



# CHAPTER NOTES

## ALABAMA Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

Our September meeting was held at Southside Baptist Church for our third annual Young Artists' Program. Southside Baptist's Foster Auditorium houses one of our city's few Kimball organs, a 3/6 which was the WAPI studio's broadcast organ. However, participants Brian Black and Tom Bagwell astounded the audience with their musical talents on the grand piano, and since we are a theatre organ society and no event would be complete without theatre organ music, this presented quite a problem. However, God looks out for fools and program directors, and Tom Helms, house organist at the Saenger Theatre in Pensacola, Florida, came to our rescue by playing several selections on the Kimball which really showed her at her best! October 26 marked the second time this

year that our chapter has "filled the house" at the Alabama Theatre. This time we presented *The Phantom of the Opera*. Black-robed and hooded figures were placed throughout the theatre for effect, and a grand processional carried the coffin of the "Phantom" through the theatre to the stage where the Mighty Wurlitzer rose silently up from the pit in a green fog and then the "Phantom" slowly and mysteriously rose out of the coffin to take his place at the keydesk of the elaborate red and gold console. "Phantom" Tom Helms provided accompaniment to this silent classic using his own original score.

Mr. Helms toured the Southeast with *The Phantom of the Opera* this year making stops in Pensacola, New Orleans and Birmingham.

GARY W. JONES

## CENTRAL FLORIDA THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



Tampa

813/685-8707 or 813/734-5721

"Eureka!" in the words of Archimedes, "I have found it!" Our chapter heard the most beautiful sound again from the 3/12 Mighty Wurlitzer at the Tampa Theatre, all because of the efforts of our members and the Arts Council of Tampa and Hillsborough County, Florida, whose labors came to fruition on October 18 with the sixtieth anniversary of the Tampa Theatre. After seven years of unbe-

lievable effort, our combined groups have restored this magnificent organ to what it was sixty years ago. "What a thrill to have an instrument like this reborn again," was the comment most frequently heard that night.

This event has been the highlight of our chapter to date. We were honored that renowned organist Lee Erwin played three concerts during this celebration. During the one concert which was sponsored by our society, he played many of our favorite songs, but the high point of the evening came when he recreated the WLW, Cincinnati, radio program, *Moon River*, which he had played for eleven years during the late 1930s and early 1940s on 500,000 watts of power across the western half of the United States. At the conclusion of this concert, the audience awarded Mr. Erwin a standing ovation. As one can imagine, the sights and sounds of this program will be remembered by those who attended as one of the greatest moments of the restoration of this beautiful theatre and organ.

The appearance of Mr. Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., for this special event was also a highlight. He was interviewed about his life and talked about his father's famous film, *The Black Pirate*, which was then shown with Mr. Lee Erwin playing an original score he had written for this movie. As one of the masters of silent movie accompaniment, Mr. Erwin was in special form for this performance and his rendition was superb.

The history of the Tampa Theatre and its Wurlitzer is like that of many movie palaces of the past. Things changed quickly in the late 1920s with the advent of sound movies, and this theatre opened on October 15, 1926, as a place devoted to the arts. The playbill for opening night starred Mr. Edward Weaver at the 3/8 Wurlitzer playing "I'm Betting on You" as a solo before scoring *The Ace of Cads* which starred Adolph Menjou. The late Eddie Ford soon took over at the original Wurlitzer, and many years later Ewell Stanford played at the Tampa for silent films and other events.

As with many urban theatres, the Tampa faded into disrepair and was slated to be demolished to make way for a parking lot in the



Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Lee Erwin at the Tampa Theatre 60th Anniversary.



Tampa Theatre work crew for the anniversary celebration.



Young Artists Tom Bagwell (left) and Bryan Black (right) with Tom Helms at the Kimball for Alabama Chapter. (Gary W. Jones photo)



Martin Ellis (seated) and Dwight Thomas at the console of the Manual High School organ.

downtown area. A single vote by city councilman Lee Duncun saved the theatre, and for that support Mr. Duncun was given an award of recognition at this sixtieth anniversary celebration. Because of its rarity, the restored theatre has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places which should, we hope, protect it for future generations.

Many of our members have contributed to the expansion and completion of this organ by providing concerts for silent movies and other events, especially Ewell Stanford and his son, Charles, who are both accomplished theatre organists. The organ is now available for concerts, educational activities and other special occasions in our community, and we look forward to the 100th anniversary of Tampa in 1987, which will again put our theatre and our wonderful organ in the forefront. We especially want to thank Mr. Jay Mitchell and Mr. Paul Myers, from the Atlanta area, who donated their time and effort and who, with our current restoration crew, Bill Hile, Ed Lawrence, John Otterson, Earl Wiltse and Charles Coston, have made this Wurlitzer one of the best in the Southeast.

"Eureka!" we will in the future continue "to find it!" Come to Tampa and enjoy.

PAUL DANIELSON



**CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER**

Indianapolis  
317/255-8056  
or 317/546-1336

Chapter members Martin Ellis and Dwight Thomas, ATOS Young Organist national winners for 1985 and 1986 respectively, presented a truly enjoyable program at our Sep-

tember meeting in the newly renovated auditorium at Manual High School. Their program included many of the numbers which they played in the National competitions.

Chapter members attending the September meeting voted to accept the board's recommendation to use part of the 1984 Convention earnings for the following projects:

1. The Long Center Organ Fund — a donation was made and used to replace the Flute rank and Style D Trumpet with a Wurlitzer 16' Flute and a Wurlitzer 16' Tuba. The new ranks are being installed and will be heard at the November meeting to be held at the Long Center in Lafayette.
2. Manual Organ Fund — a donation was made and used toward the purchase of a Peterson solid-state relay system for the Manual High School 3/16 Louisville Uniphone theatre organ.

In addition, a donation from the chapter sales at the Pipes for Pets benefit show for the Humane Society of Indianapolis last June will be used to improve the Manual High School organ.

Larry MacPherson, owner of the L.D. MacPherson Company which specializes in maintenance, tuning and restoration of pipe organs, presented a delightful program in October on the Page organ at the Hedback Theatre. Larry played many selections not normally heard, including a beautiful rendition of "Whispering Hope." Larry has a wonderful way of registering the organ to make the sound truly unique.

CAROL M. ANDREJASICH

**CENTRAL OHIO  
Columbus**

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

Fall was in the air, but a delightfully clear sky prevailed on September 14 when we met

at the Bob and Marge Gallagher home for our annual meeting. After all business was transacted, we enjoyed the warm hospitality of Bob and Marge, not only the use of their Baldwin Studio II, but also their fresh apple cider which was rendered on the spot by Bob's motor-driven cider press. No marketed product ever achieved the quality of that cider!

September 28 was a highlight for organ lovers as we sat enraptured in the Ohio Theatre and heard Gaylord Carter bring to life the majestic Robert-Morton. A spritely, sparkling Gaylord showed his continued agility at the keyboard and captured the audience with his humorous repartee. His musical accompaniment to a W.C. Fields movie strip and a full-length Harold Lloyd comedy illustrated once again what Mr. Carter does best — the sound dimension of the silent movie. His videocassettes commemorating many of the silent movies with organ accompaniment should be in every organ buff's library.

October 19 brought us back to Worthington High School to hear our treasured 3/16 Wurlitzer. With member Bob Cowley's participation and supervision, we worked for three weeks prior to the meeting preparing this giant wind machine for the occasion. Careful regulator adjustment and tempering of the tremolos "just so" produced a fantastic, gutsy organ that made us swell with pride. After a short business meeting, Bob played seven introductory numbers, including the memorable "Feelings" in tribute to President Mark Williams and his fiancée, Cindy Rice. The program continued with organists Henry Garcia, Margo Burkhart, Willard Fein and Mark Williams. The organ crew has much to be proud of, and in the coming weeks will devote their attention to trouble-shooting some dead notes and making some final adjustments to the winding of some of the percussions.

JOHN R. POLSLEY



**CATOE**

Chicago Area

Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

312/794-9622 or 312/892-8136

Here's hoping the New Year will be joyous and healthy, healthy for all of us as well as for the numerous, glorious theatre organs residing in their many area settings.

Our jewel, the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer, is quite active. The theatre is doing a great entertainment job while the organ is going through many phases of rejuvenation. The console is to be completely redone, and the chambers (and their contents) will get all needed refurbishing. Yes, we have an ambitious and dedicated work crew. Our grand affair at the Chicago greatly benefitted the organ fund, so all is "Go" now.

Our fall show at the Patio Theatre played to a full house — and why not! Leon Berry, nationally acclaimed organist, shared the console with Melissa Ambrose. Melissa was a

## 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**  
4633 SE Brookside Drive, #58  
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222  
Phone: 503/654-5823

division winner in the National Young Organist Competition, and she is very good at the console. And we all know the super job that Leon Berry always does — what a following he has! The program also had popular radio personality Eddie Hubbard as MC, and special guest Mr. B., Prince of Jugglers, plus a Laurel and Hardy classic, *County Hospital*, all of which added up to great entertainment.

As our 1987 activities are shaping up, we are trying to keep in shape to be able to participate — the best to you all!

ALMER N. BROSTROM



**CONNECTICUT VALLEY  
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.**



**Thomaston**

**203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269**

Preparations began in late July for the September 27 Lyn Larsen concert at Shelton High School. The Shelton organ crew, under the direction of chief Norm Turner, worked endless hours to install a Post Horn and a Tibia on the 3/12 Austin which was dedicated last January. At the concert, Lyn, as usual, captivated the audience with his charm and artistry.

Our October meeting was held in the Groton, Massachusetts, home of Garrett and Sarah Shanklin. The guest artist was Lowell Ayars who cast his spell over the augmented Style H, 2/10 Wurlitzer. Both the organ and the artist were in top voice.

