

U.S.?) for Channel 4-TV in Britain. Others might like to know what is available and how good they are before purchasing. Having been "burned" on one video of *Birth of a Nation* (run at sound speed with a terrible sound track!), I tend to be a bit gun-shy of items not previewed.

Perhaps there are other readers who would be interested in, let's say, the projected George Wright Workshop in Colorado if it were to become available on VHS/BETA. And why not a video of highlights from the 1985 Chicago Convention? Or video tips on theatre pipe organ maintenance and repairs with Lance Johnson demonstrating? Or a video "Cook's Tour" of pizza/pipes installations? Now that Low-Lux color cameras can produce good results with available light, the possibilities are endless.

Perhaps this letter will encourage video buffs to come forward with some creative ideas — or even better — put their recording and editing skills to work on some local projects.

Cordially,  
Walter J. Beaupre  
Kingston, Rhode Island

Dear Sir:

With the new vacation high season approaching, we would like to call the attention of all travelers who are also theatre organ aficionados to a unique opportunity here in Utah to hear two of the great organs in this country in one afternoon and evening.

Every Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m., the second-largest concert organ in the world can be heard in a half-hour classical concert in the Salt Lake Tabernacle, in Temple Square. Later, at 7 p.m. on Saturday evenings, the Organ Loft, on 33rd Street South in Salt Lake, presents a buffet and dance program for \$8.95. Dinner music is played, and then dance music is played on one of the country's largest and best-maintained Wurlitzer theatre organs.

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Sincerely,  
Charles M. Fletcher  
Logan, Utah ☐



## CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis



**Buffalo, New York**  
**716/937-3592 or 716/826-2081**

We were pleased to host organist Rob Calcaterra twice in less than four months. Rob appeared as the first organist in the premiere concert series at Shea's Buffalo Theatre, then returned to serve as an adjudicator during preliminary judging for the 1985 Young Organist Competition.

On October 30 Mr. Calcaterra was chauffeured from his hotel to the theatre in a vintage Rolls-Royce accompanied by Mr. Ghoul, Shea's own "Phantom of the Opera." Rob's concert demonstrated his command of the instrument, and he garnered sus-

tained applause after each selection. Included in the program were "Pumpkin Carols," well suited to Halloween, and accompaniment of Harold Lloyd's *Haunted Spooks*. Occasionally, Mr. Ghoul could be seen roaming the aisles carrying a lighted candelabra.

On February 7, in spite of a sudden Buffalo-style snowstorm which forced his plane to circle for nearly an hour, Rob returned to our City of Good Neighbors and participated in judging six local contestants for the 1985 Young Organist Competition.

As March approached, we prepared for Walt Strony's concert with ever-increasing ardor. We intuitively



GRACE E. MCGINNIS.

### CHAPTER CORRESPONDENTS PLEASE NOTE

To help ease the burden on the editorial staff of THEATRE ORGAN, please observe the following:

Type all copy, double-spaced, on letter-size (8½" x 11") white paper, leaving 1¼" margins on top, bottom and both sides. Do not use erasable paper. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

Type photo captions on Scotch (3M) Post-it Note sheets (#654 - 3" x 3" or #655 - 3" x 5") and attach to *back* of photo. DO NOT use any kind of tape or rubber cement to attach captions to photos, and DO NOT attach photos to sheets of paper.

#### DEADLINES

November 15 for January/February  
January 15 for March/April  
March 15 for May/June

May 15 for July/August  
July 15 for September/October  
September 15 for November/December

Send Chapter Notes and photos to:  
**Grace E. McGinnis**, Associate Editor  
4633 SE Brookside Drive, #58  
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222



Rob Calcaterra and Mr. Ghoul (member Michael Mancuso) about to embark in 1948 Rolls-Royce for his concert at Shea's Buffalo last Halloween.  
*(Richard Simpson photo)*

sensed that it would be a concert to remember, and Mr. Strony did not disappoint his appreciative audience. In addition to lengthy applause, cries of "Bravo!" were heard after many of his selections, and deservedly so. Walt's ingenious use of stops brought forth phenomenal musical effects heretofore unrealized from the Shea's



Surrounded by six contestants in the Young Organist Competition are judges Robert Allen, Monsignor Paul Eberz and Rob Calcaterra. Miss Lois Friedrich, second from left, advanced to final judging.  
*(Bob Falkowski photo)*

Buffalo Wurlitzer. Just when we thought nothing could top a selection, Walt produced still another arrangement to amaze us. His closing "1812 Overture" left most everyone physically and emotionally drained, yet also contrastingly stimulated. Two hours have never passed more rapidly or more pleurably.

We were pleased to learn that the board of directors of Shea's Buffalo Theatre would like to expose the organ more to the public and has requested that organ preludes be played before several coming performances.

MAUREEN WILKE

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## CEDAR RAPIDS AREA

Iowa

319/362-9815 or 319/363-9769

Frank Osmanski opened the season with a January performance at the Cedar Rapids Paramount. Braving one of the Iowa winter's coldest days, 37 stalwart members heard Frank's unique stylings on the gilded 3/11 Wurlitzer. Native to the electronic keyboard, Frank's own proficiency combined with his unique jazz inflection, gave his playing a rare quality. Also, welcoming us in from the cold was a refreshment crew headed by Mary Kauffman and Lorena Bowman. Hot coffee was an absolute necessity!

February posted some disappointments for area fans. Because of cut-backs in physical plant hours, we were unable to schedule a Sunday social at Kirkwood Community College. The school's Iowa Hall is the campus site of the chapter-owned 2/7 Wurlitzer. Although the ballroom installation is

no longer a weekend site for socials, it has given the organ an opportune haven for extensive environmental re-conditioning. We hope this is in preparation for its eventual restoration.

Less opportune, and tragically so, was the Marion, Iowa, Garden Theatre home of the Howard Burton 2/10 Kilgen organ. Both the organ and the house were consumed by fire on February 11. All that remains of the painstaking installation is a steel beam which once supported the chamber. A major effort of CRATOS founder Howard and his late wife, Dorothy, it was the expression of a philosophical attitude on Howard's part. He may well take solace in that several of his pipe sets have been acquired by young enthusiasts who are fabricating their own organ projects in the area.

