



CHAPTER NOTES

Edited by Grace E. McGinnis



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

The premiere organ concert series at Shea's Buffalo Theater ended on May 21 with a performance by Tom Hazleton at the 4/28 Wurlitzer, the theatre's original organ, now fully restored. The audience heard Mr. Hazleton refer to the organ as the "definitive Wurlitzer" and praise the volunteers for their workmanship and Allen Miller for his tonal finishing.

Equally proficient in both classical and traditional theatre organ styling, Tom centered his program around tunes composed in the '20s demonstrated by a 1926 medley containing such old favorites as "Bye, Bye, Blackbird," "Blue Room" and "Mountain Greenery." His tour through

the organ, showing off its various sounds, not only enlightened the audience but also added a few chuckles, as did his demonstration of how to make a million-dollar pipe organ sound like a \$2000 electronic relative in a slinky arrangement of "Satin Doll." The second half of the program contained such oddities as a "Symphony of Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz," based on former Alka Seltzer commercials, and a remarkable improvisation on five notes called out from the audience. Mr. Hazleton seemed to be having as much fun as his audience, and it was clearly evident that everyone present wanted the evening to go on forever, judging by the copious applause brought forth by each selection. The evening finally drew to a close with a Meet-the-Artist reception in the theatre's gilded lobbies.

We are eagerly looking forward to the 1985-86 theatre organ series at Shea's Buf-



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.

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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

falo featuring young English sensation Robert Wolfe on November 3, Father Jim Miller on March 9, and Ron Rhode on May 18. All concerts are scheduled for Sunday afternoons at two o'clock.

MAUREEN WILKE

CEDAR RAPIDS AREA

Iowa

319/362-9676 or 319/396-5653

Showcasing the Paramount Theatre and its 3/11 Wurlitzer, our spring show on May 16 marked a new plateau. As predicted, it was a stellar performance by an exuberant Tom Hazleton whose artistry surpassed all expectations, characterized by both flair and smooth execution. A high point of the performance was Laurel and Hardy's *Two Tars*. The score was unexpectedly well-crafted with a variety of colors and textures woven into the film action making it a musical *tour de force* on its own. The concert climaxed an informative visit by Tom, who gave much insight to local aficionados.

The May 19 social was held at the Cedar Rapids Community Theatre where Clark Wilson entertained us at the 3/14 Barton. Although the instrument is in the process of restoration, Clark's performance gave promise of many more enjoyable moments to come. Clark deserves much credit for the professional sound of the instrument, as do members of Cedar Rapids Barton, Inc. As the governing organ committee, they will not only complete the restoration, but will also incorporate adaptive revisions to the house. We wish to thank members Bob Burkhart, Paul Montague and Karl Hoffman for sharing their efforts in this project. Also contributing significantly have been Darrell Child and Galena's Robb Kendall.

The Paramount's "Palace of Versailles" lobby was the setting for the Cedar Rapids Fine Arts Council reception on June 11. Although the Paramount has no lobby organ, the 3/11 in the auditorium was played by George Baldwin, and this allowed guests to stroll the Roxy-like interior with the console in operation.

In the spirit of youth-appreciation, our June social presented two area high school students. Opening was Jeff Korns, a veteran of a previous Czech Village social as a strolling accordionist, followed by Neal Marple whose instrument of study has been the classical organ. Both demonstrated their fascination with the Mighty Wurlitzer as a musical medium. We hope to hear more from them and their future cohorts. Open console gave the veteran organists present a chance to try Tom Hazleton's combinations in a social setting. Loren Frink, a frequent entertainer, was followed by Paul Montague who recently returned from a CATOE social at the Sanfilippo residence.

MICHAEL VANCURA



CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

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

Our May 5 meeting was held at the Hedback Theatre. President Tess Moses announced the winners of the young artists competition. They are Martin Ellis, first place; Brian Holland, second place; and Cletus Goins, third place. Our surprise artist for the day was Brian Holland. Brian's program included a wide variety of tunes such as "Great Day" and "Greatest American Hero."

Over 50 members went on a bus tour to St. Louis on June 8 and 9. The trip included a visit to the Wicks Organ factory, the Fox Theatre and the Charles Harder concert on the Cassavant organ at the University of Illinois.

On June 10, we presented four concerts at the Hedback Theatre as our contribution to the White River Arts Festival. Members who played were Tim Needler, Brian Holland, Martin Ellis and Ken Double.

Tess Moses presided over our June 23 meeting which was held at the Mars Theatre in Lafayette. Business discussed included printing of the chapter history and postponement of the benefit concert for the Humane Society until next spring when the Manual High School refurbishing is completed. Carroll Copeland introduced several guests and members of the Hi-Note Organ Club. He then introduced our artist for the day, Ken Double. Ken, in his own positive, personable way, did an excellent, enjoyable job with several songs including "I'm Beginning to See the Light" and "The Children of Sanchez."

WAYNE R. PIPHER

CENTRAL OHIO Columbus

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

The concluding concert of the 1984-85 organ series on May 18 featured Dennis James celebrating his tenth anniversary as resident organist at the Ohio Theatre. His program was a delightful tribute to the silent film era featuring two short movies starring Mack Sennett. Dennis' affection for the Ohio Robert-Morton, we learned, really began with his first concert in 1972. In memory of this occasion, he played two selections from his original program, "Butterflies in the Rain" and "Colonel

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Bob Matsumoto and Eleanor Hyle try their hands at the Morton during Central Ohio's visit to the Ohio Theatre in Columbus. (Jack Montag photos)

Bogie March." Dennis included a delightful slide presentation of Hawaii with an appropriate medley of lilting island songs. In addition, he introduced vocalist Thom Gall who, accompanied by Dennis, paid tribute to Rudolph Valentino with renditions of tunes such as "The Sheik of Araby" and "There's A New Star in Heaven Tonight."