At the Shelton High School Parents' Night on October 16, the Austin console was moved into the center of the auditorium, and members Fran Hellman, Allen Miller and George

Bell were on hand to demonstrate the organ and answer questions from the many parents who stopped by to find the source of the beautiful music.

Our annual meeting was held on November 8 at Shelton High, and officers were elected for the coming year. President Colver Briggs reported that the town of Thomaston has appointed an architect to make a study of what has to be done to correct the fire code violations in the Thomaston Opera House. We hope that a plan will be worked out, and we will be able to return to our beloved Marr & Colton in the not-too-distant future.

The evening concert was open to the public at no charge, and 140 people were in attendance to enjoy the program presented by artist-member Wade Bray. Wade, a transplant from California, brought the finest from the instrument with a program that ranged from classics to popular ballads with a couple of novelty numbers added. If Wade ever decides to give up his regular job, there is probably a place on the concert circuit for this masterful musician.

Chapter member Jim Beck and several Springfield, Massachusetts, area residents have met with the new owner of the recently opened Springfield Paramount Theatre to volunteer their services in getting the organ back in shape. Their offer was accepted, and we are looking forward to hearing that magnificent instrument again.

BARRY GOODKIN



**Milwaukee**  
**414/463-2365**  
**or 414/771-8522**

Our September 21 chapter social was held at the home of Fred Gollnick in Geneva, Wisconsin where his music room houses a 2/8

Barton. This might have been our last chance to hear the instrument as Fred's plans call for placing the organ in storage in the near future.

Bob Leutner hosted the October social which featured his 2/13 Barton organ. This instrument is powered by two two-horsepower Orgoblows and contains many ranks of beautiful and rare pipes. There was plenty of time for open console after the meeting.

*The Phantom of the Opera* arrived just in time for the November social at Fred Hermes residence. Although the *Phantom* was two days late, it was well-worth the trip to Racine.

The Avalon Theatre and Bill Campbell were featured on a special report by WISN-TV-12's Dennis Dean on November 1. Dennis Dean travels the state of Wisconsin looking for interesting people. It was noted that the Avalon shows movies just like other theatres in the area, but with a "twist." That twist, of course, is organ music.

The first concert at the Avalon in over two years occurred on November 9. The organist was Kay McAbee, long-time friend of our chapter. The new, two-and-a-half-bolster-console Wurlitzer with 16 ranks was well worth the wait to hear. Thanks to Fred Johnson, who did all the wiring; Fred Gullnick of Century Organ, who recovered pneumatics, and Clarence Stienke, who wired the new recifier and second blower.

BILL CAMPBELL



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

Stoneham Hall, with its fine ex-WNAC, 2/14 Wurlitzer, was the venue for our September 20 public potpourri concert. Four of our more talented members presented a variety of styles and program material for a most entertaining evening. Our 17-year-old Brain-tree High School senior, John Cook, got things underway with his usual imaginative approach and with melodies not often heard. John never disappoints.

Our indomitable enthusiast, Bob Legon, then slid onto the bench with music for a movie-without-a-movie dedicated to the late Al Winslow. It seems that the wrong movie was sent, but this did not prevent this artist from playing a creditable accompaniment.

Intermission was followed by our "old pro," Leonard Winter, a former North Shore theatre organist with long experience on pipes and electronics. Lenny's offerings were song-slides and a nice, memories medley, very well played.

Another of our younger organists, Cheryl Linder, who has a solid musical background and is presently a student at the Northeast Conservatory of Music, was our final artist, with some Duke Ellington, her own "Bean Pot Rag," a Sousa march and more. Our members all acquitted themselves most commendably; the response of their audience told it all.

The following afternoon at Stoneham, our fall season opened with Robert K. Love as our guest artist. Bob is organist at the First Baptist Church in Malden, but his interest in theatre organ is long-standing as his smooth interpretations verify. Mr. Love opened and closed with some great Jerome Kern music from *Lilac Time* and *Showboat*. His program was largely period music from the era when theatre organ was at its prime. For the uninitiated, Bob gave a "tour-through-the-organ" demonstration of the ranks, traps, and percussions for a most satisfying afternoon.

The large, comfortable residence of our Groton, Massachusetts, members Sarah and Garrett Shanklin was our Columbus Day meeting place with Lowell Ayars as guest artist. This mostly Wurlitzer, so impeccably in-

stalled and maintained, has grown to a 2/16 from its original 2/10 Style H from the Flynn Theatre in Burlington, Vermont. A completely rebuilt Mason and Hamlin Ampico reproducing grand piano can be played either from the console or independently. Lowell needs no description of either his playing or his outgoing personality — his console remarks and ministrations cannot fail to please. From his opening medley from *Oklahoma* to his closing British march, "Down the Mall," Mr. Ayars produced some great sounds from one of the finest home installations in our area. Lowell received a standing ovation, and we were compensated by his fine voice singing "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square," followed by three Fats Waller favorites. Open console plus fabulous refreshments made for

one of the nicest gatherings we have had for a long time.

Our Babson Wurlitzer, on October 25, was the site of our fall concert with Dennis James. Dennis has put together a thoroughly professional and slick show with colored slides and tenor Thom Gall, called "Take Your Girlie to the Movies." As Dennis played, we were visually entertained by authentic slides of sheet-music covers, to several of which the fine voice of Thom Gall contributed the lyrics. This whole show was different from anything we have seen, and much credit must be given to the imaginative and talented Mr. James. He also, being an all-round musician, gave us a touch of the more classical side with J.S. Bach's "In Thee Is Joy" and an aria from Handel's *Solomon*. The finale was a moving "The Lost Chord," by Sir Arthur Sullivan, beautifully sung by Thom Gall. Dennis and Thom produced a real winner, and the audience's response indicated their great pleasure with the unusual variety show. Both will be back with us — a certainty.

STANLEY C. GARNISS



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

**New Jersey  
609/888-0909  
or 201/445-1128**

Our September season began with the election of officers for 1987. Our installation banquet was held on September 19 when a social hour of wine and cheese preceded a buffet dinner on the stage of the Trenton War Memorial. Open console played by chapter members gave a pleasant background for cocktails and dinner. Following the meal, Joe Dorsey introduced the new officers, and Joe Vanore, out-going vice-president and program chairman for the past two years, was thanked. The remainder of the evening was



One of the H-O railroad displays owned by Bruce Williams.

(Joe Vanore photo)



Ty Woodward at the Trenton War Memorial console.

(Jinny Vanore photo)



Greg Owens at the Möller console in the Trenton War Memorial.

(Jinny Vanore photo)



Railroad hobbyist Bruce Williams.

(Jinny Vanore photo)

spent listening to a delightful mini-concert by Greg Owens, a talented young organist who really enjoyed playing the 3/16 Möller.

The first concert of the Trenton War Memorial Series was held September 28 with a return performance by Ty Woodward. His performance was entertaining and varied, reflecting his classical background as well as his pizza-and-pipes experience. Ty played several selections from his new album made at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., on the large Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ. After the concert, a stage picnic completed the afternoon.

The first two weekends of October featured an unusual, once-a-year event in Flemington, New Jersey, when member Bruce Williams, owner and builder of the "world's largest H-O railroad," opened his home to thousands of hobbyists who filed through four large cellars of trains in a tiny, fantasy-land setting. The tour ended in a music room with a crystal chandelier and a striking, black, gold-trimmed, three-manual pipe organ which was played by chapter members throughout the four days of the show. It was a unique way of introducing all of the visitors (especially the children) to the great sounds of theatre pipe organ music. Many found seats and listened, while others peered into the pipe chambers and purchased organ recordings.

JINNY VANORE

### HUDSON-MOHAWK VALLEY New York 518/869-2090 or 518/372-1534

"Summertime, and the livin' (was) easy" as we visited two extraordinary homes that were built especially to house two particular organs. No one asks about the "Speaker of the House" at the Gene Zilka's because they have 30 speakers in ten cabinets on a balcony overlooking the living room. A slanted wooden ceiling deflects the sounds of their three-manual Allen digital organ. Highlighting the evening was a duet by Pam and Gene at the piano and organ respectively. Open console time was exciting for all who tried their

favorite melodies, and we look forward to another invitation to this beautiful home.

For our mid-summer gathering, we met at the home of chapter treasurer Gus Pratt. Snuggled in the pines of the foothills of the Heldeberg Mountains, Gus's house holds an unusual, one-of-a-kind instrument, a five-manual organ with pipes from several theatres and churches and a console from the Glen Falls Presbyterian church. It was exciting to climb the open spiral staircase, sided with windows extending from roof to ground, to view the pipes. Budding organists Bill Menz, Art McDowell and Dr. Ed Farmer were among those who had a great time experimenting with the intriguing combinations on this instrument.

Colorful falling leaves on a September afternoon set the atmosphere for an autumn concert at Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady where our absolutely incomparable member Allen Mills attracted thousands to hear him play "Goldie," our 3/18 Mighty Wurlitzer. The encores would never have ended had the audience had a choice! The only kicks at this concert came from our local Off-Broadway Babies, a precision dance group whose excellent performance was enhanced by Allen at the organ!

It was "Rome-in-the gloamin' with lads and lassies by their sides" for two of our talented musicians, Carl Hackert and John Weisner, who, on different dates, played programs in Rome, New York. The center of attention was a Möller organ in the Capitol Theatre; this is an original installation being restored by a small group with great fervor. They are to be commended, and we are hopeful that they will be joining our ATOS ranks soon.

In September, Carl Hackert gave our group a treat by doing a mini-performance of his concert in Rome. He explained how he had to extemporize to make appropriate sounds on the Möller that are already in abundance on our "Goldie."