We are anticipating the coming Chicago Convention and the appearance of native son Jeff Weiler at Waukegan, Illinois.

MICHAEL VANCURA



### **CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER**

**Indianapolis  
317/255-8056  
or 317/786-2160**

Our February meeting was held at the Hedback Theatre. The pre-concert business meeting included discussions of the coming Neil Jensen concert, the Scholarship Competition, proposed bylaws amendments and a possible bus trip to St. Louis this spring.

Vice-President Charles Desterbecque introduced Martin Ellis, artist for the afternoon. Martin recently moved to Monrovia, Indiana, and is taking lessons at DePauw University. He knew how to show off the Hedback organ with "Spring Fever," "Stars and Stripes Forever" and "Don't Be That Way."

On March 10 President Tess Moses called the meeting to order in the St. Joan of Arc Cathedral. As usual, a short business meeting was held prior to the day's program. Items discussed included the postponement of a proposed bus trip to St. Louis, the Scholarship Competition and the Neil Jensen concert.

After the meeting adjourned, Tim Needler conducted the program of

both light classical and old-but-good standards. Featured was tenor Kevin Aikman. Tim is a long-time member who gained his musical education in Fort Wayne. He has given concerts in Richmond, Virginia, and Miami, Florida. His program was delightful, and his accompaniment of Kevin was excellent. Kevin Aikman, a graduate of DePauw University where he majored in voice, has been a member since 1984. He resides in Greencastle where he owns and operates J. A. Aikman Organ Company which restores and rebuilds pipe organs. Kevin has a fine tenor voice, and his selections included some Irish tunes. The romantically voiced 3/34 Kilgen pipe organ was installed initially in 1928. It was totally restored in 1979-80 by the Larry McPherson Company of Indianapolis.

WAYNE R. PIPHER

### **CENTRAL OHIO Columbus**

**513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085**

Maybe January wasn't such a bad month after all. It was, in fact, an occasion to celebrate for we had the exclusive use of the Ohio Theatre's beautiful Robert-Morton organ for a whole three hours on January 27. Thirty-eight members and guests enjoyed open console for most of the allotted time, and all participants praised the quick response which the new solid-state relays and combination action afforded. After a brief business meeting, led by President Mark Williams, member Betsy Richards led off the procession of artists with her very listenable theatre organ styling. The second artist, new to our organization, was Randy Morris, a 23-year-old Coyle Music Company employee, who proved his mastery of the instrument in a procession of tunes which included marches, ballads and the ever-popular *Star Wars* theme. We learned that Randy has been an associate organist at the Paramount Pizza Palace in Indianapolis and has been an active theatre organ performer for ten years. We welcome him and are hopeful that he will become an active member.

Another delightful prize was our introduction to guest Lois Lese, long-time theatre organist who, in the past, has been a staff organist at the once flourishing Moby's Department Store in downtown Columbus. Lois shared

the spotlight with Roger Garrett at the console of a three-manual Möller. Her rendition of "More Than You Know" gave promise of much more to come. We invited her back to be active in our organization.

Just off stage to the left, in the new John Galbreth addition to the theatre, was a gorgeous array of edibles provided by our membership. We are thankful to Carlos Parker and Jim Worman for this wonderful opportunity.

JOHN R. POLSLEY



**Chicago Area**

**Theatre Organ Enthusiasts  
312/470-0743 or 312/627-3245**

Shows given during winter in our area are generally precarious regarding attendance. But a show was planned and presented February 10 at the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge with a cooperating weatherman and, surprisingly, we had an almost full house. This show featured Don Springer at the theatre's Wurlitzer and the Stardust Trio of young ladies performing in the style of the Andrews sisters and Boswell sisters. They presented an entertaining act of favorites from the '30s through the '50s which was well received. Don Springer is at present playing at Sally's Stage North. His program was varied, with much of it played in the Jesse Crawford style which greatly pleased the audience.

Bus trips are popular with many of our members as the Columbus, Ohio, jaunt indicated. This was a weekend trip to attend Dennis James' presentation of *The Thief of Bagdad*, starring Douglas Fairbanks, at the Ohio Theatre. Dennis accompanied the film with a 60-piece orchestra. For our bus group, Dennis gave a tour of the theatre. On the way to Columbus, we made a lunch stop at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, Indiana. Sunday morning brunch was served in the theatre, and Dennis gave a mini-concert followed by open console. It all made a memorable venture.

All is quiet on the Chicago Theatre front at present, but there will be activity soon. The Oriental organ fund-



Ashley Miller at Pascack Wurlitzer, Westwood.



Bob Maidhof, left, and Dave Messineo at the Moller console, Trenton War Memorial. (Jinny Vanore photo)

raiser was a great success and repairs are progressing quite well.

The Convention Committee has all in control, so grab your luggage and head this way. It will be great to see all of you, again.

ALMER BROSTROM



**Babson College, Wellesley**  
**617/662-7055**

Our 235 Special Wurlitzer had a good workout during our meeting at Babson on January 20. With member Timothy Halloran at the "controls," a sprightly "Thoroughly Modern Millie" got things rolling. Tim, a part-time rink organist, has a metronomic mind with timing "right on." He remarked that anyone playing for skating is rather abruptly made aware, by the patrons, of any unevenness! A Richard Rodgers' march, "Two by Two," and four often-requested rink songs, a tango, waltz, schottish and blues, were good examples of a typical evening. Variety characterized his program and long applause rewarded us with a requested "Spanish Eyes" complete with nice Marimba passages. Tim knows his Wurlitzers well, registers pleasing combinations of tone color and has a friendly and witty easy manner — all adding up to a most pleasant afternoon.

Last year's National Convention in Indianapolis included four young artists in cameo performances, one of whom was our then 14-year-old John Cook who was our organist for the February 17 meeting. John has devel-

oped dramatically since joining and always pleases. He delves into the "oldies" despite his youth, and a jaunty "Smile, Darn Ya, Smile" was his opener. Gershwin and Leroy Anderson played a prominent part in his performance, as did the late organist, Jimmy Boyce, whose "Charlie's Walk" and "On Broadway" were well-received. "The Ben Hur Chariot Race March" and his encore, "Around the World in Eighty Days," brought our artist's console appearance to a close. Theatre organ will live on with members of his generation to carry on the proud tradition! John Cook has the ingredients — consummate ability, interest and appreciation for the King of Instruments!

