

unique concert

at
oral roberts university

- CARNATION**
Gollath's Pit Tavern
3/7 Wurlitzer. Daily.
- MT. VERNON**
Lincoln Theatre
2/7 Wurlitzer. Occasionally.
- OLYMPIA**
Olympic Theatre, 506 S. Washington
2/9 Wurlitzer. Occasionally.
- PULLMAN**
Physical Sciences Building,
Washington State University
2/7 Robert-Morton. Periodically.
- SEATTLE**
Haller Lake Improvement Club,
12579 Densmore
3/8 Wurlitzer-Marr & Colton. Often.
Paramount Theatre, Ninth & Pine
4/20 Wurlitzer. Occasionally.
Pizza & Pipes #1, 100 N. 85th
3/17 Wurlitzer. Nightly.
Queen Anne High School, 215 Gaier
3/10 Kimball. Rarely.
- TACOMA**
Pizza & Pipes #2, 19th & Mildred W.
3/17 Wurlitzer. Nightly.
Temple Theatre, 49th St. Helens
2/9 Kimball. Occasionally.
- VANCOUVER**
Uncle Milt's Pizza Company,
2410 Grand Boulevard
3/18 Wurlitzer. Nightly.

WISCONSIN

- BARABOO**
Al Ringling Theatre
3/9 Barton. Occasionally.
- GREEN BAY**
Pied Piper Pizza Parlor
3/21 Moller. Daily.
- MADISON**
Madison Civic Center
3/14 Barton. Periodically.
- MILWAUKEE**
Avalon Theatre, 2473 S. Kinnic Avenue
3/8 Wurlitzer. Occasionally.
Organ Grinder, 4353 S. 108th
3/28 Moller. Nightly except Monday.
Pabst Theatre, 144 E. Wells
4/20 Moller. Often.
Riverside Theatre,
116 W. Wisconsin Avenue
3/13 Wurlitzer. Occasionally.
- RACINE**
Theatre Guild Playhouse
2/7 Wurlitzer. Often.
- WAUSAU**
Grand Theatre, 4th & Washington
3/6 Kilgen. Occasionally.

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- VANCOUVER**
Orpheum Theatre, 884 Granville
3/13 Wurlitzer. Rarely.

ONTARIO

- KINGSTON**
Church of the Redeemer,
Kirkpatrick Street
3/21 Kimball. Periodically.
- TORONTO**
Casa Loma, 1 Austin Terrace
4/18 Wurlitzer.
Monthly, September through May.
Organ Grinder Restaurant #1,
58 The Esplanade
3/13 hybrid. Nightly. □

Members of Sooner State Chapter, led by Chairman Lee Smith, had a dream of producing a concert which would attract a much larger audience than just members of the chapter. And they wanted to demonstrate to the uninitiated that the organ is a versatile instrument not limited to churches and funeral parlors.

For the site of this concert they chose Christ Chapel at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, which contains a 4/21 Wurlitzer and a 107-rank classical organ. The Wurlitzer organ came from the Palms Theatre in Detroit, but the console is new, specially built to include all the stops for the classical organ as well as the original Wurlitzer stops and controls. Each organ can be played from its own console, or both

can be played together from the Wurlitzer console.

For the artist the chapter chose Rob Calcaterra. Rob is quite well known in theatre organ circles, but he has also built a reputation as a teacher, arranger and conductor of both classical and popular music.

Because charging for admission to Christ Chapel was not permitted, Sooner State Chapter members gave their personal pledges to cover the artist's fee and expenses. Many members also gave much time and effort to all the details of producing such a concert — arrangements with the university, scheduling, publicity, printed programs, transportation, etc.

The concert on October 23 stirred public interest and brought several

Platform area of Christ Chapel, Oral Roberts University, showing classical organ and Wurlitzer organ console.
(Photo courtesy Pryor [Oklahoma] Jeffersonian)



new members to the chapter. Sooner State Chapter plans to build on its success, and is looking ahead to a concert series this year.

Following is a lay person's impression, written and contributed to THEATRE ORGAN by **Pat Morgan**, staff writer for the *Pryor (Oklahoma) Jeffersonian*.

"You're going to a WHAT?" my husband asked when I told him about the concert in Tulsa.

"A pipe-organ concert," I repeated. "It's at ORU on an antique pipe organ. You know, the kind they used to have in old theatres."

"Well, thanks anyway, but I think I'll stay home if you don't mind."

"Okay," I answered. "But you don't know what you're missing."

I must admit I wasn't all that sure about this concert at Oral Roberts University. I was going more out of curiosity than anything else.

I had been in Christ Chapel a few weeks before to take photos of the organ. Hervey Barbour, a friend who is a theatre organ enthusiast, had asked me to do a story about the concert for our local paper.

I'd met Hervey last year when I'd done a story about the Kimball theatre pipe organ he has installed in his garage. That story was an education for me. Before interviewing Hervey I thought the only place you saw pipe organs was in giant cathedrals.

And seeing the ORU 21-rank Wurlitzer had been a special treat. The organ, originally built for the Palms Theatre in Detroit, was rescued from storage and installed in Christ Chapel seven years ago.

The installation also includes a 107-rank classical tracker organ with its own console, playable from the Wurlitzer console. During the photo session, which was just after a chapel service, ORU staff organist Wally Brown had played a couple of hymns lingering worshippers requested. The hymns were breathtaking and I wondered if other types of music would sound as magnificent.

I had written the story, trying to help Hervey stir local interest in theatre organs and in the concert.

And there was interest indeed. The organist at our church took a van load of people to the concert, including the head of the music department at Rogers State College. I rode along with them determined to keep my

mouth shut during the 45-minute drive, lest I reveal my musical ignorance.

When we entered the huge auditorium the massive organ installation was just as impressive as I'd remembered. I was surprised at the large number of people already in the audience.

We found seats and waited for the guest organist, Rob Calcaterra. He was introduced by a member of the host group, Sooner State Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Calcaterra, a New Yorker and organist for Radio City Music Hall, charmed the audience with his patter as much as with his talent at the keyboards of the ORU organ.

Between numbers, which ranged from pop to classic, the organist

shared information about himself and gave brief tidbits about the history of pipe organs. I found both absorbing and the two-hour concert was over far too quickly.

"Well, how was it?" my husband asked when I returned. "I hope it was good; you missed a Charleton Heston movie!"

I didn't even have to think twice. "Oh, it was definitely worth missing Charleton Heston for!" I assured him.

"By the way, did you know some theatre organs have 'crockery smash' attachments? And you know what? There's this fabulous Wurlitzer pipe organ in Wichita. I want to try to see it the next time we go to Grandma's. And listen to this . . ."

Sooner State Chapter member Hervey Barbour (left) talks with ORU staff organist Wally Brown in planning October 23 concert. (Photo courtesy Pryor [Oklahoma] Jeffersonian)