Ghosts, ghouls and gambas were the background for our Halloween party at the hospitable (and very imaginative) Gus Pratt's. It was no place for the faint-hearted, for as one entered the house an eerie atmosphere prevailed, black spiders descended, a coffin opened as one passed by, lightning streaked and the awesome sound of a toothless, frightening creature playing Bach's "Toccatina" was heard. Even the doorbell was wired to play the mournful "Funeral March." Carl Hackert, John Weisner and Chairman Ned Spain, as well as our host, can be blamed for atmospheric renditions throughout the evening. The big surprise, however, was a demonstration of the "Great Gus Musical Machine," a union of the Pratt organ with a player piano. Three rolls were featured: "Limehouse Blues," "Old Piano-Roll Blues" and "The Midnight Fire Alarm." A great time was had by all! We applaud program chairman Ira Freeman for planning innovative gatherings.

You couldn't wink, blink or nod, or you would have missed the quick changes of keyboards maneuvered by Ashley Miller and Allen Mills between the Steinway and the

Wurlitzer in a joint concert in Proctor's Theatre in November. They missed neither note nor beat in an entertaining musical exchange right in the middle of phrases! Fun, also, was an actual duet at the organ console. With bench removed and both standing, they did a hilarious P.D.Q. Bach! This sparked an afternoon of delightful melodic choices for an appreciative audience.

*The music world's "our boundless stage"  
With each day lived, a manuscript's page!*

RUTH M. McDOWELL



**Land O' Lakes Chapter**  
AMERICAN THEATRE  
ORGAN SOCIETY  
**St. Paul-Minneapolis**

612/689-9201 or 612/771-1771

First, I would like to correct my statement in the last issue of THEATRE ORGAN that our chapter's 2/5 Robert-Morton would be installed in the Olivet Baptist Church. Now, because of the cost, those plans are cancelled, and we are negotiating for another location which will not be named until the final arrangements have been made.

The installation of the 3/21 Wurlitzer in the World Theatre in downtown St. Paul is proceeding slowly but surely. However, because of a delay in obtaining parts, it looks like the premiere will be in March instead of January as stated in the November *ATOS International News*.

Five members of our chapter attended the Regional in Denver, October 10 to 13. When we arrived on Friday morning, it was clear, 70 degrees, with a bright sun, but at four o'clock that afternoon a cold front from Canada came upon us with rain, snow and wind, and most of us were not prepared for this change. However, the weather cleared on Sunday and Monday. The Rocky Mountain chapter, in cooperation with the Pikes Peak chapter, outdid themselves in their careful, exact planning — everything was on time. The bus trips to outlying concert locations in beautiful Colorado with its snow-capped mountains, getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting new friends, all made the Regional a tremendous success. The Sunday evening concert with Lyn Larsen and Ron Rhode at twin consoles at the Denver Paramount was the highlight, and the reception which followed at the Marriott featured gala desserts — ice cream with rum sauce and sliced bananas, fancy cakes, chocolate fondue with fruit and pound cake — a delight to behold! We joined the 287 who stayed for the afterglow, but all too soon we were boarding our plane for home.

On October 19, forty members attended a chapter-sponsored concert at Roland and Marilyn Matson's "Barn" in Spring Valley, Minnesota. Ron Brownell was the featured artist at the 2/8 Wurlitzer. Ron is a casual, talented organist who always says he has 3000 tunes in his head, and I believe it!

More than 2000 people heard Dr. Edward Berryman, organist at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, and Robert Vickery, his student, at the dual consoles of



Bob Monschein at the 3/14 Barton in the Madison, Wisconsin, Civic Center.

the 5/126 Kimball in the Minneapolis Auditorium. Most of their selections were classical, and I marveled at the rapt attention of the attendees. Dr. Berryman held their attention further when he demonstrated the 32' rank and others. It is hoped that other concerts can be arranged before the building itself is demolished some two years from now. The organ will be stored and then installed in a new Civic Center.

As I write today, our balmy weather has changed to zero and a light covering of snow. Winter has arrived!

VERNA MAE WILSON

### LAND OF LINCOLN Rockford

815/965-0856 or 815/399-8536

The format of our monthly Saturday morning social had been fairly standard until October when 22 of us clamored onto a maxivan in Rockford, Illinois, for a 300-mile sweep into Wisconsin to hear and play three organs. The day was unusually chilly and foggy, and even though the leaves were still a week away from their peak color, the drive to the Galena area was most enjoyable.

Our first stop was at the Timbers Restaurant in Platteville, Wisconsin, where host Bob Velzy, who owns the restaurant, served a fam-

ily-style luncheon. We were seated around the console; the organ "surrounds" its listeners in this case. Pipes and effects fill the rafters overhead, and a six-foot Knabe Ampico reproducing grand piano occupies a platform at the rear of the room. Following a demonstration concert by Velzy, several members tried their hands at the console.

We then re-boarded the van for the trip to Madison to Grace Episcopal Church. There, church organist Gregg Upward provided a historical description, spiced with anecdotes, of the church and the Kimball pipe organ with Schantz console.

Three blocks away, at the Madison Civic Center, staff organist Bob Monschein provided a briefing on the theatre and the 3/14 Barton organ. David Bohn, an organist and student at the University of Wisconsin, assisted with the demonstration. Originally installed in 1928, the organ has been refurbished to a beautiful, clean sound. Several members again took their turns at the console.

Twelve hours after departing Rockford, we arrived home, completing a day of friendship, travel, eating and listening to and playing theatre organs. Many thanks to Helen Terr who arranged for us to see and hear a diverse collection of organs all in one day. Thanks, also, to our hosts at the Timbers, Grace Episcopal Church and Madison Civic Center.

RICHARD HULL



Bob Velzy at the console of his custom Conn organ at the Timbers Restaurant in Platteville, Wisconsin.



**LONDON  
&  
SOUTH  
OF ENGLAND**

8956-32369 or 1-788-8791

Our ninth Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition in September at the Granada Harrow, featuring the superb 3/8 Wurliitzer, attracted 12 fine aspiring young keyboard exponents between 11 and 16 years of age. Each contestant played his or her own choice in the first half, and then in the second half, appearing in reverse order, each played his own interpretation of the set piece, which this year was the snappy "On Broadway," composed by the late Jimmy Boyce.

With playing standards improving each year, our team of adjudicators, this year under the able chairmanship of our good friend and chapter member Dennis James, had a correspondingly difficult task of assessment. Judges this year were: Frank Fowler, head of the renowned Hill, Norman and Beard organ company and himself an accomplished organist; Dr. Joanna Fraser, equally versatile in both classical and popular organ fields; and Louis Mordish, one of the all-time great British theatrical musicians.

Complementing the enjoyable music of the competition, while the adjudicators retired for their deliberations, the previous year's winner, Peter Holt, entertained at the Wurli-

**ashley miller**  
a.a.g.o.

*Organist of the Year-1983*

MILCO MUSIC CO.  
P.O. Box 32 • Closter, N.J. 07624 • (201) 768-4450

**RON RHODE**  
THEATRE  
PIPE ORGAN  
CONCERTS

KARL WARNER MANAGEMENT  
3018 N. 62nd STREET  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251  
(602) 946-6892

Featured at Organ Stop Pizza - 2250 W. Southern, Mesa, Arizona

zer for his last few minutes "in office." Still only 13 years old and already a well-known name up and down the country — with both radio and television appearances in both the UK and the USA, and a fine LP disc to his credit — Peter not only showed why he was a worthy winner of our prestigious Chain-of-Office, but also how much his playing style had improved during the intervening year.

Came the "moment of truth;" the new winner was highly articulate Martin Harris of Camberley in Surrey, with pretty and stylish Rachael Anne Ward of Nuneaton in second place, and Mark Speight of our famed "Wurlitzer Mecca" at Blackpool taking third place. All three winners are 15 years old.

Each of the 12 contestants was feted with numerous gifts and trophies including a copy of an absorbing biography of the legendary Reginald Dixon, graciously presented by veteran British theatre organ stalwarts John and Noreen Foskett. Eleven-year-old Edward Perkins from Brigend in South Wales, received special commendation for his evident potential, including his delightful rendition of his own composition, "Paddington Central," named after the London railroad terminal from Wales.

The annual Dean Herrick Trophy, in memory of the great organist who did so much for theatre organ in South Africa, is awarded each year to the young organist who has made the greatest overall contribution to the theatre organ during the year. This year's winner was

Peter Holt. With an impressive catalogue of activities, Peter and his parents travelled more than 11,000 miles in pursuit of his theatre organ performances and pleasures during the year. All in all, this was another memorable and rewarding day with our young people at a favourite theatre organ venue.

Our third concert in our new season at the



Martin Harris, age 15, winner of London Chapter's Young Organist Competition for 1986.

(John D. Sharp photo)

immaculately restored Top Rank Club, Kilburn, featured organ star Howard Beaumont playing the exceptionally fine 4/16 "Torch" Wurlitzer. Howard is a consummate keyboard artiste as well as a devout theatre organ enthusiast and was making his London debut with his sensitive interpretations of a wide-ranging and attractive repertoire, especially his Crawford-style renderings. Another successful chapter innovation was the inclusion of a delightful cameo featuring two of our young lady musicians, Suzanne Hancock at the Wurlitzer and Dena Cooper on the violin.

With Dave Peterson, "Direct from Blackpool," completing our 1986 season at Kilburn, we already have a six-concert season planned there for 1987 which includes Lew Williams, Dennis James and a top Australian star as well as our popular annual "The Younger Generation."

We are also planning a March 1 spectacular opening event for the ex-Regal Edmonton "Torch" Christie in the Memorial Hall in the South Wales resort town of Barry.

