obtained from electrical stores and if you have a question on wiring it together just ask the clerk.

It would seem from your questions that the piston buttons may have defective contacts. One contact should be connected in common with the other buttons in order to start the "feed" circuit. The other contact should go to the primary magnet on the piston relay assembly. I'm afraid you're out of luck with that red cancel button. Robert-Morton had this annoying habit of providing red cancel buttons and forgetting to provide a relay for it. You will need to purchase some all electric relays with enough contacts to handle all your stops.

7. **The tone bars and attached resonators of a 49-note Chrysoglott (Deagan) have been stored in an attic where it gets about 100 degrees in the summer. I just discovered that every tubular resonator has a long longitudinal crack. This does not buzz and doesn't appear to effect the tone quality in any way. Could this be expansion due to heat or would it be some other cause? The handbooks on physics show the expansion coefficients if brass and steel (tuning plug) to be almost the same.**

Ans. I can't see the heat having any effect on those resonators. Tubular chimes have been known to crack from aging or being dropped. It sounds like a very hard brass was used and they simply cracked from old age.

8. **Can you tell me where to get a pair of large plates with male and female connectors for large cables to handle roughly 700 to 750 wires?**

Ans. Contact Graybar Electric Company, Inc. 1022 West 8th St. Cincinnati, Ohio 45214. (513) 621-0600. Ask for their catalog on Amphenol Telephone Products Catalog ATD-1.

9. **I have an old Kimball church organ built around 1885 in which the 16' Gedeckt speaks very slowly. Increasing the wind overblows the pipes. There seems to be no consistency in wind gap dimensions leading me to think that some of the blocks have swollen or shrunk altering the wind way. What do you suggest?**

Ans. Your problem suggests massive warpage. Chances are the church got very dry in the winter and humid in the summer. Wood joinery and glueing techniques were a far cry in those days compared to what is built by the organ industry today. The joinery techniques that were used were mainly the European style of pipe making since many of these firms imported pipe makers. You might try asking Durst at Erie, PA, if they will take the pipes and re-voice them. They would do this on a time and material basis of course. Also, check your pipes for loose stoppers, cracked bodies, leaking mouth caps, etc. □

