

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE

by Lance Johnson

Do you have any questions?

Send them direct to:

QUIZMASTER
and Organbuilder

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Q. I'm installing an 11-rank Wurlitzer in my residence and would like your recommendation on environmental control. What air density can be tolerated without a noticeable change in pitch? What about temperature and humidity?

A. The ideal would be absolutely constant temperature and humidity throughout the year. Your pitch will vary with temperature levels which affect your flue pipes. With air conditioning you can keep your organ chamber a constant pitch level with the setting being kept the same all year. As for humidity control, this can be very difficult especially for the northern states. In the South, the humidity does not have the differential throughout the year, season to season. There is no way to control humidity unless you have air conditioning and a humidifier in your chamber. Some homes and churches run into trouble with a humidifier running during the cold months

because of frost on windows and attics. As to what amount of humidity to have, this will vary with your climate. You had best consult heating and air conditioning experts for a complete climate control installation for your chambers. Air density on the other hand has more to do with your altitude above sea level. This will have an effect on the amount of work your blower must do to keep your regulators filled. Once your organ has been tuned and tonally finished to your altitude, you should not have to be concerned about it again unless the organ is moved. The variation in barometric pressure, due to the movement of low and high pressure fronts through your area, should not have a detrimental affect on the organ.

Q. On our chapter-owned Wurlitzer, we have a dead magnet in the worst possible place. It is in the switch stack and a heavy cable runs right underneath this magnet and it can't be moved. What can we do next?

A. I would suggest removing the bung on the side of the switch stack. You will then find your magnet located quite close to the bung and accessible. Remove the bridge with a pair of pliers and try to work the coils out with long-nosed pliers. If it sticks, try heating the poles with a soldering iron until the coils can be slid off. You can easily install new Wurlitzer replacement coils and rewire. These are available from Arndt Organ Supply, Ankeny, Iowa.

Q. We are in charge of a Wurlitzer in a theatre where the management has given us complete control over its maintenance. We have several magnets, the gray lead type, that leak through the exhaust hole. I have tried to clean out the cap and armature but still the magnet leaks a great deal. Occasionally it will just cipher. We have no extra caps to install but do have armatures. A new armature did not improve the situation one bit.

A. Without seeing the magnet, I would say that your tube screw, which forms the exhaust port, is adjusted down too far. Try giving the tube screw a quarter to one-half turn clockwise and see what hap-

pens. Chances are that shortening the stroke will help the armature to seat tightly. If you remove the cap, check to see that the tube screw armature seat is not damaged. If it is, you will have to grind an ignition file down and file the tube screw valve seat flat again. □

Election Results

The results of balloting for the 1980-1982 American Theatre Organ Society Board of Directors Candidates:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Rex Koury | 2,254 |
| John Ledwon | 2,243 |
| William Rieger | 1,802 |
| Paul Abernathy Jr. | 1,683 |
| Preston M. Fleet | 796 |
| Richard Sklenar | 706 |
| Timothy Needler | 628 |
| Bill Worrall | 553 |
| James K. Boutell | 394 |
| Richard Clay | 280 |
| Dr. Edward Mullins | 201 |

WRITE-IN VOTES

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Len Clark | 2 |
| Tiny James | 2 |
| Henry Przybylski | 2 |
| Lowell Ayars | 1 |
| Don Baker | 1 |
| Joan Bauer | 1 |
| Dr. Edward J. Bebko | 1 |
| Robert K. Coe Jr. | 1 |
| Walter Dippe | 1 |
| Sandy Fleet | 1 |
| John M. Gogle | 1 |
| Stu Green | 1 |
| Fred Hermes | 1 |
| Lou Hurvitz | 1 |
| Russ Joseph | 1 |
| Lloyd Klos | 1 |
| Allen Miller | 1 |
| John Muri | 1 |
| Hector Olivera | 1 |
| Mike Ohman | 1 |
| Lois Segur | 1 |
| Alden Stockebrand | 1 |
| Bob Trousdale | 1 |
| Robert C. Van Camp | 1 |

Official 1980 election results as tabulated by:



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