STANLEY C. GARNISS



**GARDEN STATE  
THEATRE ORGAN  
SOCIETY, INC.**

**New Jersey**  
**317/786-2160**  
**or 317/255-8056**

Our January meeting was held at the Pascack Theatre in Westwood. It was a downcast occasion as United Artists, the owner of the theatre, has decided to turn the 1200-seat, beautifully restored theatre into four small ones. This will entail the removal of the 8-rank Wurlitzer which has been used for weekend intermissions since July 1976. Members with that "last time feeling," nevertheless enjoyed playing the organ. A serious meeting followed, led by Chairman Michael Cippoletti, and various options as to the disposition of the organ were discussed.

The meeting concluded with a mini-concert by Ashley Miller. We are lucky to have Ashley, who is on the National Board of Directors, as a member who lives in nearby Closter. He has been tonal consultant for the Pascack Wurlitzer and gives generously of his time in spite of a heavy schedule playing at Madison Square Garden, Jersey Meadowlands and on concert tours. Despite the downhearted feeling, Ashley pleased us all by playing many pieces in upbeat tempos using his inimitable stylings and technique. We hope the story of the Wurlitzer will also end on a happy note.

On February 3 the third of a five-concert series was held at the Trenton War Memorial featuring two young talented organists, Bob Maidhof and Dave Messineo. This dynamic duo, who have both graced the organ benches of Radio City Music Hall, presented a delightful program of everyone's favorites. Dave, at the Steinway, dazzled us with his fingerwork and originality, and the piano sparkled through the soft, lush sounds of the 3/16 Moller which was registered beautifully by Bob Maidhof. This is really an art because so often piano sounds are submerged in the broad, full sounds of the organ. It was fun to see Dave and Bob sharing the organ bench, each doing his own theme. This feat requires a lot of coordination, plus not falling off the bench. Dave played several solo selections on the organ which demonstrated his versatility on both instruments.

The enjoyable concert ended with the usual party on the stage where members enjoyed good food and open console.

JINNY VANORE



**Land O' Lakes Chapter**  
AMERICAN THEATRE  
ORGAN SOCIETY

**LO'LTOS**

**St. Paul-Minneapolis**

**715/262-5086 or 612/771-1771**

The small organ group, the Organaires, met at Joe and Ruth Vaes' home in Woodbury on January 17. Although they have a beautiful 3-manual electronic Wurlitzer, Ruth enjoys her piano, and she and Joe while away many pleasant hours playing piano and organ duets. Ruth takes over on the organ, too, and is very good! Their other hobbies include cabinet making and wood carving, and Ruth designs and makes stained glass ornaments in their workshop.

On February 17 the officers and board initiated something new by having an "open" board/membership meeting at D. J. Brady's Restaurant in Mendota Heights wherein a board meeting was conducted, minutes read, treasurer's report given and members invited to express their opinions and comments on certain issues. There was a good turnout, and this was an opportunity to really get better acquainted with one another. Our chairman, Mike Erie, at the console of the 2/4 "Mighty Mite" Robert-Morton, played a brief concert in his pleasing style followed by open console which was led off by Don Johnson.

We never really believe our weather forecasters, but as it turned out on March 3, all their predictions for a 16"+ snowfall and blizzard conditions were accurate! It was three days before people could get shoveled out and go about their business. As I sit typing today, March 11, it is snowing and another four inches are expected! Oh well, Minnesotans are usually pretty tough, and we *are* thinking "spring."

VERNA MAE WILSON



**LONDON  
&  
SOUTH  
OF ENGLAND**

**8956-32369 or 1-788-8791**

Despite unusually harsh weather, our 1985 program got away to an excellent start with a sparkling January Club Night program by talented young Michael Wooldridge at Edith and Les Rawle's inviting 3/19 home Wurlitzer at Northolt. Winning widespread acclaim for his big-band stylings, Mike is one of the most notable of our growing circle of young keyboard artists and is in increasing demand in many parts of the country.

Thanks to an imaginative idea of Janet Dowsett, in her capacity as Young Generation Representative on our chapter committee, our February Club Night at Northolt took an exciting new path. This was "Composers' Night" with seven members, including Janet herself, playing their own original compositions. Doreen Chadwick (staying locally with Beck and Terry Parsons) and Chairman Len Rawle acted as judges.

Beginning with a tape sent by 10-year-old Edward Perkins of Wales playing his "March of the Nymphs" on a Conn electronic, the first "live" performer at the Wurlitzer was popular young member Kieran Fallon from Hornchurch playing his imaginative, but unnamed, composition plus a delightful little waltz. Pretty young Suzanne Hancock then followed with her aptly titled "Friday." Chris Theobald first played his soothing "Summer Breeze" followed by "Clover Waltz," written by his mother, Pat. With us again from Portslade, with four members of his family, Mike Wooldridge played three contrasting pieces, his brisk "March Merlin," his specially dedicated

"Janet's Tune," and his big-band-styling-at-its-best "Burlington Bounce." Representing the older, but definitely young-at-heart members, Keith Evans treated us to his melodic "Maureen," which was dedicated to his lovely wife. Janet then concluded the session with her "All in A Golden Afternoon" and "Sunshine March." Difficult judging of the exceptionally high standards of music and audience enjoyment was made by Doreen and Len during the refreshment interval, with the result that Mike Wooldridge's "Janet's Tune" secured him the winner's plaque, only narrowly ahead of Suzanne Hancock's "Friday," which earned her a box of chocolates. This highly successful new Club Night venture was then complemented by rousing sessions at the Wurlitzer by Len and Doreen to complete another truly memorable event. Thanks, as always, to Edith and Les Rawle.

The following evening, several members visited the BBC studios in Maida Vale to see and hear the rarely used Compton concert organ, including a special rendering of Purcell's "Trumpet Tune" by Doreen Chadwick.