Meanwhile, our delightful Chapter Club Night series at Edith and Les Rawle's home and featuring their popular 3/19 Wurlitzer, continues in high gear. Our September event featured diminutive Joyce Allred from Stockport, whose husband David is secretary of the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust that has done so much for theatre organ there. With great heart and flair, Joyce provided a captivating evening of music. Our October



1985 Dean Herrick Award winner Budgie Groom presents the 1986 award to Peter Holt.

(John D. Sharp photo)



Ron Rhoads performed at Worthing Assembly Hall on October 26.

(John D. Sharp photo)



**Lance Luce**  
**CONCERTS**

33 Wood Street • Apt. 2104  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y2P8  
(416) 597-8803



**BARBARA SELLERS**

For Concert Information and Availability  
Richard J. Sklenar  
3051 N. Clark, Chicago, Illinois 60657  
(312) 248-5744 or 525-8658

Club Night featured the only resident organist that this, the world's most widely played theatre organ, has ever had — Len Rawle — whose performance was sheer magic, as always, and great fun.

A most welcome intermediate event in mid-

October was a social evening at the Brentford Musical Museum for chapter members to try their hands at the exquisitely voiced 3/12 Wurlitzer formerly in the Regal Kingston and much broadcast and recorded in its heyday.

DR. NORMAN BARFIELD



LOS ANGELES  
THEATRE ORGAN  
SOCIETY

California  
818/792-7084



Dave Peterson at the Kilburn Wurlitzer.

(John D. Sharp photo)



Ty Woodward at his concert for Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. (Zimfoto)



Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship competition at the San Gabriel Civic. (L to R) MC Lloyd del Castillo, contestants Wozencraft, Young, Hendelman, Rice, Pfeiffer and Johnson. (Zimfoto)

**MAGIC ORCHESTRAL SOUNDS OF DAN SEMER**

Detroit Theatre Organ Club — 4/34 Wurlitzer Pipe Organ  
VRDS 10012 — STEREO

"Congratulations and bravo on your record." — LIBERACE, pianist

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI, tenor

"You created an artistic masterpiece that permeates with ingenious imagination."

RICHARD PURVIS, organist

A Grieg Fantasia • Piano Concerto in A Minor • Anitra's Dance  
Wedding Day • Peer Gynt • Tea for Two • Evergreen  
Hawaii • Miami Beach Rumba • You • And More

\$10.00 postpaid — \$12.00 outside USA

VILLAGE RECORDS • P.O. BOX 633 • LA VERNE, CA 91750

**Dan Semer**

ORGANIST-PIANIST

"Many good wishes for your career. God-Speed! You are a supervirtuoso that commands musical sensitivity with nuance."

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI  
The World's Favorite Tenor

M&J Enterprises  
Personal Manager: Margaret Bonfiglio  
P.O. Box 633, LaVerne, Calif. 91750  
(714) 596-5024







Grande Finale at Stars of Tomorrow with MC Hal Sanguinetti at left and all judges, contestants and committee members.

(Zimfoto)

atre organ as a living musical entertainment medium, presented an extraordinary treat, the Stars of Tomorrow, at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. Gaylord Carter was the MC for this event where six young artists had the opportunity to compete in a most rewarding manner. The first finalists in the three categories were Jason Pfeiffer, Tamir Hendelman and Devin Wozencraft. The judges for the competition were Tony Wilson, Chris Elliott, Ramona Gerhard, Stan Kann and Ralph Wolf. Each of the judges also graciously performed a few selections. Our most sincere thanks to Dick Shaefor and Donn Linton for their efforts and to Hal Sanguinetti and Del Castillo for presenting the awards.

MARIA OLIVIER

an ambitious "Rhapsody in Blue" and "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue." Tony is certainly deserving of all the praise his concertgoers gave him.

We were hosts on October 26 for a concert by Father Jim Miller at the Redford Theatre, part of Wurlitzer Weekend II presented by the Detroit Theater Organ Club.

We showcased the talents of four young artists when we presented Four New Dimensions in the Theatre Organ World, the second

in our concert series at the Redford, on November 8. Featured at the 3/10 Barton were Colleen Feldpausch, winner of our 1986 Young Theatre Organists' Competition; Peter Hansen, currently playing at the Organ Grinder Restaurant in Toronto; Melissa Ambrose, our 1985 competition winner, and Steve Schlesing, organist and director of music at the Church of Today in Warren. The various styles of the four artists made for a very refreshing program, and all are to be congrat-



**MOTOR CITY**  
Detroit  
313/537-1133

It is especially rewarding to see home-grown talent recognized and nurtured as was the case with our own Tony O'Brien who opened our fall concert series before a very enthusiastic audience at the Redford Theatre on October 11. Currently an organ major at Wayne State University, Tony has been delighting audiences at the Redford since 1978. His varied program included the tone poem, "A Night on Bald Mountain," (with a mountain silhouetted on stage, lightning and fog),



Four New Dimensions in the Theatre Organ World: (L to R) Steve Schlesing, Colleen Feldpausch, Melissa Ambrose and Peter Hansen. (Bill Vogel photo)



**DENNIS JAMES**  
Resident Organist For  
The Ohio Theatre

55 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Bus. (614) 469-1045 • Hm. (614) 488-9032

February 13 ..... Kentucky Center for the Arts, Louisville, Kentucky  
February 14 ..... Renaissance Theatre, Mansfield, Ohio  
February 22 ..... Church, Portsmouth, Ohio  
February 28 ..... Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
March 28 ..... Castro Theatre, San Francisco, California  
April 4 ..... Castro Theatre, San Francisco, California  
April 11 ..... Church, Oakbrook, Illinois  
April 25 ..... Cleveland Gray's, Cleveland, Ohio  
May 31 ..... Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio  
June 6 ..... John Dickinson High School, Wilmington, Delaware  
June 22-26 ..... ATOS NATIONAL CONVENTION, Los Angeles, California  
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 ..... Frauenthal Center, Muskegon, Michigan  
October 16 ..... Roberson Center, Binghamton, New York  
October 17 ..... Museum of Glass, Corning, New York



Organist Tony O'Brien, lighting director David Martin and magician Don Jones relax in front of the Barton console at the Redford Theatre during rehearsal for Tony's concert. (Bill Vogel photo)



Norm Keating at the console of the Royal Oak Barton.

(Fred Page photo)

ulated.

The annual membership meeting was held at the Redford on November 3, following an organ workshop and our monthly Club Day held earlier in the day. Co-chaired by Frank and Helen Doka, the meeting was preceded by a social hour in the lobby of the theatre while organists Guy Kuhn and Sigmond Ross performed at the Barton. Following the election of board members, Harold Bellamy, outgoing chairman, was thanked for his many years of leadership.

Our Young Theatre Organists' Competition will be held at the Redford on March 15. Norm Keating played for our Fourth Sun-

day program at the Royal Oak Theatre on September 28. Norm is a music teacher and has also prepared a series of cassettes for home instruction. Brian Carmody was our Fourth Sunday artist on the 3/16 at the Royal Oak on October 26. Brian, who comes from a very musical family, is a church organist, choir director and coach of a bell choir.

Coming events include Jack Moelmann at the Redford on February 28, Lee Erwin at the Royal Oak on April 11, Rob Calcaterra at the Redford on May 9 and Hector Olivera at the Redford on June 6.

For more information, write 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  
914/457-5393**

Autumn in New York got underway for us with a unique concert on September 28, performed by keyboard jazz-master Dick Hyman on the Long Island University (former



Organists Sigmond Ross (left) and Guy Kuhn visit with Helen and Frank Doka at Motor City's annual dinner. (Bill Vogel photo)



Jazz master Dick Hyman performed at the LIU Wurlitzer for New York Chapter.

**Father  
James Miller**

"Father Jim"  
(313) 629-5400

401 Davis St.  
Fenton, MI 48430



**Tom Wibbels**  
Theatre Organist

*impro international inc.*

968 Kentucky Lane • Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007  
Telephone: (312) 894-7779

Brooklyn Paramount) 4/26 Wurlitzer. Dick has been considered a top keyboard artist for more than thirty years; his recent credits include the music for Woody Allen's *Zelig*, and *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, orchestration of the hit *Sugar Babies* and the PBS Benny Goodman Special. He proved, also, to be the master of the Mighty Wurlitzer, presenting an excellent concert featuring the music of Fats Waller.

"Fats Waller Revisited," as the program was billed, was a tribute to the late Fats Waller and the music that he composed, recorded or popularized during the 1920s. Several selections had been recorded by Waller on the theatre organ at the Victor Recording Studios in Camden, New Jersey. Dick opened the program with "The St. Louis Blues" and moved it along with a number of Waller classics. His commentary preceding each selection provided insight into the life and musical genre of Waller and his jazz contemporaries and showed the audience why Dick is regarded as the foremost expert on early jazz. Dick's playing and registration were superb as was his programming. The sustained standing ovation and shouts of "Bravo" from the appreciative audience were well-deserved. Publicity in the *New York Times* brought many newcomers to the theatre organ, and prompted the *Voice of America* in Washington to feature the LIU Wurlitzer and the music of Dick Hyman on a special broadcast throughout Europe.

Meanwhile, in Poughkeepsie, we embarked on the project of reinstalling the original 2/7 Style E-X Wurlitzer in the Bardovan 1869 Opera House, formerly a movie house and now a performing arts center. Under the leadership of member John Vanderlee, a contract between the Bardovan and NYTOS was signed on October 7, enabling us to purchase and reinstall the instrument in its original home. Work is now underway on the project which has received enthusiastic support from members of the local community. John and his crew hope to have the Wurlitzer playing sometime in 1987.

Our own 2/10 Wurlitzer at the Middletown Paramount is getting regular use with member Bob Seeley (also the Paramount crew chief) doing the honors at the console before most of the productions at the theatre. The Paramount management reports that the audiences love it, and many arrive a half-hour

early just to hear the organ.