The following day we were back at the Ohio to have the coveted Robert-Morton all to ourselves. Present were 36 members and guests, including some very capable organists, 14 of whom paraded to the console for a full three-hour program. We are indeed grateful to Carlos Parker and the staff of the Ohio for access to this prized possession.

JOHN R. POLSLEY



Chicago Area

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

Our May social featured Joy Collins at the 3/11 Wurlitzer/Kimball at the WGN studio. Joy owns and operates the Beautiful Sound music store in downtown Chicago. Her program was full of interesting variety. After a few solos, she conducted a sing-along, a Name That Tune! game with prizes, and ended with a bit of patriotism for Memorial Day. It was an unusual treat!

Our June social was at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing where house organist Dave Wickerham (originally from Encino, California) did the console honors with a splendid program on the 3/17 Barton. This organ came from the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and this pizza spot, in a former theatre, is owned

by Roger Tremstra (WGN's weatherman) and his partner, Bud Vogel, who is an excellent musician and teacher.

Surprises are always welcome, and we really had a super extra! Rob Calcaterra informed us that he would be in the area the last part of June and would like to play for us. The wheels turned fast, and the Sanfilippos granted use of their facilities and magnificent organ for the occasion. Cards were sent to the members, and about 200 crammed in to hear Rob present an excellent and thrilling program. These surprises we like!

Mayor Washington was with the Landmarks Preservation Council when they stopped in at the Chicago Theatre for an inspection recently. It so happened that crew chief Cary D'Amico was in the theatre at the time and became an instant soloist so the group could hear that magnificent Wurlitzer. They were all favorably impressed. Cheers to Cary for his timely presentation!

The Elm Roller Rink was the site of our July social. Bill Kucek, house organist, was soloist on the 4/27 Geneva Hybrid. Bill's programs are always welcome, lively and interesting, and we were pleased to have the opportunity to hear him once again.

Barbara Sellers is rarely idle and, in addition to her regular teaching and performing positions, she gave a special the last of June at the American Musical World in Niles, Illinois. She appeared in concert June 23, and the next evening gave a two-hour seminar on "Problems Frequently Plaguing the Student."

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**Babson College, Wellesley
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May 18 and 19 were rather special concert dates at Stoneham Town Hall and at Babson as our guest organist was James Paulin, Jr. Not just another capable performer constantly weaving new tone tapestries, Jimmy quickly establishes a genuine empathy with his audiences. His sense of humor and broad smile come through in his music and his innate body rhythm often matches the tempo. With five years as staff organist at Radio City Music Hall and numerous other church and theatre organ positions, "Skip" has no difficulty with any instrument.

Both concerts opened with a lively "S Wonderful," which is sort of Jim's signature tune. At Stoneham, his choir-member mother proudly sang "We Are the World," and at Babson some familiar hymns. "Amazing Grace," on the Town Hall 2/14 Wurlitzer, was dedicated to our late President, Bill Carpenter. Sunday's concert was dedicated to the memory of Ed Stanley, a most faithful, knowledgeable member and organ crew chief, who recently passed away. Both concerts brought the audiences to their feet with shouts and long applause resulting in "There's No Business Like Show Business" as our Stoneham encore, and "Now Thank We All Our God" at Babson. The presence of both Ma and Pa Paulin made an obvious hit, for there was an unmistakable sense of appreciation and love. Jim's easy-going style is a real crowd-pleaser, and there is little doubt that we will schedule a return engagement with this personable gentleman.

Chapter secretary Carolyn Wilcox graciously hosted a club outing on May 26 at her Burlington home with much good food, fellowship, and an introduction to her new Rodgers electronic.

At our final meeting of the season at Babson on June 16, our conscientious treasurer, Dave Marden, was presented a Wurlitzer tie bar by Persis Garniss in ap-

preciation. Coffee can donations purchased this, with the balance going to the William Carpenter Fund.

For several years, member Cheryl Linder has been our June organist, and the tradition continued with this attractive young lady opening with a snappy "Fandango" requiring much double pedaling. Cheryl successfully achieved the effect, in Sousa's "Manhattan Beach March," of a distant approaching band and, after its passing, the diminishing volume of sound 'way down the road. Her final "Rhapsody in Blue" was a real workout, and it came off beautifully, revealing her considerable musical progress.

Miss Linder brought a friend, New England Conservatory graduate Mark Dwyer, for a short stint at the console. "Ain't Misbehavin'" showed a nice touch and knowledge of registration. His audience gave him a standing "O" which brought a sprightly "Give My Regards to Broadway" coupled with "Yankee Doodle Dandy." Two relatively young performers brought us much pleasure with the freshness in their music and spirit.

Our second outing was on June 23 at the Waltham residence of Rosalie and Pat Fucci — an annual event. In addition to the great food and "gabfest," Pat and friends had been diligently working to get 11 ranks of pipes sounding on his Robert-Morton. Bob Legon was called upon to "do the honors" by playing this instrument in its new, chapel-like setting. Even in its unfinished state, it gave us an insight into what will eventually be quite an installation. It was an emotional moment for Pat to hear his organ finally sounding forth after so many days of labor and expense, and those of us present shared in his proud moment. Thank you, Carolyn, Rosalie and Pat, for two "fun" affairs!

STANLEY C. GARNISS

**KIWI
Auckland, New Zealand
540-919**

Down under we are keeping the flag flying and send greetings to all overseas ATOSers who visited us during our long, hot summer.

