

A QUALITY ORGAN INSTALLATION

by Ronald F. Wehmeier

Several years ago it was suggested that ATOS set up a committee of qualified craftsmen to inspect and grade, at the request of owners, home installations for the purpose of improving the quality of theatre organ transplants. (See THEATRE ORGAN Vol. 13 No. 5 October 1971.) The idea was never pursued as many complications became apparent.

If we were to grade home installations from the standpoint of neatness and craftsmanship, it is certain that Ronald Wehmeier's Cincinnati project would rank among the best.

But, we'll let Ron tell you about it.

The instrument installed in my home is Wurlitzer Opus 1949, orig-

inally installed in the Plaza Theatre, Kansas City, Missouri. It was shipped from the Wurlitzer factory on 8-31-28 as a 220 Special.

This is the second Wurlitzer I have owned since the organ bug bit in 1964. The first organ was a 2/5 removed from WLW in Cincinnati. An article appeared giving details in the Winter 1965 issue of THEATRE ORGAN. I sold this organ for parts, keeping the Salicional and five-rank chest for adding to the Plaza instrument.

I now have 13 well-unified ranks playing, and have prepared for a total of 16 ranks. Most of the tonal ideas for the new specification were taken from George Wright's studio organ, which I regard as the finest

sounding due to his tonal refinements and smooth regulation.

This is a single chamber installation, with all percussion and pipes under one expression. I did this due to space limitations, since the 18' x 22' chamber is a basement room constructed for the old 2/5. The shades are mounted horizontally under a grille in the entrance hall floor. The hall acts as a mixing chamber, giving that in-theatre sound.

Two pianos are connected to the organ. An upright player which is used as a Mandolin, and a 6'2" Steinway Duo-Art Grand. The Steinway is completely expressive, using the left expression pedal on the console. This controls the Duo-Art expression accordion pneumatics. The piano sustain is accomplished by depressing any pedal note, or by means of a slide switch on the expression pedal.

The Steinway is located directly to the left of the console in the music room. Sound from the entrance hall enters the music room thru a 5'x6' tone opening in the wall, and a 3'x7' doorway. This gives a good balance at the console, without parting one's hair.

Wind pressures are: 15" Tuba Horn, 12½" Tibia, 6" Vox Humana, and 10" on all other ranks. The 20" static pressure, produced by a 10 hp blower, is reduced to 16½" by means of a blower reservoir. The wind is then fed into the chamber thru a 14" diameter blow pipe. This type of wind supply greatly reduces any blower noise transmission into the

Vintage Steinway piano connected to the console. This is a rare example of the Steinway Duo-Art grand.

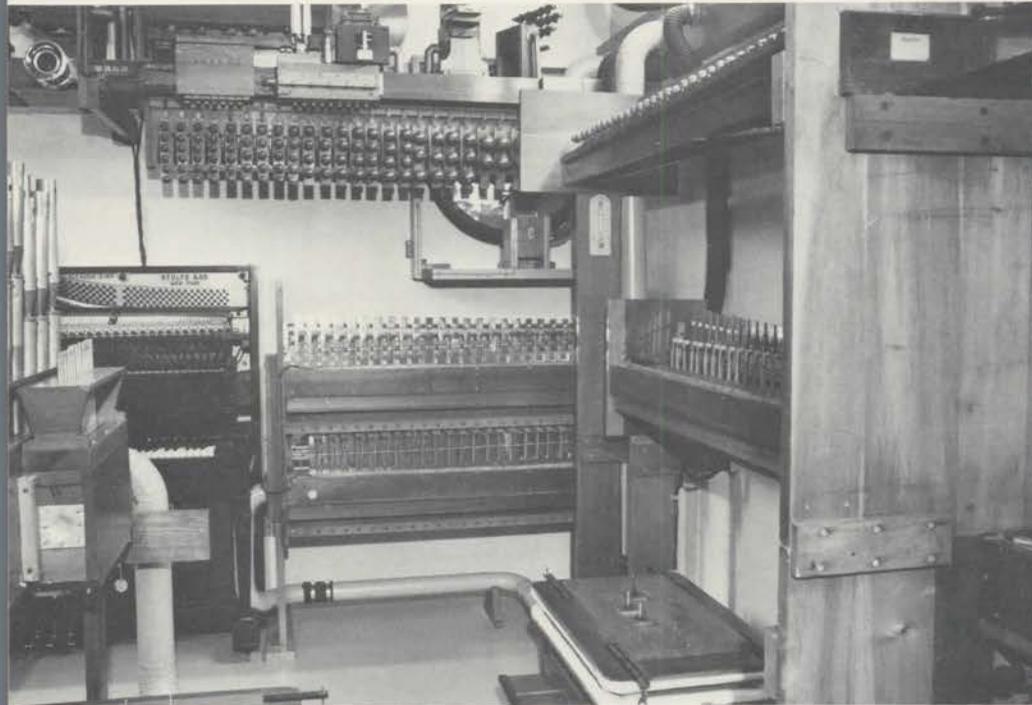




General view of pipework. Note careful placement of windlines.