Our first in-theatre concert of the year reunited Doreen with the brilliant 3/8 Wurlitzer at the Granada Harrow in Northwest London. She had made her professional audition here for the renowned Granada chain when she was only 17, and she subsequently played many times here in the halcyon years of theatre organ. Doreen's truly majestic style fully exploited this marvelous instrument to a deservedly rapturous reception from her large audience. She finished with her unique interpretations of the signature tunes of the late, great Stanley Tudor of Manchester fame for whom she has always had the highest regard.

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Byron Jones, organ, and Allun Davies, Welsh tenor, at London Chapter's final concert at the Regal Edmonton. (John Sharp photo)



L to R, Michael Wooldridge, David Neale, William Davies and Byron Jones, artists at the final concert, December 16, 1984. (John Sharp photo)

da Slough, and again arranged by Janet Dowsett, Doreen's performance was complemented by superb interludes on a Yamaha electronic in the foyer. In this, the velvet touch of Stephen Vincent, winner of our 1979 Young Theatre Organist of The Year, greeted our incoming patrons. Suzanne Hancock held the spotlight during the mid-concert interval and "Granada-style" Paul Sheffield, current holder of our YOY chain-of-office, captivated his post-concert audience until all too soon it was time to say farewell to Doreen (and her sister, Melba). All in all, one of the happiest

and most successful of our long series of events at Harrow, Doreen provided us with a full and memorable weekend.

Following our great sadness at the closure of the Top Rank Club at the end of 1984, which for 50 years had been the home of the famous 4/15 Torch Christie and a prime chapter concert venue in recent times, work is now proceeding apace to dismantle and store the instrument pending re-installation. It has been graciously donated to our chapter by the new owners of the building. While there is obviously far to go on this major new

project, we are absolutely dedicated to the objective of insuring that this unique instrument continues to delight theatre organ enthusiasts for many more years to come.

Another satisfying result of our consistent efforts to encourage young organists has been the presentation by the English Speaking Union (Hertfordshire Branch), and through the good offices of member Desmond Jenkins, of a traveling Theatre Organ Scholarship to accomplished David Redfern of Belper in Derbyshire who was the 1983 winner of our YOY competition. Principally, this will enable David to visit the USA sometime later this year.

DR. NORMAN BARFIELD



LOS ANGELES  
THEATRE ORGAN  
SOCIETY  
California  
818/792-7084

We began the year on a musical note with Ron Rhode at our 3/13 Barton organ in the Wilshire-Ebell Theatre on January 27. Each time we hear our Barton it sounds better, and Ron did a marvelous program of theatre



Peggy O'Farrell Young Dancers at the final concert at the Regal Edmonton. An ATOS London Chapter presentation. (John Sharp photo)

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organ favorites from his opening "I Feel a Song Coming On" right through to his encore. Have you ever heard "The Old Mill Stream" played as a straight ballad? Ron did a superb arrangement! His other outstanding arrangement was a re-creation of a Jesse Crawford recording of "My First Love Song." Thanks, Ron, for a memorable program!

Neil Jensen, from Australia, was featured in March at the San Gabriel 3/16 Wurlitzer and drew a standing ovation and demand for two encores! His orchestral organ technique was well demonstrated in all his arrangements, but the "complete" Tschai-kovsky *Nutcracker Suite* drew the greatest applause. Many artists seem to include "New York, New York" on their programs now, but Neil's arrangement was delightfully fresh and sparkling.

For the first time in Los Angeles, Neil's program was taped for a later broadcast by KPCC-FM which has a weekly one-hour theatre organ program hosted by KPCC staffer Hal Sanguinetti. Hal is now a member of LATOS and has given our programs great publicity on the airwaves.

Upcoming shows include Hector Olivera and Keith Chapman at the five-manual Möller in Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Tony Wilson at the Orpheum and Jerry Nagano, Ramona Gerhard and Wayne and Cheryl Sepala at San Gabriel.

RALPH BEAUDRY



**Detroit**  
313/537-1133

An appreciative audience filled the Redford Theatre on December 8 for our annual Christmas Show featuring John Steele at the Barton pipe organ

and the 50-voice Ford Chorus. John's portion of the program was sprinkled with holiday favorites and was enthusiastically received. Comprised of Ford Motor Company employees and their families, the 41-year-old Ford Chorus is now under the direction of Trish Weaver and performs for public and private events throughout the year. The program concluded with a sing-along of traditional carols.

The festivities at our Christmas party, held at the Redford Theatre on December 9, included refreshments, entertainment and open console. The holiday get-together was coordinated by Frank and Helen Doka and featured performances by Gil Francic and Evelyn Markey at the chapter's 3/10 Barton.

The proceeds from our annual holiday craft sale in November amounted to over \$1700 and will go toward a new grand drape for the Redford Theatre stage.

Members brought in the New Year



His eyes how they twinkled, his music how merry. It was an old-fashioned Christmas with Don Haller at the Royal Oak Theatre. (Fred Page photo)

amid balloons, organ music and friends at a New Year's party at the Redford. The celebration included a potluck supper and was coordinated by Irene Fitzgerald and Marge Muethel.

Organists performing during our bi-weekly film series at the Redford in



Organist John Steele and Trish Weaver, director of the Ford Chorus, at Motor City's Annual Christmas Show at the Redford Theatre. (Bill Vogel photo)

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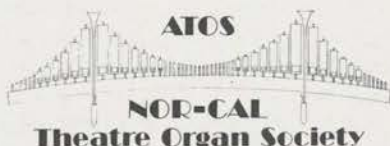
Bill Langford at Redwood City Pizza & Pipes 4/23 Wurlitzer for Nor-Cal. (Rudy Frey photo)

December were Rick Cucchi and Newton Bates.

Our November Fourth Sunday at the Royal Oak Theatre featured John Lauter at the 3/16 Barton. John is currently playing at Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes in Pontiac.

Don Haller presented an "Old Fashioned Christmas Sing-along" at the console of the Royal Oak's Barton for our December 23 Fourth Sunday. An Ann Arbor resident, Don's storehouse of old favorites is much in demand.

DON LOCKWOOD



San Francisco Bay Area  
415/846-3496 or 415/524-7452

Bill Langford played for a healthy audience at Redwood City Pizza & Pipes for our December 9 meeting. The "Father of Pizza Organ" has mellowed. Now playing regularly on the 3/12 Wurlitzer at the Pizza & Pipes Santa Clara installation, he ex-

pressed his pleasure to be playing the 4/23 Wurlitzer at Redwood City which, he says, "has a sound reminiscent of original theatre installations."