Our delayed Christmas gathering became a garden party early in February when members relaxed in the shade of the Polycarpa Idesia in the garden of this writer. Refreshments in the usual Kiwi style were served by the ladies, and Ian Johnson entertained us, and the neighbors for miles around, with magic music from his Baldwin organ.

Travelers' tales were told by Ken and Jocelyn Hill when they recently hosted members at their home. During their extensive European tour, they heard many fine organs and met several ATOS members in the U.K.

At the time of this writing, winter is well and truly with us, and we are looking forward to the return visit of Warren Lubich who will be playing Opus 1475 at the Hollywood Cinema in Auckland. Then he will perform at Tauranga on the 2/11 Wurlitzer Opus 1482, and, finally, he will play at the Southward Museum in Paraparaumu, a combined theatre and vintage car museum (shades of San Sylmar). Beautifully installed in the concert hall is the 3/16 Special Opus 2075. Visitors to New Zealand should not fail to make a pilgrimage to this wonderful museum, just off the main highway, north of Wellington.

NORMAN DAWE



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8956-32369 or 1-788-8791

Barry, the popular holiday resort, port and industrial center in Glamorgan on the South Wales coast, is to be the new home of the world-famous Christie theatre pipe organ that was for 50 years the musical centerpiece of the huge Regal (latterly Top Rank Club) Theatre in Northeast London. Graciously presented for preservation to our chapter by Grosvenor Square Properties, the new owners of the building, shortly after it was closed in 1984, our widely accomplished Technical Team has already dismantled the huge instrument and transported it to its new home in the splendid



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and spacious Memorial Arts Hall and Entertainments Centre in Holton Road, Barry, only a few miles southwest of Cardiff.

Fortuitously, the enthusiastic support of the Barry Town Council, numerous ATOS members and other keen helpers enabled this mightiest of musical instruments to be transferred direct to its new home. Together with the Technical Team, they are about to begin the mammoth task of restoration and re-installation on a "permanent loan" basis in new chambers in Memorial Hall. In so doing, they aim to bring to Barry a major new attraction for both popular and classical musical presentation hitherto absent in the area.

Specially built by the world-renowned Hill, Norman and Beard Company for the Regal, Edmonton, in 1934, and taking its brand name from John Christie of Glyn-debourne fame, the mighty 4/15 incorporates 1600 pipes and weighs around ten tons. The great Sidney Torch opened the organ on March 3, 1934, and his name will always be associated with it for the numerous outstanding records he made there — notably "Twelfth Street Rag," "Bugle Call Rag," "Temptation Rag" and "Orient Express" — which still remain fresh and exciting on numerous modern LP record reproductions.

Considered by many to be one of the most versatile instruments ever to emerge from the Christie works, and a monument

to the theatre pipe organ builders' art, the 14 pipework units (there are two ranks of strings) are housed in two chambers. In the Solo are the English Horn, Tuba, French Trumpet, Tibia I, Krumet, Saxophone, Clarinet and Vox Humana. In the Main chamber are the Diaphonic Diapason, Tibia II, Gamba, Violin, Strings and Flute. A wide range of "effects" is also provided, including a Marimba (which can almost take the place of the original grand piano attachment). Considerable restoration work has already been carried out by London Chapter members in recent years as an integral part of their series of special concerts prior to its removal. Featuring top-class international artists, it is proposed that similar presentations will continue at Barry when the Christie organ becomes fully operational again.

DR. NORMAN BARFIELD



LOS ANGELES
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY
California
818/792-7084

Our "Stars of Tomorrow" competition was held on the 3/16 Wurlitzer in San Gabriel Auditorium and featured eight or-

ganists ranging in age from 10 to 22, and each is a "pro" in his or her own right! Karen Koh won the Junior Division; David Dittmar won in the Youth I category, and Bill Leone took top honors in Youth II. An unexpectedly large crowd thoroughly enjoyed the great theatre organ sounds these "Stars" produced. Special thanks go to all the members of our Com-



Neil Jensen in concert at San Gabriel for LATOS. (Zimfoto)



"Stars of Tomorrow" Scholarship Competition Finals at San Gabriel Auditorium. Pictured are eight contestants, three judges, M.C. Bill Irwin, Stan Kann, and all who participated in the event. (Zimfoto)

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Tony Wilson playing at the Los Angeles Orpheum Theatre. (Zimfoto)

petition Committee, judges Dr. Wilbur Held, Ralph Wolf and Stan Kann, along with Emcee Bill Irwin.

Playing to our largest Orpheum crowd since the 3/13's re-dedication, Tony Wilson left his audience wanting more . . . even after two encores!

Closing our spring season was Jerry Nagano at San Gabriel with a great program featuring everyone's favorite melodies played in his pleasing style.

RALPH BEAUDRY



Detroit
313/537-1133

Richmond's "Mr. Music," Eddie Weaver, appeared in his sixth concert for our chapter at the Redford Theatre on May 11. The combination of Eddie's energetic personality and musicianship made old tunes come alive with a new vitality. It was enjoyable, too, to have Eddie's wife of 57 years, Marian, with him in Detroit. Also

on the program were the Tailgate Ramblers, Detroit's oldest Dixieland band.

Organ workshops and the monthly Club Day were held at the Redford on May 19 and June 2. These once-a-month get-togethers give members a chance to learn more about the organ and become better acquainted with each other.

Members have met twice this year to copy master tapes of organ programs presented by the chapter as only one recorder is allowed at each concert. This enables members to have tapes of a program without the constant snapping of tape recorder buttons during a concert.

Executive Director Doug Fisk met with board members, officers and committee chairmen at the Redford on May 21. There was a lively exchange of chapter and national viewpoints, and we learned much about the operation of national ATOS.