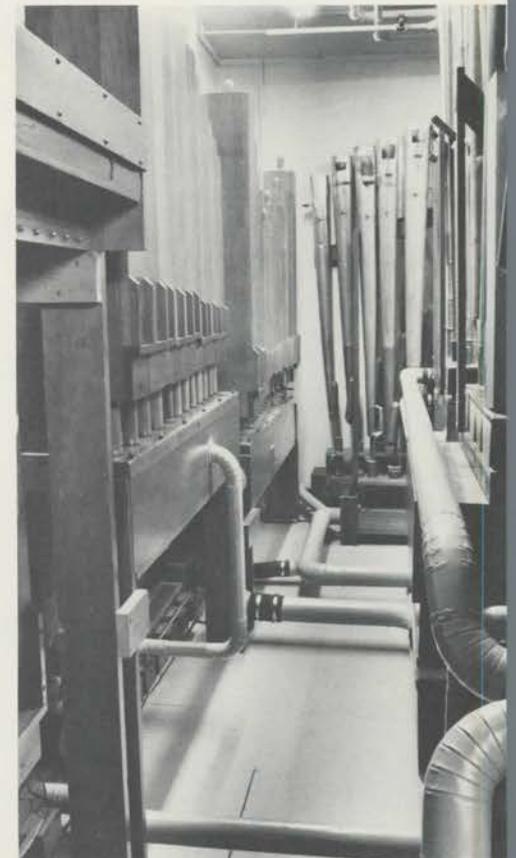
Except for the Moller Post Horn and the new Brass Trumpet, all the pipework is original Wurlitzer in mint condition.



Percussion section of the single chamber installation.

View of offset chests. Adequate work space is clearly shown.

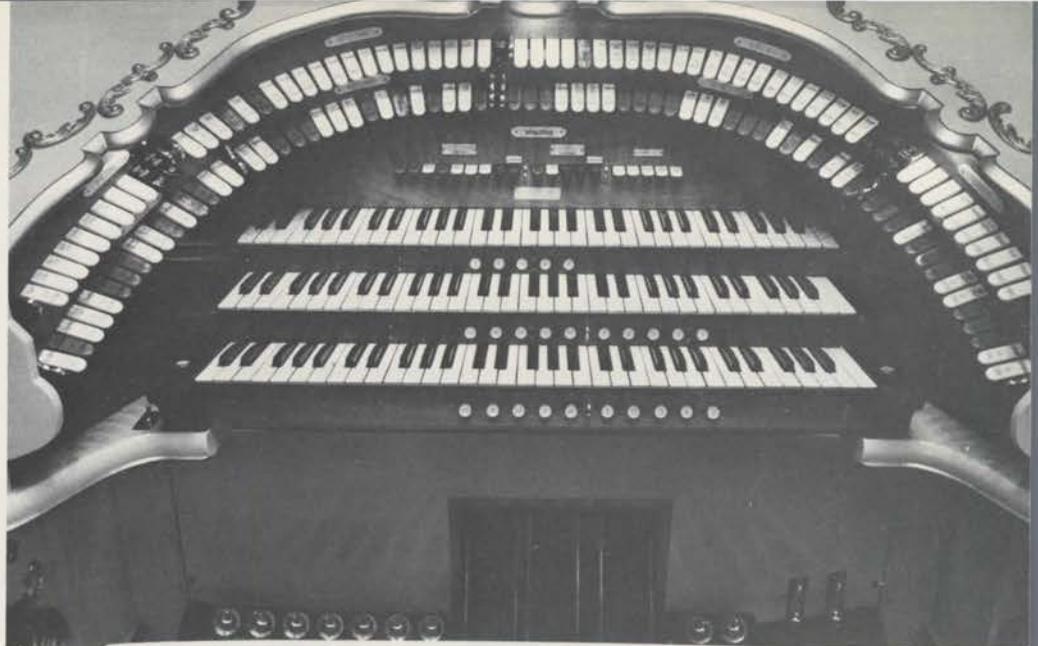
Upright piano modified to be used as a Mandolin. Second piano is outside of chamber.



organ chamber, and produces no audible noise at the console.