Bill opened with a long, soft, seasonal medley featuring strings and the light use of the Chrysoglott. The medley included "Snowfall" and "Let It Snow, Let It Snow," and set a relaxing and enjoyable mood for the rest of the concert which was presented with a smoothness seldom heard in the normal pizza bill of fare — a most appropriate start for our Christmas season!

For our January concert, John Brown, chairman of the Tri-Counties Chapter in southern California, was asked to play for us at the Redwood City Pizza & Pipes. John plays a tracker instrument as organist for the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Fountain Valley, but he was equally at home on the 4/23 Wurlitzer. Opening his program with "Comedy Tonight," he moved eloquently into "Through the Eyes of Love" and on to "Hard-Hearted Hannah" (dedicated to our generous Ray Taylor.)

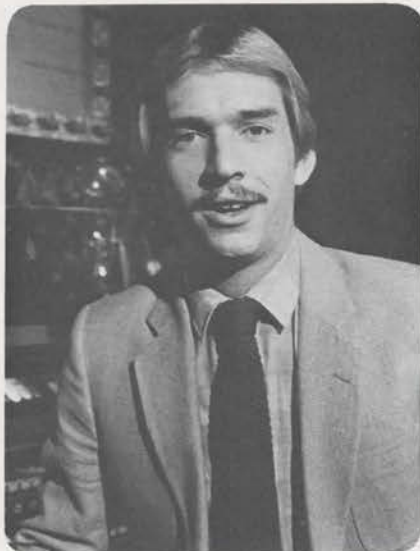


John Brown played for Nor-Cal in January. (Rudy Frey photo)

The organ responded well to the exacting demands of John's technique as he played these numbers and several Buddy Cole, Fred Fisher and other classics. He offered a pleasing arrangement of Strauss' "The Blue Danube."

Nor-Cal Chapter was delighted to receive notice from the IRS that it had been granted tax-exempt status and was now eligible to receive donations and grants. We are looking forward to obtaining our own organ soon. In the meantime, member Dr. Leon W. Clark has very generously donated his Rodgers 33-E and its five-speaker system to our chapter! Thanks, Dr. Clark. What a great way to start the year!

Kevin King played for us on February 17 at the Bella Roma Restaurant in Martinez on their three-manual Wurlitzer which was originally installed in the Majestic Theatre in Sacramento in 1923. Kevin, who has been with Nor-Cal most of his life, studied under Bill Langford, Larry Embury and David Reese. In addition to Bella Roma, he also plays at Capn's Galley Pizza & Pipes in Serramonte on weekends. I was unable to attend and am



Kevin King, Nor-Cal's February artist.

**BARBARA SELLERS**

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reporting this based on a tape recorded by our very talented Jack O'Neill.

Kevin opened with an arrangement of Cole Porter's "From This Moment On" and "It All Depends on You" from *Big Boy* starring Al Jolson. The one that made me regret not being there was his *Wizard of Oz* medley. Kevin played it as though he was the Organist of Oz! He also offered his own upbeat composition, "What Was Your Name?" As Bruce Grulke has stated, "People (and I) were pleasantly surprised at the depth of the talent and ability of (Kevin King) . . ." He closed his varied and entertaining program with "Hello, Dolly" and "Galloping Comedians." Harold Soderstrom, our vice-chairman, urged Kevin to do an encore, and he obliged with "Toot Toot Tootsie." If the tape sounded great, think of what the actual performance must have been like!

On March 2 the entire Bay Area was treated to a fantastic Lee Erwin concert and the silent film, *My Best Girl* with Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers, accompanied by Lee on the Oakland Paramount's 4/27 Wurlitzer. This beautifully restored Art Deco theatre is, indeed, one of the best in our area.

RUDY FREY and  
MICHAEL VERN KNOWLES



**NORTH  
TEXAS  
CHAPTER**

**Dallas-Fort Worth**

**214/256-2743 or 214/233-7108**

Our focus continues to be on completing the installation of our 3/8 Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre. The rebuild work has been mostly the dedicated effort of three



Danny Ray was one of the artists at the John Beck (El Paso Plaza) Wurlitzer for the North Texas Christmas party. (Irving Light photo)

members, Gene Powell, Dick Cooper and Fred Garrett. Late in 1984, in order to add some extra push to completion of the shop rebuild, Chairman Irving Light cleared his home workshop of other projects and enlisted the aid of a number of chapter members in a second workshop which has completed the cleaning and releathering of the pneumatic actuators from the tuned percussions of the regulators.



Bob Goodwin played for North Texas in February. (Wally Eakins photo)

Gordon Wright, noting that some pipework needed attention, cleared his workshop and started straightening and resoldering a somewhat mangled set of Tubas. As of now the shop work is nearly done, and the installation in the theatre is ready to begin. Although it is too early to target a completion date, we are anxiously awaiting that great day!

Meanwhile, other activities continue. Our December Christmas party was again held in the John Beck Hall, a wonderful place for this event. These parties seem to get better each year (if that's possible). In addition to the bountiful table of Christmas goodies, the glorious sound of the John Beck Wurlitzer fills the senses with the Christmas spirit. This year, however, we were afraid for a few moments that the Grinch had stolen our Christmas when Program Chairman Lloyd Hess reluctantly announced that our guest organist, Gene Powell, had suddenly succumbed to the flu bug and would be unable to appear. We quickly recovered, though, when Lloyd hastily recruited several talented organists from the group and rescued the day. Though each protested his lack of preparation, the beautiful music belied it, and we owe special thanks to Lloyd Hess, Danny Ray, Dale Flanery, Bill Flynt and several others who pitched in during open console. They all played well and to a delighted and appreciative audience.