The Memorial Day weekend saw the moving of the pipework of our 3/9 Wurlitzer, donated to the chapter by Richard Chapman, from a storage facility in Livonia to the Redford Theatre office building.

Our Annual Garage Sale was held at the Redford Theatre on June 7 and 8 and netted the chapter over \$2000 to go toward a new grand drape. Twenty chapter organists provided continuous music at the 3/10 Barton during the two-day event.

June 15 was designated Ted Strasser Day at the Redford, during our showing of



Greg Yassick at the Royal Oak Theatre's 3/16 Barton. (Fred Page photo)



On a tour of WJR record library are, L to R: Bill Vogel, Ethel O'Leary, Don Lockwood, David Martin, Donald Martin, Tony O'Brien and Margaret Tapler. Ted Strasser of WJR (seated) explains how records are cross-indexed.

(Dorothy Van Steenkiste photo)

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Fred Page (left) and Don Lockwood talk with ATOS Executive Director Doug Fisk at the Redford Theatre. (Bill Vogel photo)



Wayne Lathrop, member of the Redford Theatre Operating Committee, talks with Ed die Weaver at the Redford Theatre. (Bill Vogel photo)

An American in Paris, in recognition of the valuable public service work done by Ted in publicizing our activities over radio station WJR. In his 29 years at the station, Ted has become especially well-known for his friendly conversational style, his readings and his choice of music, patterned after a central theme on his Sunday morning program, "Patterns in Music." Ted was presented with a giant "Best Wishes on Your Retirement" card signed by chapter members and fans in the audience.

Several members had the opportunity to tour the WJR record library and studios on June 9 as guests of Ted Strasser. The station, which boasts nearly 500,000 records, all cross-indexed, was the last in the country to employ a studio orchestra and produced "The Hermit's Cave" back in the golden days of radio.

Greg Yassick, now a practicing dentist and a student of Fr. Jim Miller, was the performing artist at our Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Theatre on May 26.

On June 23, our Fourth Sunday artist at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton was Fr. Andrew Rogers, associate pastor at Holy Trinity Church in Saginaw and also a student of Fr. Miller. Admission to these monthly Sunday morning programs is free and includes refreshments and open console.

Fall programs include Fr. Jim Miller at the Royal Oak on November 9 and Walt Strony and the Concordia Handbell Choir at the Redford on December 7. For more information, write to Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone 313/537-1133.

DON LOCKWOOD

**NEW YORK
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
New York
201/573-9567 or 201/473-0559**

We met at Long Island University in Brooklyn (formerly the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre) on June 2 for a concert



NYTOS members Bob Walker and Gary Phillips keep the LIU Wurlitzer in top shape. (Brunke photo)

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and open console session on the 4/26 Wurlitzer. Member Jim Wingate provided the formal part of the afternoon's activities performing selections from three distinct musical settings: the theatre, the church and the concert hall, reflecting his musical background and experience. Jim formerly served as house organist at the United Artist Theatre in Louisville, Kentucky, is currently organist/choirmaster at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, and has performed on the concert scene in New York's Lincoln Center and in other concert settings and recording studios in New York.

On the theatre side, Jim's selections featured music of Broadway, including hits from *Oklahoma*, *The Sound of Music*, *Carousel* and *Cats*. The church-setting selections included Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" and "Sleepers, Wake." Concert hall standards, "Washington Post March" and Hewitt's "Fourth of July Suite" rounded out the program. Jim's concert demonstrated the versatility of the LIU Wurlitzer which was in fine voice, as always, thanks to the efforts of members Bob Walker and Gary Phillips who maintain the instrument with much tender loving care. Members and guests had a most enjoyable afternoon at open console as a wide range of both professional and amateur organists took their turns putting the mighty Brooklyn Paramount Wurlitzer through its paces.

When the board of directors met on June 17 the status of the Carnegie Hall Cinema organ was discussed, and secretary-treasurer Phil Yankoschuk reported his efforts to have the United States Postal Service issue a postage stamp featuring the theatre organ.

Progress on our 2/10 Wurlitzer at the Middletown Paramount Theatre continues at a quickened pace as the theatre prepares for its grand opening in September as a performing arts center. An article unearthed from the June 12, 1930, edition of the Middletown *Times Herald* states that the Wurlitzer organ would not be ready for the opening of the Paramount Theatre on that date, and Bob Seeley and crew are working hard and hoping that history does not repeat itself in 1985.

TOM STEHLE



Jim Wingate at the LIU (Brooklyn Paramount) Wurlitzer for NYTOS.



**NOR-CAL
Theatre Organ Society**

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

Our June concert was a special summer treat given by the Oakland Paramount's



Jim Roseveare at the Oakland Paramount Wurlitzer for Nor-Cal concert. (Dr. Ed Mullins photo)

organist, James Roseveare. Jim is one of the few people in the Bay Area who can truly control an organ; he can make it sing, cry, sound like an angelic choir or a military band in full march. One thing a person will gain from a Roseveare concert is an overview of the great Jesse Crawford and his arrangements. Jim is not only one of the greatest theatre organists, he is also a very interesting and knowledgeable narrator of the Golden Oldies. From his vast repertoire, he played a few of his favorites such as "Dancing in the Dark" and "Spring Will Be A Little Late This Year," which makes use of the Paramount Wurlitzer's unique Vibraharp (March/April 1983 THEATRE ORGAN). Jim played a seldom heard song entitled "Two Cigarettes in the Dark," by Lew Pollack and Paul Francis Webster, which the chapter really enjoyed. Much of his program was comprised of Jesse Crawford's arrangements among which were "A Broken Rosary," "High Hat," the fantastic "My Love Song" and his closing "Masquerade." A true theatre organ fan doesn't need an introduction to Jim Roseveare and the magnificent theatre organs he has played around the world, but I trust that this will give you some idea of what you are going to relish when you attend a Roseveare concert. It is really a must-see and must-hear thrilling event.