All pipework is original mint condition Wurlitzer, except for the new Moller Post Horn, and the new Brass Trumpet manufactured by Al Bizik (resonators) and Bob Schopp (block assemblies).

My interest in pipe organs started with George Wright's first Hi-Fi record. Organ building became my profession in 1965. Since that time I have had the privilege of being associated with M. P. Moller, Inc., pipe organ builders, and I now sell, install and maintain their instruments in the Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia area. I also rebuild player and reproducing pianos, and theatre organs. □



The Plaza Theatre Wurlitzer console was enlarged to accommodate 16 ranks.

SPECIFICATIONS

Pedal

32' Resultant
16' Tuba
16' Diaphone
16' Tibia
16' Bourdon
8' Post Horn
8' Brass Trumpet
8' Tuba
8' Diaphone
8' Tibia
8' Clarinet
8' Salicional
8' Cello
8' Oboe Horn
8' Flute
4' Octave
16' Piano
Piano Sustain
Bass Drum
Kettle Drum
Cymbal Re-it
Crash Cymbal
Chinese Gong
Finger Cymbals
Brush Cymbal
Great to Pedal
Accomp to Pedal

Accomp

16' Contra Viol T.C.
16' Bourdon
16' Vox Humana T.C.
8' Post Horn
8' Tuba
8' Diaphonic Diapason
8' Open Diapason
8' Tibia
8' Clarinet
8' Viol d Orchestra
8' Viol Celeste
8' Salicional
8' Oboe Horn
8' Quintadena
8' Flute
8' Vox Humana
8' 1/3' Fifth (Tibia)
4' Octave

4' Viol
4' Celeste
4' Flute
4' Vox Humana
2-2/3' Twelfth (Flute)
2' Piccolo (Flute)
8' Piano
Mandolin
Marimba
Chrysoglott
Snare Drum
Tamborine
Chinese Block
Tom Tom
Sand Block
Finger Cymbals
Brush Cymbal
Castanets
Accomp Octave

Great

16' Post Horn T.C.
16' Brass Trumpet T.C.
16' Tuba
16' Diaphone
16' Tibia
16' Contra Viol T.C.
16' Bourdon
16' Vox Humana T.C.
8' Post Horn
8' Brass Trumpet
8' Tuba
8' Diaphonic Diapason
8' Open Diapason
8' Tibia
8' Clarinet
8' Kinura
8' Orchestral Oboe
8' Viol d Orchestra
8' Viol Celeste
8' Salicional
8' Oboe Horn
8' Quintadena
8' Flute
8' Vox Humana
5-1/3' Fifth (Tibia)
4' Octave

4' Piccolo (Tibia)
4' Viol
4' Celeste
4' Flute
2-2/3' Twelfth (Tibia)
2-2/3' Twelfth (Flute)
2' Piccolo (Tibia)
2' Fifteenth (String)
2' Piccolo (Flute)
1-3/5' Tierce (Flute)
1' Fife (Tibia)
16' Piano
8' Piano
4' Piano
Chimes
Sleigh Bells
Xylophone
Master Xylophone
Glockenspiel
Orchestra Bells
Chrysoglott
Great Sub Octave
Great Octave
Solo to Great Pizzicato

Solo

16' Post Horn T.C.
16' Brass Trumpet T.C.
16' Tuba
16' Diaphone
8' Post Horn
8' Brass Trumpet
8' Tuba
8' Diaphonic Diapason
8' Tibia
8' Clarinet
8' Kinura
8' Orchestral Oboe
8' Salicional

Piano: 6'2" Steinway Duo-Art built in 1928.
Mandolin: Converted Stultz upright player.
Chinese Gong: 30" diameter from China.
Crash Cymbal: 20" diameter Zildjian.
Brush Cymbal: 18" diameter Zildjian.
Finger Cymbals: 1-1/2" diameter Zildjians.
Cymbal Re-it: 18" diameter Zildjian.

8' Quintadena
4' Octave
4' Piccolo
8' Piano
Chimes
Xylophone
Master Xylophone
Glockenspiel
Orchestra Bells
Marimba
Chrysoglott
Solo Sub Octave
Solo Octave

Accomp Second Touch

8' Post Horn
8' Tuba
8' Diaphonic Diapason
8' Clarinet
Chimes
Triangle
Xylophone
Solo to Accomp
Solo to Accomp Pizzicato

Great Second Touch

16' Tuba
8' Tibia
Solo to Great 16'
Solo to Great 8'
Solo to Great 8' Pizzicato

Tremulants

Main
Solo
Vox Humana
Tibia
Tuba