Every February we have our meeting for the election of officers, and this year we again gathered at John Beck Hall as guests of owners Gil and Sylvia Swift. I am sure that the capacity audience was lured by the promised organ artistry of Bob Goodwin rather than the business of the day. Bob's selections were real crowd pleasers beautifully played. Highlights of his program were unique ar-



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Gil Swift (plaid shirt), host for North Texas Christmas party at John Beck Hall. (Wally Eakins photo)



Paul Quarino at the Benson Kimball delighted his listeners in a benefit concert for radio KBPS and Oregon Chapter. (Roy Fritz photo)

rangements of "The Dance of the Comedians" with a cleverly woven in chorus of "42nd Street" and the beautiful Willie Nelson song, "To All the Girls I've Loved." Thanks, Bob, we loved it!

Scottish Rite folks have scheduled four musical events for 1985 centered on their fine Wicks theatre organ. We applaud and welcome their assistance in our goal of popularizing the theatre pipes. On March 3 they featured Dr. Bill Flynt playing accompaniment to *Teddy at the Throttle* as well as solo numbers and with a vocalist. Bill has played similar programs for us and always to our consummate pleasure. Other Scottish Rite events include a May concert with Gene Powell and a September program using a 150-voice chorus. This should enrich our theatre pipe organ experience for 1985. See you there!

IRVING LIGHT

**OREGON  
Portland**

**503/639-9543 or 503/771-8098**

On February 17 our chapter and radio station KBPS co-sponsored a benefit program in Portland featuring

Paul Quarino at the Benson High School 3/24 Kimball. This organ, which began its life as a 3/9 in Longview, Washington, has ranks added to both the left and right chambers. Their tabs do not all appear on the stop rail, but are located on the back rail with the tremulants and second touches. As they operate as floating divisions, they must be coupled to the manuals as needed, making the organ rather difficult to play. However, its sound is superb.

While we are accustomed to enjoying Paul at the giant 4/44 Wurlitzer in the Organ Grinder restaurant, this event provided an opportunity to hear him extend his talent far beyond excellent pizza music. Because his audience this time included many non-organists or ATOS members, he demonstrated this organ in lay terms: "stops" instead of ranks, "keyboards" instead of manuals. He explained the judicious use of the Post Horn, second-touch counter melody, and the uses of Tibias, Diapasons, etc. A newly connected sustain pedal foot switch enabled him to sound exactly like a fine organist and accomplished pianist in a duet! Paul's program included numbers selected to ar-

tistically demonstrate all these possibilities, including a very heavy, two foot classical piece using mixtures and a 32' resultant.

Thanks to Paul Quarino for donating this excellent program and to Benson High School's KBPS.

BUD ABEL

**PUGET SOUND  
Seattle**

**206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669**

Seattle audiences were recently enthralled by a silent film series at the Paramount Theatre featuring *Robin Hood*, *Orphans of the Storm* and *Broken Blossoms* accompanied by the organ with symphony orchestra. The programs were enthusiastically received by patrons and by film and music critics for the Seattle dailies, and a second series may be scheduled soon. Carl Daehler conducted a pit orchestra of Seattle Symphony players, and Dennis James was guest artist. Dennis, producer of the series, is also a public relations person and spokesman for cultural preservation, in addition to having collaborated with Carl Daehler and Geoff Simon

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Dennis James at the Seattle Paramount Wurlitzer after his film series. (Diane Whipple photo)

in the reconstruction and enhancement of the original scores. The result was a tasteful blend of organ and orchestra, a truly glorious and satisfying musical experience. That it was a thoroughly professional and entertaining presentation is reflected in one newspaper account, "Now, that's the way a silent movie was meant to be seen."

Although we use the organ twice a year for private concerts, it has only recently been played prior to public performances. In order to promote its use and provide historical and technical information, a booth was set up in the lobby by the chapter publicity

committee. Excerpts from a magazine article by Jane McKee Johnson were reproduced and about 350 copies provided to those interested, along with membership brochures and an invitation to be included on a concert mailing list. Photographs of the console and interiors of the chambers were displayed on an artist's easel and attracted quite a lot of attention, provoking many questions.

Probably one of the most appreciative members of the audience was Renaldo "Ron" Baggott who, together with Donovan Moore, was the Ron and Don duo who played opening night, March 1, 1928. Ron commented that the organ has never sounded better, and the quiet joy in his eyes suggested the many pleasant memories that had been stirred in his mind and heart.

DIANE WHIPPLE

**RED RIVER ATOS**  
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or 701/232-6325



There are many projects in the works at the Fargo Theatre this spring. The orchestra pit is being re-

## CHICAGO PIPES ALIVE IN 85

vamped to provide more space. Never really satisfied with our pit piano, we sold it and are rebuilding another which has faster repeating action. All three manuals of our Wurlitzer are being rebushed and new molded key tops installed.

In the lobby area, our new concession island is operational, and the old concession location is being made into a room for the archives. The first item displayed is the 1926 two-manual Wurlitzer console which will have a platform covered with the only piece of 1926 carpeting left in the theatre. Other things on display are a DC spotlight, an original sound projector and some small items from the theatre's early days.

*Thief of Bagdad* was the feature for our spring silent movie nights, April 19 and 20. Lance Johnson scored the movie.

Our main concern now is the "Save the Fargo" campaign as we attempt to raise money to buy the theatre and fund the major repairs that are needed. Those chapters that own and/or

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In addition to working on our Wurlitzer, the Johnson Organ Company is also rebuilding all keyboards for the left console at Radio City Music Hall as they are preparing for a big Disney show in May.

SONIA CARLSON

**The River City  
Theatre Organ Society  
Omaha, Nebraska  
402/292-7799 or 402/572-1040**

We are proud to be one of the newest chapters of ATOS. Our membership is around 35, and we plan to grow. Although we have had meetings every month since we began forming our group in November 1984, our first meeting as an ATOS chapter was held on March 3 at the home of Bill and Maurine Durand in Omaha. The Durands shared their house and their beautiful three-manual Allen Digital Computer theatre organ with all of us. Everyone who wanted to try this terrific modern theatre organ had a chance.

President Ann Gabelman welcomed everyone and conducted a short business meeting after which she introduced our vice-president for programs, Harold Kenney. He, in turn, introduced our guest artist for the afternoon, Dennis Ketchum, from the Critchett Piano and Organ Company of Omaha. Dennis is an expert on Allen organs and played a beautiful concert showing off the capabilities of the instrument. Member Jack Moelmann followed with a short concert and then accompanied the silent movie *It's A Gift* starring Snub Pollard. A good time was had by all.