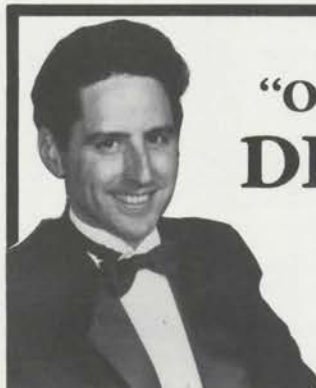
MICHAEL VERN KNOWLES



**NORTH
TEXAS
CHAPTER**

**Dallas-Fort Worth
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Our new chairman, Gordon Wright, inaugurated his term by calling a meeting of chapter advisors to plan the installation phase of our 3/8 Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre. Gordon noted that the rebuild work was virtually complete and that now a "big-push" effort was required to complete the installation. Responding to his challenge, work in the the-



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—Mary Strauss

atre has now begun in earnest, and hopes are high to have the organ playing by the end of summer. This activity dominates the chapter's attention, and, with the end in sight, enthusiasm for hearing this instrument playing again in a theatre mounts steadily.

For our April meeting we were again privileged to meet in the John Beck Hall,

guests of Gil and Sylvia Swift. The passing of the chapter gavel from Past Chairman Irving Light to the new chairman was the first event of the day. Irving noted that this gavel has been in continuous use since 1974 — having been hand-crafted by member Mark Munsell for that year's chairman, Earl McDonald. Earl's Scottish heritage no doubt accounts for the gavel's

decidedly Shillelagh-like appearance — it was made from a twisted tree fork. Chairman Wright, brandishing this menacing instrument, opined that perhaps Past Chairman Light owed his success in recruiting many volunteer organ rebuilders to the threat of this gavel rather than to artful persuasion as he had previously thought. (NOT TRUE!)



Honorees Ruth and Irving Light. Irving was chairman 1983-1984, North Texas Chapter. (Light photo)



Organist Charles Evans acknowledges applause at premiere concert on Wright residence 3/18 Wurlitzer. (Light photo)



View of part of listening area, residence of Gordon and Evelyn Wright. (Light photo)



NTC Chairman Wright, welcomes members to his home for "Premiere" concert on 3/18 Wurlitzer. (Light photo)



Tom Wibbels
Theatre Organist

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James Miller**

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Fenton, MI 48430

The musical program for this meeting was provided by the very talented Gene Powell at the Wurlitzer. Gene's opener, "Everything's Coming Up Roses," portrayed a feeling of confidence and the promise of having our chapter organ playing this year. Gene's concerts are always a high point for us, and, as usual, his playing was melodious, varied, colorful, and much appreciated by his audience. Ranging from '20s hits to the contemporary "From Russia With Love," he also included medleys from *The Music Man* and *The Sound of Music*. Our ovation brought a much appreciated encore, "Granada." The "glow" of the music was prolonged by the delicious refreshments and the stimulating visiting that followed.

What will no doubt be a chapter high point this year was the special meeting called May 19 to honor Ruth and Irving Light, who will be moving to southern California. Chairman Wright and his wife, Evelyn, made this occasion especially notable by inviting members to their home for the "premiere" concert on their newly finished 3/18 Wurlitzer. This installation exemplifies what many of us dream about — a lovely home in which the organ is a comfortable attribute rather than a dominating intruder. The three chamber openings are unobtrusively blended into the architecture of the high vaulted ceiling in the very large living room listening area. Gordon has exercised care in the voicing and swell control to assure that all of the robust theatre pipe sound is retained without the harshness and uncontrolled decibels that may be experienced in less careful home installations.

For this premiere, the Wrights selected organist Charles Evans, a fine organist whose playing experience as a youth included some of the finest Dallas theatre installations. He is also an arranger and teacher, and many of our members boast of being his students. His playing is always notable for his careful attention to harmony and registration and for his original arrangements. The weather and the occasion were accurately portrayed in his opening "On A Wonderful Day Like Today." He also played the Lights' requested "Hawaiian Wedding Song," wringing every soulful expression possible from this won-

derful instrument.

Following the program, the Lights were presented with a card, signed by all present, expressing regards and best wishes to Irving and Ruth for a Happy Retirement and return to family members in California. The Lights expressed their gratitude for having been so honored and for the warm friendship of chapter members. They want all to know that leaving Dallas is all the more difficult for leaving the company of these fine Texas friends.

IRVING LIGHT



Gerry Gregorius (seated) and Don Ingram are pleased with the sounds of Don's Wurlitzer. (Claude Neuffer photo)

OREGON Portland

503/775-9048 or 503/771-8098

It never ceases to amaze me how every artist can make the same pipe organ sound so completely different. Hector Olivera, at Benson High School's Kimball on May 19, was certainly no exception. Although Hector's program was predominantly classical in nature, either by his choice of music or by the way in which he interpreted it, the audience was, nonetheless, extremely enthusiastic. Mr. Olivera's style is one that allowed the less frequently used classical ranks in the Kimball to be displayed in a manner that is seldom heard. He combined his special talent for improvisation with his expertise in classical organ to make every piece a showpiece. The overall effect was often surprising and al-

ways interesting. Featured in his program were pieces by Vierne, Rossini and J. S. Bach.

TERRY ROBSON

It has been several years since we visited the home of Don and Arlene Ingram to hear their lovely 2/8 Wurlitzer. It was a great privilege to return on June 9 for a program played by the popular Gerry Gregorius.

