



Story and photos by Pat Bradley

Another grand old Wurlitzer theatre organ has been rescued from the horrors of storage and put to use at the new Bella Roma Restaurant in Concord, California. The 3/13 Wurlitzer 235 Special was originally installed in Keith's Theatre in Cincinnati, Ohio, in January of 1928, where it served with dignity until the theatre closed in the early 1960's.

The organ sat collecting dust until Mr. Jim Webster and Mr. Webb Bond happened by the theatre to reminisce and spotted the dust and soot covered organ still standing there, they purchased it for a very small amount. The organ was then moved to a private home where it was put into storage until purchased

in July 1975 by the Bella Roma's owner, Frank Ciaramitaro, who saw an ad for the organ in THEATRE ORGAN Magazine.

Frank asked David Reese and Ken Simmons, organists at the Bella Roma I in Martinez, California, to fly to Cincinnati to look at the organ. After the inspection, David and Ken stayed to supervise the readying of the organ and all its components for the long trip to California.

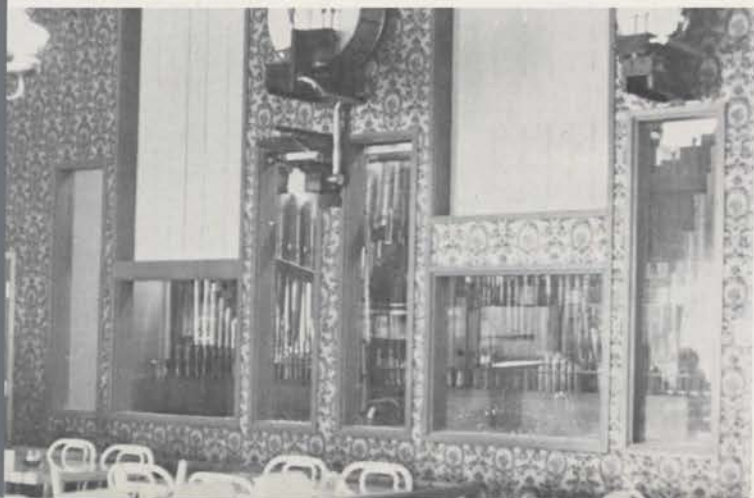
Complete restoration and modernization of the Wurlitzer was undertaken by Buddy Kurz in September 1976 and completed in time for the grand opening of the Bella Roma II June 15, 1977.

The Wurlitzer (now a 3/19) boasts

all solid-state electronic relays, and, on completion, will also have a computer combination action. The excellent acoustics at the Bella Roma are not just a fortunate accident. The building was constructed specifically to house this organ so that it would produce the high-quality sounds insisted upon by artist David Reese. Installation technician Buddy has worked on every pipe organ in the Bay Area and feels that this is his finest installation to date; a perfect union of old Wurlitzer quality with all the modern accoutrements.

The console now has 205 stop tabs as well as modified chests and over 1,785 pipes are housed in two chambers. In addition to the regular toy

One of the two chambers.



Notice the lack of picnic benches . . . very comfortable seating for a pizzeria.







David Reese, left . . . Buddy Kurz, right . . . both working to get perfect sound.



The 3/19 Wurlitzer at the Bella Roma Restaurant.

counter, there is also a railroad steam engine whistle, and, as far as David and Buddy know, this is the only installation with high-hat cymbals. There is not the usual "tweety-bird," but to delight the children (and grown-ups as well) there will be a chorus line of dancing puppets that will dance to the rhythm of the music.

The organ has now been restored to the exacting specifications of artist David Reese and technician Buddy Kurz and the joint effort pleases the 200 to 400 music-lovers who come to hear the results nightly.

David Reese has been playing the organ professionally since the age of 14 when he was hired to play at a prominent restaurant in Salt Lake City, his home town. At the age of 19 he was musical director of a popular stage show touring Canada for two years. His next job was working as the organist at the Bella Roma in Martinez for Mr. Ciaramitaro. After six very successful years in Martinez, Frank branched out to build the second Bella Roma in nearby Concord, where David continues to delight the audience.

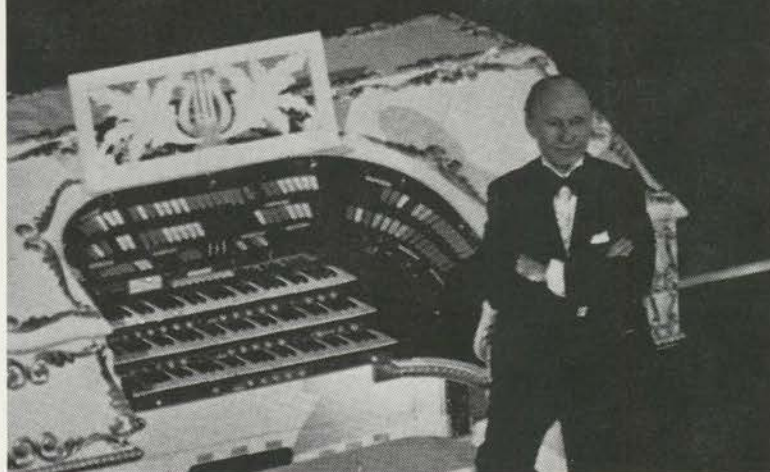
The Bella Roma I in Martinez, California, is proud to have Buddy Kurz as organist five nights a week.

Should you be fortunate enough to be in Martinez or Concord, Calif., do make it a point to stop in and hear these two young men at work. Their enthusiasm for the Grand Old Wurlitzers is catching!!! □

**SUPER '77**  
REGIONAL CONVENTION  
FRI., SAT., SUN. — NOV. 25, 26, 27,  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
See Page 33 for Details

MILCO MUSIC PRESENTS:

# ASHLEY MILLER



## at the War Memorial

The debut recording of the 3/16 Möller Theatre Organ  
in the War Memorial, Trenton, New Jersey,  
featuring trumpeter **JOSEPH SCANNELLA\***

<i>Strike Up the Band</i>	<i>Jing-A-Ling</i>
<i>I Write the Songs</i>	<i>Yellow Days</i>
<i>Pavanne</i> (Gould)	<i>Humoresque</i> (Tchaikowsky)
<i>Street of Dreams</i>	<i>I Wish You Love</i>
<i>Wives and Lovers</i>	<i>Stardust*</i>
<i>I Can't Get Started With You*</i>	<i>Love*</i>
<i>On the Sunny Side of the Street*</i>	<i>Serenata</i>

Send for this exciting stereo experience **TODAY!**

And don't forget

**spectacular sounds**

featuring Ashley Miller at the Radio City Music Hall organ.  
**\$6.95 each or any two for \$12.50, postpaid.**  
(Add \$1.00 in Canada, \$2.00 in the U.K.)

MILCO MUSIC CO., Box 32, Closter, New Jersey 07624