We have three theatre pipe organs: the beautiful 3/13 Wurlitzer in the restored Orpheum Theatre in downtown Omaha, a 2/5 Wurlitzer in the old Roxy Theatre in Bellevue (home

of the Bellevue Little Theatre) and a magnificent 3/14 Kimball in the home of Bob and Penny Markworth, who have invited many Omaha groups to their home to enjoy their instrument. It was there that we held our first meeting, and many members tried out a real theatre pipe organ for the first time.

We look forward to furthering the goals of ATOS and having some exciting times with theatre organ in the future.

JACK MOELMANN

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
Denver, Colorado  
303/797-2232 or 303/233-4716**

On February 3 we visited Fred and Evelyn Riser's for installation of officers and to hear the progress being made on their 3/31 Wurlitzer. The 14 ranks currently playing are controlled from the two-manual console, and they are working to get the recently purchased three-manual console wired and restored. This console, purchased from the Organ Stop in Mesa, is from the Denver Theatre. Following a productive meeting, the entertainment was provided by Patti Simon on the organ and Dick Kroeckel on the piano for several duets.

On February 24 chapter Vice-President Dorothy Retallack provided a unique and delightful afternoon for members and friends when she played a program at the Denver Paramount Theatre in celebration of Dr. Louis Retallack's retirement after 52 years of medical practice. Dorothy planned a "This Is Your Life" program which was a surprise to her husband as friends of many years appeared with delightful anecdotes from the doctor's life. Dorothy prepared several numbers in honor of the doctor, and among these was Ashley Miller's beautiful arrangement of "The Song

Is You." Also included in the program were Patti Simon, who is Dorothy's teacher, and Bill Lukanic, who was accompanied by his wife, Eileen, as he sang some of Doctor's favorite numbers.

PATTI SIMON

**SOONER STATE  
Tulsa**

**918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146**

Our annual business meeting was held in January in the home of Phil and Laura Judkins. We were amazed and pleased at the number of people who attended. Our hosts would never have believed that so many could have found room in their house. We also discovered that the on-going "game" of musical chairs that resulted was a delightful way to get to visit with everyone.

Music for the evening was presented by Lorene Thomas on Phil's almost-ten-rank hybrid. Open console selections were by Dr. Jim Routson, John Barhydt, Ricky Jobe, Phil Judkins, Dorothy Smith and Tom Cotner. Tom, who was visiting from Oklahoma City, is a partner in the Philbrook Art Center organ rebuilding project.

February found us back at Central Assembly of God church with open console on the 4/14 Robert-Morton.

At a board meeting the following week in the home of Vic Thomas, those present discussed ideas for future projects. With the 3/10 Robert-Morton Vo-Tech installation nearing its final stages, we are looking forward to using it for public concerts. We would like to have at least four "mini-concerts" a year using local experienced or professional artists playing on our Vo-Tech organ as well as other instruments available to us. Also discussed were plans for another performance by a nationally recog-

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nized theatre organist on the 4/21 Wurlitzer in Christ Chapel at Oral Roberts University.

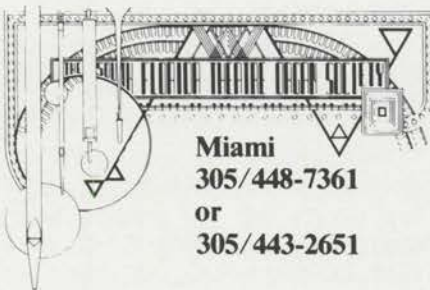
We have lost another member. Harvey Young, 67, died February 16 from the effects of a stroke. Harvey was a staunch supporter of theatre organ music and had been a member of Tulsa Organ Club (electronics) as well as of our chapter. He was a man of many interests; he loved cats, airplanes, photography, gadgets — and people. There wasn't anyone who knew Harvey who didn't like him, and there wasn't anyone Harvey knew that he didn't like! He never turned us down when we asked to have a meeting at his house or a picnic on his "island" (built next to the man-made lake that was part of his private airport). He usually had a new "toy" to show us — his last was a two-manual computerized synthesizer set up beside his Conn 652.

He was never bashful about playing the organs at our meetings. We teased him about the "funny music" he played from, but he'd always smile and then climb on the bench. And over the years we noticed a tremendous improvement in his playing — "Harvey's been practicing," we'd say. He carried his tape recorder to all of our meetings and recorded everyone who played. Professional or amateur, it was all organ music, and he

wanted to preserve it. Harvey was a gentleman — and a gentle man. We shall miss him.

A memorial service was held for Harvey at Hope Unitarian Church in Tulsa on February 23 at which about 45 minutes of taped theatre pipe organ music was played. Color slides of Harvey's life were shown, and then those present were treated to a glass of wine — "on Harvey." He had no survivors.

DOROTHY SMITH



We enjoyed a recital by Tim Needler of Indianapolis, Indiana, at the Gusman Cultural Center in downtown Miami in February. He performed on the 3/15 Style 260 Mighty Wurlitzer which has a 32-foot Diaphone. It is the only remaining theatre pipe organ in its original installation south of Atlanta, Georgia.

Needler began his program by "blowing the dust out of the pipes"

with a lively rendition of "Hot Lips," written by Henry Lange and popular when Gusman Center was the Olympia movie theatre in the 1920s. Other numbers were "For Once in My Life," "Blue Skies" and several Gershwin songs.

For our March meeting, organist David Thurman presented a program on the Gusman Wurlitzer discussing its history, its present condition and recommendations for repairs and restoration. Afterwards there was open console for those who wished to play.

Darrell Calvin, managing director of Gusman Cultural Center, has asked our chapter to participate in several ways. We will become a "resident company" of Gusman, will present three public organ concerts or silent movie accompanied by organ each year rent free and will provide an organist to play the Wurlitzer before all concerts and benefits and during intermission when appropriate. We are encouraged to follow through with our plans to completely renovate and restore the organ and to apply for grants and public monies to assist in accomplishing club goals. In addition, we have been invited to use the center for open console sessions, club meetings, restoration work sessions and practice sessions for those who will play at the public events.