This is a basement installation which sounds clearly up into the living room through a very large floor grate. By parallel wiring, it was possible to add a String Celeste without extra unification. For structural reasons it was necessary to place the Chrysoglott outside the chamber,



Hector Olivera salutes his Portland audience as he leaves the Benson auditorium.

(Claude Neuffer photo)



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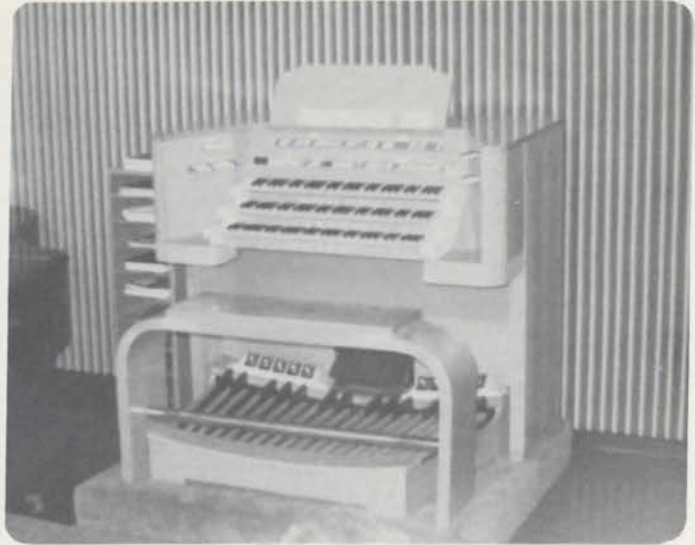
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Dan Bellomy at the console of the Seattle Paramount Wurlitzer. (Ken Gallwey photo)



Console of the ten-rank Wurlitzer installed by Balcom & Vaughn in the Bennett Fisher home, Zenith, Washington. (Diane Whipple photo)

down in front of the shutters. Far from being a disadvantage, this allows it to be used in many novel and unusual ways. Our host, Don Ingram, gave great credit to fellow member Bob Burke for his extensive help installing the organ.

Gerry's fine program included an early 20th century classical "Fountain Reverie," with exquisite String and Vox passages. Also heard were selections by Leroy Anderson, Gershwin and the TV theme for *Masterpiece Theatre*. Our thanks to Gerry for his excellent program and to the Ingrams, our gracious hosts, for a wonderful afternoon.

BUD ABEL

PUGET SOUND

Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Theatre buffs who are contemplating a visit to the Vancouver, B.C., Expo will surely find a recently published booklet on the Orpheum Theatre a treasure. It contains detailed accounts of the city's early history, its theatres and the entertainment they provided and their impact on the city and its residents. Long a major stop on the Orpheum Circuit, and later presenting world-renowned conductors and soloists

with the Vancouver Symphony, this theatre has provided a colorful and rich cultural advantage in an area otherwise somewhat geographically isolated. The booklet also features the personalities who have become part of the theatre's history, beginning prior to the opening of the first Orpheum in 1904 as a "10¢ House." It is a refreshing story of overwhelming community support throughout the years, which ultimately has saved the building and now refurbished it as a handsome concert hall for the use of the symphony. The booklet contains many photographs as well as a reproduction of an original cross-section drawing of the auditorium and stage by

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master architect B. Marcus Priteca. It is available for \$5.00 from the Social Planning Department, City Hall, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5Y 1V4

An early summer Sunday afternoon program was presented by Marti Lynch on the ten-rank Wurlitzer in a studio at the home of the Bennett Fishers in Zenith. This organ has also been located in the Wurlitzer store in San Francisco, Radio Station KOMO in Seattle and the Granada Organ Loft prior to its installation by Balcom & Vaughn several years ago. Marti planned a program of American theatre and film tunes dating from Cole Porter's enthralling "Just One of Those Things" to Stephen Sondheim's "Send In the Clowns," which was sonorous and nearly spell-binding. "You Do Something For Me" was true theatre organ magic in an upbeat style with gorgeous Glockenspiel. The organ, with tastefully adjusted tremulants, can produce an ethereal effect in the 18' x 24' studio, and Marti captured this quality while playing "You'll Never Walk Alone." The music, often soaring in nature, combined with lovely weather in a scenic location on the shore of Puget Sound to delight all who attended.

Dan Bellomy, currently a staff organist at the Portland Organ Grinder, presented a bright and entertaining program at the Seattle Paramount in June to benefit the chapter organ fund. Recent improvements to the organ have made it possible to create cleaner jazz and slow swing-effects, and Dan was able to capitalize on this nicely. In addition to some very melodic and wistful arrangements, a jazz rendition of "Lady Be Good" and Duke Ellington's "I'm Beginning to See the Light" were masterful adaptations to the theatre organ including clever and exciting walking bass effects throughout. Perhaps because of partiality on the part of this writer, the most memorable presentation was a group of selections from *The King and I*. Each tune was arranged with attention to its setting within the entire score, yet any one of them could have appeared alone on the program. While entertaining us musically with careful registration, good musical judgement and that special flair for timing so necessary to correctly dramatize music

of the theatre, Dan easily conjured up visual memories of an all-time favorite show.

DIANE WHIPPLE

RED RIVER ATOS
218/287-2671
or 701/232-6325



The Wurlitzer rebuilding project is almost complete as the last chamber, the Solo, was redone in June. Finishing the pit piano, acquiring the Orchestral Oboe and making the Brass Saxophone are the items remaining. The final count will be 15 ranks. After this, we would like to add a Marimba to our new Percussion chamber. Working on this and other projects in the theatre has been made easier by the new workshop created in the basement and equipped with donated machinery.

Several members are playing our chapter organ this summer for the family movie series at Weld Hall on the campus of Moorhead State University. Either organ prologues or movie scores are provided each Monday evening for the ten week schedule.