The thousands who packed Radio City Music Hall to attend the Liberace spectacular were also treated to the music of member Bob Maidof at the grand Wurlitzer both before the show and during intermission.

TOM STEHLE



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

On September 21, we were the private audience at the Castro Theatre to hear Jerry Nagan, a highly talented artist, bring out the magic of the 4/21 Wurlitzer. Jerry is the house organist at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium where he plays the historic Reginald Foort Möller. Jerry's selections for the first part of his program included the "Theme from Woody Woodpecker," Fats Waller's "Mean to Me" and a selection from *The Student Prince*. The second half included "I Don't Know How To Love Him," from the rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar* and "Makin' Whoopee." In Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance #1," he did a great piano solo in the coronation segment. Jerry dedicated "China Night" to Ed Stout and Richard Taylor, whose combined genius, experience, skill and teamwork have made the Castro Wurlitzer and the 5/118 Aeolian-Skinner at Grace Cathedral two of the most dynamic and versatile organs in the Bay Area. He also played one of his own special favorites which was a gift to him from Reginald Foort; it was a transcription by Foort of the "Poet and Peasant Overture," throughout which Foort had written detailed registration changes exclusively for the Foort Möller. Jerry tried the various changes on the Castro Wurlitzer, which made the piece the best one of the day.

For an encore, Jerry played a rousing rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever," followed by the traditional Castro get-ready-for-the-movie theme, "San Francisco." When a musician reaches a level of expertise such as Jerry has, he can take liberties with songs and deliver them with such power and pizzazz that even the composer might say, "Why didn't I think of that?" Now, that's talent!

On October 26 we joined other fans of

David Kelsey at the Grand Lake Theatre where David did an excellent job, as always. Among his selections for the afternoon were "My Secret Heart," "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered" and "Winter Wonderland" (it was a beautiful, sunny day in the mid-seventies, so this made everyone laugh).

After intermission we heard "You Take the High Note, and I'll Take the Low Note" and "The Russian Rag." He closed with one of my favorites, "The Liberty Bell March."

David is a fantastic entertainer. You can turn your sorrows into pure joy just by listening to him. He can be heard four nights a week at the New Belle Saloon at Polk and Sutter Streets in San Francisco. If you plan a visit to the City of Cities, be sure your plans include hearing David Kelsey!

Member Bob Vaughn played organ and piano for the annual Cinephile Convention of old-movie buffs in Minneapolis over the Labor Day weekend. No theatre organ was available, so a Conn 652 with multiple speakers was set up in the Hyatt Regency Hotel — the piano was at the Walker Art Center. Bob accompanied a number of silent films including *Too Wise Wives*, a film by the famous woman director, Lois Weber. Bob also played *The Phantom of the Opera* on the Aeolian-Skinner in the Unitarian Church in Berkeley on September 27, and on Halloween he repeated his performance at the Castro Theatre.

MICHAEL VERN KNOWLES



**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER**

**Dallas-Fort Worth**  
214/256-2743 or 214/233-7108

We continue to enjoy the benefits of the months of dedicated work rebuilding and installing our 3/8 Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre, and on October 19 we heard Bob Evans play a program of his favorites on the Robert-Morton. Bob is one of those rare AGO organists whose interests and talents encompass both liturgical and theatrical idioms. He is also a rarity, these days, in that he is a Texas native having been born in nearby Sherman. He has studied organ at the Kansas City Conservatory of Music and the Eastman

Popular

English Theater Organist

*Jeff Barker*

Concerts and  
Silent Films

201 Cross Street, Apt. 8H  
Fort Lee, N.J. 07024

201-461-9246 201-944-6742



**Lew Williams**

featured at

**Organ Stop Pizza**  
Phoenix

for concert information write or call  
5109 N. 81st Street • Scottsdale, AZ 85253  
(602) 941-9020



William Evans played for North Texas Chapter on their 3/8 Robert-Morton in the Lakewood Theatre in Dallas.

School of Music where he received his Master's Degree. His professional career as an organist has included many churches in this area including the Lovers' Lane Methodist, St. Luke Episcopal and the St. Matthew Cathedral.

Bob is new to our chapter, and this was his first opportunity to showcase his talent on the theatre organ for our members. He programmed selections ranging from popular tunes of the twenties and thirties to an untremmed classical organ piece. Turning off the tremors of a theatre organ is sometimes risky business as it often shows up out-of-tune pipes and other flaws that are usually masked by the tremulants. The Robert-Morton stood the test well, avoiding embarrassment for the organist and the organ crew. By way of an introduction to Kreisler's "Old Refrain," Evans told of having, as a youth in Kansas

City, heard a concert by Fritz Kreisler whose immense popularity was demonstrated by a call from his enthusiastic SRO audience for thirteen encores.

We are pleased to have Bob Evans as a fellow ATOSer. We enjoyed his music and look forward to his association with our chapter and to hearing more from him in the future.

IRVING LIGHT

## OREGON Portland

503/775-9048 or 503/771-8098

Because our chapter encompasses the entire state, we frequently travel to a distant site

for a meeting. We have been over the mountains to the coast and down the Willamette Valley. In September, we visited the home of Mary Pitts at Newport on the Oregon Coast.

Mary's 4/12 William Woods, the original organ in Portland's Oaks Park Skating Rink, was in fine shape and rarin' to go for Roland Hall, the artist of the day. Roland's program ranged from college songs to selections from operettas and some old standards. After intermission it was silent-movie time. Organ buffs/film collectors Henry and Elfriede Wuckert shared two of their latest acquisitions with us, Laurel and Hardy in *Liberty*, accompanied by Roland Hall, and a rare Will Rogers film which was cued by Paul Quarino.



Members of Oregon Chapter listen intently to organist Roland Hall at the Newport home of Mary Pitts.

(Claude Neuffer photo)

## Hector Olivera



### A COMMON DREAM

In 1896 Robert Hope-Jones created it with pipes . . . "The Unit Orchestra" . . .

In 1983 Hector Olivera created a 10 manual instrument using state of the art technology . . . "The O-1 Orchestra" . . .

" . . . Olivera is an engaging performer who, clearly, has found his particular niche and fills it splendidly."

Joan Reinthaler — Washington Post

National tours now forming

**MPI**

**MUSIC PRODUCTION INTERNATIONAL**

1285 Forrest Ellis Road • Douglasville, GA 30134

Telephone: (404) 949-3932

## GEORGE WRIGHT

### "RED HOT AND BLUE" Compact Disc

*The 1st Theatre Organ Compact Disc. Plays over 59 minutes with 6 more tunes than the LP.*

\$20.00 U.S. & Canada.

England \$22.00, Australia \$23.00 postpaid.

— ALSO —

### "RED HOT AND BLUE"

George Wright and his new recording organ — a long awaited new LP record — 40 minutes — digitally recorded — exciting new arrangements — organ stoplist.

\$12.00 Postpaid in U.S.

\$14.00 Canada, \$18.00 England (U.S. Funds)

**BANDA RECORDS**

P.O. BOX 392 • OXNARD, CA 93032



Roland Hall at the console of Mary Pitts' 4/12 William Woods. (Claude Neuffer photo)



Lou Hurvitz presented a most successful concert for Potomac Valley in Frederick, Maryland. (Dan Swope photo)

Open console filled the rest of the afternoon.

In October, a unique event took place at The Little Chapel of the Chimes Funeral Home in Portland. Artists Gerry Gregorius and Bob Hansen entertained on the 2/4 Robert-Morton. Built in 1925, this organ includes a Flute, Violin, Diapason and Vox Humana plus a chrysoglott and chimes. Next on the program, we watched the documentary *American Picture Palaces*, which included a segment of Gaylord Carter showing how theatre organs were used to accompany silent films. During open console, Paul Quarino conducted tours of the chamber. Paul maintains this instrument, and made the arrangements for us to see and hear this delightful installation. This was a first for us in that we had never heard this organ in a chapter meeting, and it was a first for the funeral home, too.

PAUL J. QUARINO



**POTOMAC VALLEY**  
Washington, D.C.

703/569-8170

Despite a continuing downpour on August 17, a good turnout of members enjoyed an afternoon of electronic organ music at the

home of John and Ardis Sneddon in Arlington, Virginia. Ardis presented a short concert on their new Technics F3, demonstrating the capabilities of the instrument with diverse musical selections. Refreshments and open console rounded out the afternoon.

Lou Hurvitz presented a most successful fund-raising concert for us on September 7 at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Maryland. Lou treated the patrons to a

tried-and-true repertoire — Gershwin, Berlin, Rodgers and other giants of American popular songs. He included in his program some lesser-known selections as well as the more familiar, and in most cases gave us the verses, in addition to the choruses, of each tune. Many of these verses were unheard, even in their heydays — what a joy it was to hear them for their own musicality as well as to discover how well they stand up to their respective refrains. All of us who attended await Lou's next program with eager anticipation. It is always a delight to hear selections played with the sincerity and musicality which Lou always brings to his concerts.

The good turnout for the concert was due in part to an advance publicity campaign headed by Jack Little. We also used some tips on concert planning which were provided at a seminar during the National Convention. The Weinberg Center is the last remaining theatre in Maryland with a pipe organ, in this case an original Wurlitzer installation.

DON FAEHN and FLOYD WERLE

**PUGET SOUND**  
Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

In a return engagement, Walt Strony presented an outstanding concert at the Seattle Paramount when we sponsored our first pub-

### Moving?

Send your  
change  
of address  
to . . .