Pipeline, our newsletter, has a new

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Ballerinas from Reflections in Motion Studio in a selection from *The Nutcracker* on stage at the State Theatre during Christmas program. (Lorraine Pena photo)



Duwain Hunt (State Theatre Vaudeville Committee) and Diana Haskins (Southwest Michigan Chapter), co-chairmen of the Christmas show at the theatre, with Tom Wibbels, guest organist, and John Catherwood, in charge of organ maintenance. (Lorraine Pena photo)

editor, Dave Dunlap, who moved to Florida from Michigan to become office manager of Dunne Music Company in Pompano Beach, the Allen Organ representative for Southern Florida. In Michigan, Dunlap served as vice-president and assistant staff organist of the Flint Theatre Organ Club, as dean of the Flint chapter of the AGO and was the founding director of the Lansing chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

JO WERNE

### SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN THEATRE ORGAN CLUB

Southwest Michigan  
616/649-2742 or 616/388-4605

Our members played and listened to a variety of organs, both pipe and electronic, during the past year. Member Al Dinse has a three-manual Artisan in his home. For many years Al played drums in a dance band, and he decided to incorporate the drums plus some other percussions into the organ. After placing the instruments on a table to determine their arrangement, he made a cabinet to fit, then installed solenoids to activate each one, ran a cable to the manual to com-

plete the additions and added a bird call for special effects. Al graciously allows us to drop in to play the Artisan at other than regular meeting times.

The club has met often at Keyboard Center in Portage, a business enterprise of member Mike McLeieer's family. This unique store sells organs and pianos in a lovely setting that features a living room complete with grand piano, a kitchenette for serving refreshments and a patio area. On stage is a 3/6 Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ which has tuned Canadian Sleighbells, Cathedral Chimes, chase lights around the chamber, a mirror ball overhead, slide projector and screen for sing-alongs and illuminated singing birds in a tree. Ralph Wolf was the artist for their grand opening in May.

Tim Needler was guest organist when we met at The Cathedral of Christ The King in Kalamazoo. He performed on the Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ there and later entertained us at Keyboard Center.

Member Neil Johnson has an Allen 620 in the family's skating rink in Sturgis, and we held a picnic around their beautiful pool in July. Some chose to swim while others played the

organ or skated. We also had the opportunity to play the Custom 340 Rodgers at the Sturges-Young Auditorium. Charlie Balogh gave a concert on this organ in March 1984, along with the Sturgis Big Band. Neil Johnston, Jr., is a talented young organist who provided some of the entertainment at the farewell party before the closing of the Cardinal Music Palace in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Several of us were there to applaud his performance.

Dale and Joni Zieger, members from Grand Rapids, invited us to their music store, Keyboard World, for a demonstration and open console on Rodgers organs. They are also franchised for several other major brands of organs and pianos and sponsored a performance by Chris Anderson on the Yamaha FX-20 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel Ballroom. We also had a meeting at Zieger's home to try the Conn 652 which Dale had modified. As is often the case when out-of-towners visit Grand Rapids, a stop was planned at the Roaring '20s Restaurant to listen to Charlie Balogh play the Mighty Wur-litzer.

Two other music stores hosted meetings for us. Albright Music in

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Kalamazoo Singers on State Theatre stage during the Christmas program.

(Lorraine Pena photo)

Portage had a Hammond Elegante as the main attraction, and Stannard's Music in Kalamazoo featured the Johannus Classical organ and Baldwin 520 theatre organ.

It was an antique lover's paradise when we met at Good Old Times Antiques in Benton Harbor, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zollar. They have installed a large, three-manual Wurlitzer pipe organ with roll player in the shop. We listened to some tunes by the roll player before having open console.

Special concerts attended by chapter members and their families were George Wright at the Redford Theatre in Detroit and Carlo Curley/Lyn Larsen at the Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids.

On December 16 Kalamazoo's historic State Theatre was the setting for an "Old-Fashioned Christmas" program co-sponsored by our chapter and the State Theatre Vaudeville Committee. Traditional and popular Christmas numbers were provided by Tom Wibbels at the console of the 3/13 Barton, the Kalamazoo Singers (an adult choral group) and dancers from the Reflections in Motion Studio. Tom accompanied a sing-along of old favorite Christmas carols to conclude the program.

A regular meeting was held at the

State Theatre on January 20. John Catherwood, who for many years has played and helped maintain the 3/13 Barton, presented the program. This organ is the original installation in the beautiful atmospheric theatre designed by John Ebersson. Betty Darling began the open console session with a timely "Button Up Your Overcoat," as the temperature outside was -12 degrees. The turnout was small because of the weather, but those who were present were happy to finally have the chance to play the Barton. In recognition of his many services performed in the preservation of the organ and his willingness to play for any event when called upon, the members voted at our last meeting to make John Catherwood an honorary member of our chapter.

DIANA HASKINS



#### WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

Central & Lower Michigan  
313/284-8882 or 313/588-7118

Once again a group of us traded an old year for a new one under the roof of Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes. Our friends, Gary Montgomery and H.C. Scott, again excelled in providing all the ingredients for a fun-filled cele-

bration. The antics of organists John Steele and Steve Schlesing (the "new guy") contributed in no small measure to a successful party. Unfortunately, many who could not be there (including ourselves) missed out on an evening of what we like to call our trademark — friendship!

On January 13 the first gathering of 1985 was held in St. Clare's Roman Catholic Church in Windsor, where we heard Don Jenks play the Wurlitzer. Several members of the church congregation joined the Wolverines and friends to make up an audience of about 80 appreciative listeners. After Don's program, the open console time was climaxed by a duet with member Bob Ballard at the piano and the church's organist, Percy Beneteau, at the console. The two presented a "sound of music" probably not often heard in the church of St. Clare.

Our February gathering occurred at the home of Dave Brewer and his mother in Dearborn. Dave's Marr & Barlitzer gave a loud, clear and vocal response to the manhandling by various open-consolists, but in the end, it was Dave himself who cajoled some mean boogie out of her. A short business meeting was injected into the gathering during which several of us newer members were surprised to learn of the Wolverine chapter's seniority in Michigan.

CHARLES and BETTY BAAS □

#### ATOS

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