November 1 and 2 are the dates for silent movie nights this fall. The program consists of silent comedies and a return engagement by the Fargo Theatre Big Band All Stars, back by popular demand. Next spring, another personal appearance by Colleen Moore, silent screen star, will be featured along with the screening of one of her movies, *Orchids and Ermine*.

SONIA CARLSON

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

On April 14 Omaha's first lady of the theatre organ, Esther Leaf DuBoff, accompanied the silent film, *The Mark of Zorro*, starring Douglas Fairbanks, on a three-manual Rodgers organ in Witherspoon



River City TOS guest artist Jeanie Cooper.
(Tom Jeffery photo)

Concert Hall of Joslyn Art Museum. Sponsored by the Joslyn Women's Association, the concert was supported by a group of our members and officers who ushered for the event. Director Bob Markworth was a co-organizer of the presentation.

Mrs. DuBoff started accompanying silent films in Omaha theatres at the age of 12, ultimately serving at such houses as the Strand, Rialto and Paramount. In the 1920s she was staff organist at the Los Angeles Paramount. Mrs. DuBoff received a standing ovation and a bouquet of long-stemmed roses at the conclusion of her performance.

Director Jack Moelmann hosted a picnic meeting at his home near Offutt Air Force Base on May 12. Jack has a large Hammond electronic with seven Leslie tone cabinets, a piano playable from the console, and a complete set of air-driven pipe organ percussions. Following an excellent meal, everyone had a chance to try the organ during open console. President Ann Gabelman conducted a short business meeting, and our vice-president for programs, Harold Kenney, introduced

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Laura Markworth takes a turn at the Moelmann Hammond during open console.
(Tom Jeffery photo)



Jack Moelmann at the Orpheum Wurlitzer in Omaha. (Tom Jeffery photo)

our guest artist for the afternoon, Jeanie Cooper, organist at Casio's Steak House, who captivated us with her theatre organ stylings. After Jeanie's mini-concert, Jack Moelmann accompanied the silent film, *Cops*, starring Buster Keaton, and also led a sing-along. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food, fine entertainment, and Jack's generous hospitality.

Our members were invited guests at a concert by Lt. Col. Jack Moelmann on the Orpheum Theatre's 3/13 Wurlitzer on May 14 as part of the Engineers Day observance by the Omaha District Headquarters, Army Corps of Engineers. The

Strategic Air Command Band from Offutt Air Force Base also performed, and both concerts were enthusiastically received by the audience.

TOM JEFFERY

SAN DIEGO California

619/279-2867 or 619/561-2269

As the first half of our concert year draws to a close, we have been fortunate to present four outstanding organists, Dennis James, Lew Williams, Hector Olivera

and Tommy Stark, in concerts at the California Theatre Wurlitzer.

Lew Williams' March 9 concert was a rare treat for a most appreciative audience. His varied program of popular selections and classical interpretations was presented with skill and ease. He is sure to become a San Diego favorite.

On April 20 our chapter and the local Laurel and Hardy Club co-sponsored a Laurel and Hardy Film Festival. With an enthusiastic audience of over 600 Laurel and Hardy and theatre organ fans, our own Tommy Stark kept the evening exciting with his skillful film accompaniment



Recent artists at San Diego's 3/15 Wurlitzer, L to R: Lew Williams, Tommy Stark, Hector Olivera and Chris Gorsuch.

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Participants in San Diego's Young Organist Competition, L to R: Jawad Masso, Steven Young, Rebecca Rieker, Laura Van Eyck and Mark Maxfield.

of some lovely organ solos.

June 1 brought us Hector Olivera. What a show! The more than 400 persons in attendance were spellbound by his amazing technique, harmonies and versatility. Many were heard to comment that they had heard sounds that evening which they had never heard before. Thanks to our dedicated organ crew, our Wurlitzer was in top-notch shape that evening, but the credit for the beautiful new sounds must go to the artist's unique registrations.

Speaking of new sounds, our organ will be down during the summer for the addition of five new ranks, a 32' wood Diaphone and a solid-state capture system in the console.

Our general membership meetings are becoming very popular musical and social afternoons. On March 24 our own Chris Gorsuch graciously donated his talent for a beautiful mini-concert. How lucky we are to have such talent in our midst!

On May 26 we presented the five contestants who participated in our local young artist scholarship competition. Although the winner had been selected several days earlier, all five participants presented some of their competition selections. What a thrill for us to see young people still interested in theatre pipe organ. Our

local winner, Rebecca Rieker, was presented with a check for \$200 and will participate in the national competition. Other contestants were each presented a \$25 check and a lovely trophy. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.

CHERYL SEPPALA

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

We journeyed to Pryor for our May meeting at the home of Hervey and Janice Barbour. It's always a joy to see their lovely home, designed around their 2/11 Kimball — it proves it can be done! Hervey's added ranks give the organ a more "theatre" sound, which he demonstrated for us. We also heard music from Gary Schaum, Phil Judkins, Sam Collier and Luther Eulert.

The big excitement of the evening was seeing the Z-tronics multiplex components for our 4/10 Robert-Morton console laid out on a table for all to see! The console has been moved to Hervey's garage where he is in the process of installing the components in it. Since Pryor is an hour's drive from Tulsa, and Hervey is our "knowl-

edgeable expert," this seemed to be the easiest way to get the job done. Helping load the console from Vo-Tech's auditorium were Phil Judkins, Vic Thomas, Harry Rasmussen and Lee Smith.