**ATOS**  
Membership  
P.O. Box 420490  
Sacramento, Calif.  
95842



## ORGAN-IZING

POPULAR MUSIC

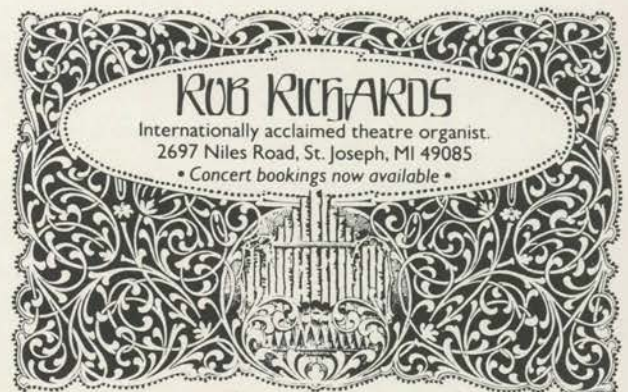
by  
**AL HERMANN**

A complete course in Keyboard Harmony  
and arranging popular music for Organ.

AVAILABLE AT MUSIC STORES OR DIRECTLY FROM  
**AL HERMANN**

1398 TEMPLE STREET

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33516





Puget Sound program chairman Gennie Whitting relaxes with Walt Strony following Seattle Paramount concert. (Diane Whipple photo)

lic program there on October 19. Walt was last here November 1, 1981, when he gave a marvelous presentation of *The Phantom of the Opera* for our first private program after having gained access to the Paramount organ. We were elated both by his growth as a virtuoso performer and by the improvements to the organ by Don Myers and the crew. The organ now speaks clearly and beautifully into the auditorium.

Newcomers to organ music are always considered by Walt when he plans his programs, and he played a great variety of music which included selections from Broadway shows as well as traditional theatre organ music. An astonishing and refreshing version of "Tico Tico" was full of pizzazz, and his very lovely "Wonderful One" soared in its simple beauty. The closing number, a transcription of the "1812 Overture," was a thrilling demonstration of musical accomplishment and skillful use of the resources of a fine organ, leaving listeners with a lasting memory of a fine performance.

Although this was a day to be entertained, many months of careful preparation were involved. Through the motivation of program chairman Gennie Whitting, the chapter realized its long-time objective of presenting the organ in a professional manner for a successful public concert. An extensive mailing and

publicity campaign, including numerous complimentary tickets, brought a crowd of both old and new friends from as far as Salem, Oregon, and Vancouver, B.C. Sales of champagne, cider and hand-dipped chocolates in the lobby helped to offset expenses, but, more important, created a festive and friendly atmosphere which prevailed throughout the afternoon.

At the instigation of young Mike Chervenock, a dedicated theatre employee, Andy Crow, from Olympia, was invited to play the organ prior to the Myron Floren Musical Variety Show the week prior to the Strony concert, and the ushers handed out program announcements at that time. Four of the ushers later volunteered to help on the day of the concert.

At an information table in the lobby, many enthusiastic people received material about joining the chapter or being included on the concert mailing list. A retired Boeing engineer, who volunteered to work on the wiring, is already busily helping on the installation of



Veteran organist Ed Zollman with Walt Strony following Walt's concert at the Seattle Paramount. (Zollman photo)

Mike Wallace's organ in the Seattle Neptune Theatre.

An incalculable benefit to our members on this rewarding day was the warmth of sharing in the pride of accomplishment, which will certainly unite the group and inspire more people to become involved in the future.

DIANE J. WHIPPLE



Bob Ralston in front of Capitol Theatre in Davenport, Iowa.

## QCCATOS

Quad Cities Chapter  
American Theatre Organ Society



Davenport

309/793-1451 or 319/359-5620

We are proud of our 3/12 Wicks, which is one of the few theatre pipe organs still playing in its original setting. And we are doubly proud when an artist like Bob Ralston comes to town and is able to bring out all the inherent beauty in our instrument.

Having heard that Bob could fill a theatre with his fans, we invited him to perform in concert on May 5, 1985 — his very first appearance in this area. He drew an audience of more than 1200, and promised us a sell-out

## Chris Elliott

Organist

Now booking 1987-88 appearances

Theatre Organ and Silent Film Presentations

For concert information, contact:

**CHRIS ELLIOTT**

P.O. Box 11571 • Santa Ana, CA 92711

Telephone: (714) 897-1715

## WALTER STRONY DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

"The tape as a whole is a refreshing change . . . A recommended must for followers of the Phoenix fellowship."

Walter J. Beaupre, Theatre Organ

Walt Strony plays Milwaukee's Riverside Wurlitzer pipe organ on the first recording ever issued of this fine instrument. The selections are Down By The Riverside, Kiss in The Dark, Bolero, Showboat, Malaguena, My Cousin in Milwaukee, My Heart At Thy Sweet Voice and Bacchanale. Walt Strony at his best!

Available As Cassette Tape Only (DTOS 101)

\$10.00 Postpaid — \$12.00 Outside USA

DTOS Tape • 2420 Springdale Road #101 • Waukesha, WI 53186

crowd the next time he was invited to play at the Capitol Theatre in Davenport, Iowa. Sure enough, this is exactly what happened on October 5, 1986 — he filled the theatre with 1609 enthusiastic patrons, many of whom showed up two hours ahead of showtime so they could get the good seats.

And what a show! Rising from the pit, he began with "The Sound of Music" and a medley of great movie and show themes. During his two-hour program, Bob favored us with medleys from the thirties, forties and sixties. He always does a segment of requests from the audience, and he always seems to know everything that people request; moreover, he has the gift of spontaneously weaving these requests into medleys that sound as though he spent months in preparation. During the request segment, Bob invited the audience to sing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," and after two bars he stopped playing and turned around on the bench to listen in raptured awe as all 1600 of us sang in four-part harmony. When we were finished, he told us most sincerely that this was the finest group-singing that he had ever heard. The audience gave him a well-deserved standing ovation, and for an encore, he treated us to an exciting version of "Tico Tico."

We have a lot of dedicated volunteers in our group, and we worked diligently to make the Ralston concert the outstanding success that it was. One of our fund-raising activities was a pre-program potluck dinner at the home of Bill and Joan McFadden. This gave our members a chance to socialize and to get acquainted with Bob Ralston and his lovely



Telephone tables and stage set for the band, ready for telethon.

(L. Collins photo)

Dutch wife, Fietje. After dinner, Bob sat down at the organ and gave us a preview of his program.

Following the Sunday afternoon concert, Bob and Fietje had to fly home to California. Nevertheless, both the artist and his wife graciously remained in the lobby warmly shaking hands, signing autographs and expressing their appreciation to all who attended the concert.

Our next Pipe Organ Spectacular is scheduled for April 27 and will feature Ron Rhode.

ARTHUR FELTS

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



At this writing, we are very close to reaching our \$460,000 goal for the Fargo Theatre restoration. Our three-hour telethon on August 27 was a huge success in every way. The



Lobby display of original console and old theatre equipment in Fargo Theatre.

(L. Collins photo)



Television WDAY's van ready for broadcasting.

(L. Collins photo)

**Don Baker**  
"Mr. Theatre Organ"



**NOW BOOKING CONCERTS**

111 Sea Fern Court, Lakes at Leesburg  
Leesburg, Florida 32788  
(904) 728-4683

Now available from . . .

**Don Baker**  
"Mr. Theatre Organ"



Cassette recordings on  
DETROIT SENATE &  
BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA  
Theatre Organs.  
Post Paid \$9.50

Lakes at Leesburg  
111 Sea Fern Court  
Leesburg, Florida 32788  
1-904-728-4683

event aired live from the stage of the theatre over WDAY-TV and WDAY-AM radio. The phones started ringing before the show was on the air and continued long after sign-off. The hosts were well-known area personalities Boyd Christenson, Vince Lindstrom and Don Dresser. Entertainment included slides and film clips of the theatre's history and performances by Hildegard Kraus at the Wurlitzer, the Fargo Theatre Big Band All-Stars, the F-M Ambassador Chorus, the Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre's Good Company Cabaret, Mahkahta Dance Theatre, the Red River Dance and Performing Company, the Shook-DiFiore Jazz Quintet and vaudeville juggling by Skip Hunt. The goal for the telethon was \$75,000, but pledges came close to \$78,000. The overall response exceeded our expectations! Then, a few weeks later, the theatre was awarded a grant of \$195,000 by the Earl Reineke Foundation, with \$175,000 for the lobby restoration to its streamlined moderne decor of 1937, and \$20,000 for renovation of the marquee. Mr. Reineke, who founded WDAY radio in 1922, was well-known in the Upper Midwest for his contributions to the field of broadcasting, and his wife for her contributions to the performing arts. The reconstruction is set to begin in May of 1987.

Winter came early and fiercely, just in time for our fall Silent Movie Nights, November 7 and 8. A blizzard forced postponement of the second program to the ninth, and it became bitterly cold, but those who braved the weather had a good time. Part I featured five couples, the Moorhead State University Heritage Dancers, performing Spanish-Mexican folk dances. The organ prologue and inter-

ludes for costume changes were provided by Lance Johnson. Part II featured Douglas Fairbanks in the 1920 adventure, *The Mark of Zorro*, with score by Lance Johnson. Pre-show and intermission music was by Hildegard Kraus at the grand piano in the lobby. This was our twenty-fifth Silent Movie Night production.

Chapter treasurer Lloyd Collins attended the Montana Music Educators conclave in



Our hosts, Don and Betty O'Brien.

Missoula this fall and had a wonderful time playing the three-manual Robert-Morton at the Wilma Theatre; he also accompanied their traditional sing-along.

Also this fall, on the TV show *Entertainment Tonight*, in a sequence about the national convention of the Society of Cinephiles in Minneapolis, the organ music heard in the background was by Lance Johnson as he was scoring a Dorothy Gish film.

On February 27, the guest organist in our artist series will be Walt Strony. His return engagement will be for a re-dedication of the organ now that the rebuilding is complete.

SONIA CARLSON

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

Don and Betty O'Brien of Millard, Nebraska, opened their home for River City's September 15 meeting. Their two-manual Conn theatre organ is located in an atrium setting, providing an interesting acoustic environment. Seven members took advantage of open console time. The evening program was provided by Jack Moelmann, who played his final concert for us before his transfer from Offutt Air Force Base. At the conclusion, Jeannie Cooper joined him at the console for a four-handed version of "Begin the Beguine." Thirty-seven members enjoyed the O'Brien's generous hospitality.

Our October 20 meeting was hosted by Jim and Ann Harnett in their beautiful home. A substantial portion of the meeting was de-



Jeannie Cooper joins Jack Moelmann at the console for a duet.

(Tom Jeffery photo)



Ann Harnett asks the familiar question, "Can you name that tune?" (Tom Jeffery photo)

"...a truly remarkable recording..."  
Theatre Organ

SCOTT SMITH  
AT THE  
3/11 BARTON

**MEMORIES  
OF THE  
MICHIGAN**

Michigan Theatre  
Lansing, Michigan

Available in stereo cassette only.

Send \$7.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling in check or money order to:  
Lansing Theatre Organ, Inc., P.O. Box 26154, Lansing, MI 48909

*Donna Parker*  
For Concert Information:  
Donna Parker Productions Inc.,  
P.O. Box 19371 • Indianapolis, Indiana 46219  
(317) 359-9148



voted to planning Jack Moelmann's concert at the Orpheum Theatre on November 30. This will be his third benefit concert for Omaha History Museum (Western Heritage Museum). After the business meeting, hostess Ann Harnett provided the evening's entertainment on her three-manual Conn. She presented a mini-concert and an interesting version of "Name That Tune" in which she played a few bars of 20 different tunes, and members had to write down the exact titles; papers were exchanged and graded, and prizes were awarded to those with the most correct titles. These were all familiar songs, but some titles eluded our memories. The game proved to be a lot of fun and is sure to be repeated at another meeting.

TOM JEFFERY

**ST. LOUIS  
Missouri  
618/654-7855**

With winter here, work is going strong at the Granada Theatre. The Peterson relay and combination action for the 3/20 Wurlitzer should be delivered any time. We are still seeking a Barton four-poster lift, stage curtains and organ screens. Anyone wish to help?

In November, we held a fund-raiser dinner/dance/floor show in Highland, Illinois. The net of \$2500 will help toward our half of the \$15,000 relay. One of our long-time members is donating the other half. We still need to raise \$3000, however, for the balance of our half. The installation will be very open and accessible. Donations are being accepted.

ATOS President Jack Moelmann, artists Mark Gifford, Jerry Marian, Robert Ault, Jack Jenkins and chapter President Dennis Ammann were the featured entertainers at the fund-raiser. There was also a floor show by the Jane Mannion School of Dance, a catered buffet and an evening dance with music by the Don Shimer Band which donated its services. Artist Mark Gifford offered us a unique auction item — his time to entertain at a private party for the highest bidder. We sold him for \$500. It all helps.

Another fund-raiser is planned for early winter. We also look to late winter for the formal introduction of the Granada Wurlitzer. Interested parties may contact us for ticket information.

Our November meeting was held at the new

studio of Bybee Church Organs in St. Louis. Consultant Mark Gifford performed for us on a Rodgers organ — an excellent performance.

DENNIS E. AMMANN

**SAN DIEGO  
California  
619/746-3581**

Congratulations are in order to Chuck Kramarich for his theatre organ concert debut at the California Theatre in San Diego on October 4. Chuck played a varied and enjoyable concert that showed he has talent, good stage presence and a nice way of holding his audience.

Chuck's opening "Give My Regards to Broadway" was a rousing start to a fine performance of varied tunes and tempos which included a musical ride on the "Chattanooga Choo-Choo." "It's A Good Day" was a perfect way to open the second half of the show, and along the way, Bill Eitel assisted Chuck with a sing-along by leading the audience through lyrics printed on the back of the programs. This was a fun part of the show. The big flag came down as the last of the lyrics was sung to "God Bless America." Closing the evening's program, Chuck played "The Lord's Prayer" and a beautifully unique ar-



Chuck Kramarich during a practice session at the California Theatre Wurlitzer in San Diego.

rangement of "I Believe." An encore was commanded by an enthusiastic and appreciative audience, and Chuck returned to play "I'll See You In My Dreams."

Chuck Kramarich has been a member of our chapter for three years. He came to the San Diego area from Minnesota where he was born and raised. Though blind since the age of two, he nevertheless began studying the piano at age six and "discovered" the organ when he was eleven. He started playing for church services two years later. The first theatre organ Chuck played was a three-manual Wurlitzer in Roseville, Minnesota. Since moving to San Diego, Chuck has actively pursued a musical career. Again, we congratulate Chuck on a fine performance and very professional appearance. We hope there will be many more concerts to follow.

Our November 8 concert saw the return of one of our favorites. For all of us who love the silent movies, it was once again an evening of fun and folly with Gaylord "Flickerfingers" Carter as he accompanied his old pal, Harold Lloyd, in *Billy Blazes, Esq.* and *The Kid Brother*.

Gaylord opened the show with "The Perfect Song," the theme from the old radio days of *The Amos 'n Andy Show*. He then explained to his eager audience about a few of the funnier scenes to be aware of in *Billy Blazes, Esq.*, one of which he said was a "horse scene." Well, as usual, Harold Lloyd sprang into action to make us all laugh as he romped his way through the film. Did you see that horse fall right over!

The next picture was *The Kid Brother*. Harold Lloyd kind of steals your heart in this movie as he always seems to end up on the short end of things as the kid brother. However, he manages to come up being the "hero" at the very end. All's well that ends well — or so it goes at the movies, anyway!

And, of course, all did end well at the movies as Gaylord Carter did it again, bringing in the crowds who love the sights and sounds of the silent films and the Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ.

KAREN SCHOUTE and MARY JANE HYDE

**SIERRA  
Sacramento  
916/967-5060 or 916/483-7351**

It was a beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon when 140 members and guests of our chapter



**Rob Calcaterra**

"Rob Calcaterra Workshop and Concert — Superb!!!"  
Los Angeles ATOS

"One of the most popular and talented performing artists on today's theatre organ scene."  
New York ATOS

"A superb evening's entertainment."  
London ATOS

154 WEST 70th #9B • N.Y., NY 10023 • (212) 362-4821



**20 Years  
of Quality Parts & Service  
1966 - 1986**

SEND \$5.50 TODAY FOR OUR  
85-PAGE CATALOG

**ARNDT ORGAN SUPPLY COMPANY**

1018 LORENZ DRIVE  
ANKENY, IOWA 50021  
PHONE (515) 964-1274



Projectionist Hal Wilmunder prepares *The General* for showing to the Sierra chapter.  
(Art Phelan photo)



Dave Hooper at the Wurlitzer in concert for Sierra Chapter.  
(Art Phelan photo)

heard Dave Hooper in concert on the Wurlitzer in the Fair Oaks Club House. This was Dave's third concert for our chapter, and, as always, he presented a well-balanced program of selections from musical comedies, novelties and pop numbers. His talent seems to have no limit when it comes to fine arrangements, technique and registration. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the program, but the *piece de resistance* of the afternoon was Dave's accompaniment of the silent movie, *The General* starring Buster Keaton. Hal Wilmunder was our projectionist.

During intermission the kitchen was busy as our crew, Diane Lovely, Mildred Estes and Bernice Cline, sold sodas, coffee and cupcakes. We also held a raffle with many recordings handed to the winners. This was our first program since June as the auditorium has been closed for remodeling. We are indeed

grateful to Dave Hooper for an afternoon of fine organ music and entertainment.

Thanks, too, to Betty Wilmunder and Chuck Shumate for their help in the preparation of these notes.

BUD TAYLOR

### SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our September meeting was held in the home of John and Charlene Roberts. We opened with a replay of the Channel 6 videotape made during our fabulous "Sleeping Beauty" August concert of the 4/14 Robert-Morton in Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. Our thanks go to Laura Smith, daughter of Dorothy and Lee Smith, for providing the tape. Ernie Einsporn, president of

Tulsa Organ Club, offered to make copies for any who wished to have one. We welcomed several guests: Jeff Atkinson, Charlene's organ teacher; Lou Emma Morgan, who had attended our August concert; and George Collier of Kansas City, Sam Collier's brother. Open console followed on the Roberts' Conn 650.

We could hardly believe our good fortune at having the Central Assembly of God Church still available for our October meeting, but the church and the organ are still there, so back we went. Ernie Einsporn offered to videotape encore performances by our August artists, since the Channel 6 tape only had excerpts on it, and make the finished tape show the entire concert. Although not all of the artists were present at this meeting, and some selections were different, we enjoyed the "re-runs" and are delighted to have them

## WURLITZER PIPE ORGAN MUSIC VIDEO LEON BERRY

### plays the BEAST in the BASEMENT in VHS Hi Fi STEREO!

<p><b>VISUALS INCLUDE:</b> LEON at the console Interior of Pipe chamber Swells working Bells &amp; Traps in Action!</p>	<p><b>14 SELECTIONS INCLUDING:</b> Nights of Gladness Sweet Georgia Brown Cocktails for Two Ain't She Sweet, etc. etc.</p>
---	--

All Cassettes produced from 1" Video Mastertape

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SEND \$29.95 + 3.05 shipping & handling (TOTAL \$33) TO:  
MICHAEL K. PRODUCTIONS  
4901 N. NATOMA  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60656

VHS  
ONLY



## The Rochester Theater Organ Society

### RECORDINGS

We are pleased to offer these recordings of our 4/22 Wurlitzer pipe organ at the Auditorium Theatre in Rochester, NY:

	LP	Cassette
Rob Calcaterra — "Rob Calcaterra".....	\$9.00	n/a
Rob Calcaterra — "Master of the Organ".....	9.00	\$8.00
Alan Mills — "Front & Center".....	7.00	n/a
Billy Nalle — "Show Business".....	8.00	n/a
Hector Olivera — "Pieces of Dreams".....	n/a	7.00
David Reese — "Reese Goes East".....	8.00	7.00
Robert Wolfe — "Here's to the Next Time".....	n/a	8.00
Robert Wolfe — "Again Again".....	n/a	8.00

All prices are in US funds and include shipping within the USA or Canada. Order from: RTOS Records, PO Box 17114, Rochester, NY 14617. Send a SASE for a listing of selections.



on tape. We also heard from some of our other playing members and two guests, Carolyn Craft and Clayton Cooper, both of whom had attended our August concert and who, we hope, enjoyed the pipe organ enough to come back.