Bill McMahon hosted our June meeting. Bill is the proud owner of a four-rank-with-chimes "Petite Ensemble" Kilgen pipe organ. The pipes are housed in a large cabinet (there's plenty of room for it in his front hall) and is played from its two-manual console in his living room. Tom Cotner, from Oklahoma City, did the installing. Bill demonstrated it for us — it's hard to believe he's the beginner he says he is! While we gathered in his beautiful kitchen for refreshments, others who played for us were John Barhydt, Bill Schimpff, J.C. Chapin and Dorothy Smith. It was good to see Perry Catts at the meeting; we extend our condolences to him on the recent death of his wife, Pauline.

Also in June, some of us had the privilege of hearing the newly restored residence pipe organ at Tulsa's Philbrook Art Center. The organ used to be played regularly for Sunday afternoon programs but had been silent for about the last 15 years. Bill McMahon, remembering how he and his late wife had enjoyed those programs, decided to finance the restoration of the instrument as a memorial to her. The concert, presented by Tom Cotner, was the premiere performance on the 2/14 Aeolian June Appleby McMahon Memorial Pipe Organ. Tom, whose company did the restoration, is also a talented artist with a cosmopolitan repertoire. His program ranged from selections from *Oklahoma* to Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue in D minor."

Vic Thomas, Phil Judkins and Dorothy Smith are still talking about the fantastic time they had at the George Wright Workshop held June 9-12 in Fort Collins, Colorado. It wasn't possible for George to cover the same material he'd presented the previous year in a different way — but he did! He also gave us much that was new. Participants ranged from professional organist to rank amateurs (and your writer is probably the rankest of the rank)! George was sweet to all. And you can't beat "Happy Birthday to Dor-o-ty" ("Lift your fingers off the keys when playing repeated notes," he said) played by George

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Wright on the Mighty Wurlitzer in Colorado State University's Lory Center. There was more, of course: George's concert on the first night, Professor Bob Cavarra's concert on the University's concert organ (for which we gave him a standing ovation!), Patti Simon's performance at Denver's Organ Grinder, the organ crawl to four fabulous home installations, and — probably best of all — the making of many new friends.

DOROTHY SMITH



**TOLEDO Area
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We are doing well! After many years, we have our theatre organ playing well in a nice, old theatre. Our dedication concert was September 7, with Tom Wibbels showing what incredibly beautiful sounds the Marr & Colton could produce.

Our summer event featured Motor City artist John Lauter at the console of President Evan Chase's 2/5 theatre organ in his home theatre. Afterward, John played our theatre installation for a truly big musical summer.



Toledo Area Chapter's Marr & Colton theatre organ at the Ohio Theatre. Dedication concert is scheduled for September 7. (E. Chase photo)

In June, local organist and member Bill Yaney entertained us at the theatre with a well-played concert and silent comedy. Toledo is catching up for lost time!

**American
Theatre Organ
Society**



VALLEY
OF THE
SUN
CHAPTER

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

We held our May 19 social at the Phoenix Organ Stop Pizza restaurant. Featured artist for the day was the very talented Lew Williams whose programs are often very informal, sort of a "let's-see-what-we're-going-to-do-next" type of thing. So it was that afternoon. We heard more than a dozen numbers, starting with "Sing As We Go" and closing with "The Ride of the Valkyries." He played "My Mother's Eyes" as a belated Mothers' Day tribute to all the mothers in the audience, and delighted many members with a Duke Ellington medley. Afterwards, about 20 of us attended the fiftieth anniversary party at the home of members Lily and Leo Carraro. Chairman Ray Danford presented the couple with a card and gift from their fellow members, and Lila Hoffman played the "Anniversary Song" on the organ.

David Lindsay's Yesterdays, a restaurant of nostalgia, was the setting for our June social. Chapter member Lindsay is the owner and musical director of this fine eating establishment. While dining, we were entertained by David at the Baldwin and his troupe of singing waiters and waitresses. During the evening, David recognized our group and told other patrons about ATOS.

We recently sold the chapter's Marr & Colton that has been in storage for several years. We had been unable to find a home for this large organ and now hope to find a smaller organ that will better suit our needs.

We are currently very busy with preparations for the fall regional convention to

be held in Phoenix. This is a first for us, and we hope that it will be a success.

MADELINE LIVOLSI



**WOLVERINE CHAPTER
of the American Theatre Organ Society**

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

Four months have passed since we last reported, so, picking up where we left off, let us report the good hearing the Burk's Wurlitzer in Taylor, Michigan, got in March as she was made to speak by various talented players. Pat and Bob were again the congenial hosts they have always been.

Not to be outdone by the Burks, Sue and Roger Mumbrue hosted the chapter in April. Lady Wurlitzer raised and lowered her voice in obedience to John Lauter's commands, input via the keyboard. After a pleasing concert of favorites by John, a sampling of new member Dave Brewer's Boogie renditions finished the afternoon. Other members then joined us at the Theater Organ Pizza & Pipes in Pontiac.

In May we sojourned to Fowlerville, Michigan, to Chester and Sandy Summers' Church of the Second Spirit for a concert of essentially classical music — Handel, Chopin, Jeremiah Clarke, and O'Brien. Wait — Tony O. was one of the artists, as were Chet and daughter Tracey — in an entertaining and well-received program.

On the fourth Sunday of June, after a stop at the Royal Oak Theatre to hear new Wolverine Father Andrew Rogers play Motor City Chapter's Barton, we gathered in the Redford Theatre for an afternoon concert by member Grace Joslyn. Grace showed her inner strength by playing her program in spite of the recent loss of her husband, Ed.

We shall miss Ed and commend Grace for her wish to remain active in the organ world. She again showed this determination by playing prelude and intermission organ music for the Motor City chapter's screening of *Yankee Doodle Dandy* in the Redford Theatre on July 13.

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