Dick Van Dera took another turn at open console, and then Dorothy Smith joined him at the grand piano while they finished "Chopsticks" together. One thing led to another, and the next thing they knew, they (almost) had a real concert going! They had some fun trying for key changes. They enjoyed playing together and hope to do it again.

DOROTHY SMITH

## SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Things are looking up in Southeast Texas. The Jefferson Theatre in Beaumont, home of our 3/8 Robert-Morton, is currently being restored, one phase at a time. This theatre, built in 1927, has the last remaining original-installation theatre organ in this part of the country. The theatre and organ were featured in the August 1971 issue of THEATRE ORGAN. A campaign is currently underway to replace the seats on the main floor and part of the balcony — approximately 1000 of the 1486 total. So far, we have sold nearly 400 seats. The marquee and front ticket booth are currently being restored to their original specifications, and new, polished-granite facing will replace the deteriorated marble on the front of the building. Part of the organ console was re-leathered recently by chapter President Floyd Broussard and Carter Bidwell. Plans are to finish the two remaining chests in the console and then do some work in the Solo chamber. The Main chamber and relay were completely re-leathered a few years ago. We are also concentrating on reworking the second-touch and some of the combination pistons in the console.

The Beaumont Community Players, a local theatre group, now uses the Jefferson to present their bi-monthly performances. Their last play, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, was a success and used the Robert-Morton for the sound effects. The group plans to use more of the organ in future productions.

In November, we sponsored a free concert at the Jefferson. Local artist Ava Irick presented a well-prepared program of popular tunes with a sing-along directed by Jack Covington, a local singer. Approximately 70 peo-

ple attended the function, including members of the Golden Triangle Electronic Organ Club. We welcome everyone who is interested in fine music to attend our concerts. Open console was held, and Carter Bidwell and Jim Doleman took the challenge to present some toe-tapping tunes for the audience. The afternoon was enjoyed by all. Special thanks go to theatre manager Walter Doiron for his enthusiasm in permitting us to use the theatre for our functions.

CARTER BIDWELL



**TOLEDO Area  
Theatre Organ  
SOCIETY, INC.**  
Ohio

419/381-6730 or 419/478-8595

We met with another success! On November 8 John Lauter performed at the old Ohio Theatre on the Marr & Colton for a Silent Film Festival and concert. John had just returned from the successful Denver Regional. The crowd of nearly 400 was entertained by the film, *American Picture Palaces*, which was recently released. It depicts the Golden Age of movie palaces including their theatre organs. Several silent comedies were accompanied by John as well as plenty of concertizing. The entire program went perfectly, thanks to our organ crew and the artist, who was also MC.

Toledo's publicity chairman, Mrs. Peg Dull, was recently commended by ATOS board member Tom B'hend for her outstanding press releases and publicity organization. Our last two concerts had no paid media advertising and yet attracted about 400 persons each time. This shows that the use of flyers, press releases and radio interviews can be very effective. We also tucked a membership application into each program at our last concert.

We have had our share of difficulties, too, as the roof of the Ohio Theatre is leaking right over the organ chambers. Thanks to crew member Joe Thorpe for covering pipework and chests with sheets of plastic and for emptying rain buckets; because of him, the organ escaped serious damage. We will have to wait, however, until the roof is replaced before we install the additional five or six ranks we now have for the organ.

EVAN CHASE



**American  
Theatre Organ  
Society**

VALLEY  
OF THE  
SUN  
CHAPTER

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

Our May 18 chapter meeting was held at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall where some of our members assist with the organ rebuilding and maintenance. Organist for the afternoon was chapter member Tim Versluys whose program was mostly show tunes. Tim confessed to being nervous about playing for the chapter, but he needn't have been — he is a talented young man, and his program was well received.

We returned to the church for our July 27 meeting to hear Ken Schroeder, of the Allen Piano and Organ Company, demonstrate the sounds of the Allen Digital Computer Organ. Ken's program consisted of tunes from the 1950s — remember "Ricochet Romance?"

Everyone enjoyed a special treat at our August meeting at the Mesa Organ Stop Pizza restaurant. Our guest artist was Dwight Thomas, winner of National's 1986 Young Organist Competition. His opening number, "Anything Goes," set the stage for the afternoon. Dwight played a wide variety of music, including some of the songs we heard at the convention in Richmond.

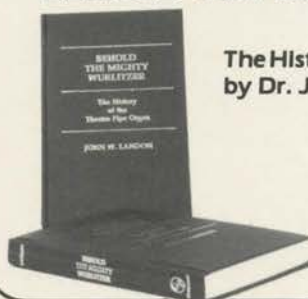
Fortunately for us, perky Patti Simon was in town to sub for Lew Williams at the Phoenix Organ Stop one week in September. She played for our September 21 meeting. Her program was a preview of what we were to hear at her Rocky Mountain Regional concert. Sixteen of our chapter members attended the Denver event.

Our October 19 meeting found us at the Valley of the Sun Religious Science Center where Lyn Larsen is musical director. That afternoon we heard Ron Rhode at the organ. Of special interest to several of our members was the computerized sound of the Kurzweil that Ron used on some of his numbers. Some members participated in open console following the program.

Our Chairman, Ray Danford, ran for the National Board of Directors for the first time

Now in its second printing

## BEHOLD THE MIGHTY WURLITZER



The History of the Theatre Pipe Organ  
by Dr. John W. Landon

\$29.95 Post Paid from

Greenwood Press, P.O. Box 5007  
Westport, Connecticut 06881

## KAY McABEE

Available for concerts

Staff organist for Phil Maloof and the  
Roxy pipe organ  
Ramada Classic Hotel.

Contact: Kay McAbee  
1834 California NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110  
(505) 256-0203

this year. Even though he was not one of the top three, he made a fair showing and plans to try again. He is currently active on some of the National committees.

A driving force behind much of the technical organ work done by our chapter is vice-chairman Buddy Boyd. We will be sorry to lose him when his employment takes him elsewhere in 1987.

We are especially pleased with our increase in members in 1986 and hope this will continue through 1987.

MADELINE LIVOLSI




### WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

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

In September, 14 of us traveled to Canada to hear organist Jim Fox play the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ in St. Clare's Roman Catholic Church in Windsor, Ontario. Organist Fox showed real class by opening his concert with "Oh, Canada." It was a fortissimo rendition, accompanied by pianissimo sing-



## Do You Know Any Young Organists?

The rules and regulations for the 1987 Young Organist Competition have been sent to all chapter presidents. If you know of a talented youngster (age 13-20) who might be interested in entering, contact your chapter immediately so he can start preparing for the competition. If you have questions, contact Lois Segur, 1930-301 Encinitas Road, San Marcos, California 92069.

along (probably the reverse of what he had in mind). Jim went on to play a fine program, unfortunately cut short by a scheduling conflict that made us evacuate the church early.

On October 19 "Harmony with the Carmodys" could have been the slogan of organist Dennis Minear. He and the four Carmodys entertained our members in the Senate Theatre in Detroit. The program was varied, with each family member presenting his or her specialty. Father Mike's singing of "Someone Waits for Me," Brian as MC, Terry's rendition of "These Foolish Things," Dennis' selections from *The King and I* and Fran's "vox humana" proving itself in songs from *Showboat*, are but a few of the highlights of a program that entertained Wolverines as well as buffs from other organ clubs. A standing ovation following Fran's "Old Man River" was the prelude to a finale in which Fran, accompanied by Dennis on the organ, led the singing of "Happy Birthday" to President Page who turned 55 that week for the how-manieth time, Fred? The Wolverine chapter thanks the Detroit Theater Organ Club for making this program possible.

CHARLIE and BETTY BAAS □



Jim Fox at the console of the Wurlitzer organ in St. Clare's Church in Windsor. (Fred Page photo)



(L to R) Mike Carmody, Dennis Minear, Fran Carmody, Terry Carmody and Brian Carmody at the Senate Theatre in Detroit. (Fred Page photo)

For your 1987-88 season  
book theatre organist

# BOB RALSTON

17027 Tennyson Place  
Granada Hills, California 91344  
Phone: 818/366-3637



#### STANDING ROOM ONLY

"Bob Ralston's concert on October 5, 1986, was the first time in the history of the QCCATOS that we ever had a sold-out, standing-room-only crowd."

Joan McFadden, President, Quad Cities Chapter ATOS

#### THE VERY BEST

"Bob Ralston's performance was most memorable and entertaining... excellent registration... by far the most exciting program of the ATOS Convention."

Grant I. Whitcomb, Reviewer, Theatre Organ Magazine

#### ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

"Bob Ralston's shows on April 5th and 6th, 1986, were, as usual, a financial success for all concerned. But more importantly, we were able to present the one man who has consistently drawn some of our largest and most enthusiastic audiences."

Russell E. Shaner, Program Chairman, Rochester Theatre Organ Society