



CHAPTER NOTES

ALABAMA Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

1986 was a red-letter year for us. Seeing the re-opening of the Alabama Theatre, beginning maintenance on yet another pipe organ (this now makes four!), the acquisition of a Wurlitzer by member Freeman Andress, concerts, our very successful movie series, and the release of our highly acclaimed, chapter-produced recording, "The Alabama Wurlitzer at Its Best," with Tom Hazleton, has kept all of us hopping throughout the past twelve months. We are very fortunate to have a "family" where everybody works and pulls his or her own weight, where young and old participate in every function of the theatre's operation and chapter events, and where more than just a handful of people keep everything going! Watch as 1987 takes off and unfolds!

In November we were privileged to hear none other than theatre organ veteran John Muri. This talented gentleman really showed

us what true theatre organ is all about as he hypnotized the audience with his styling and selections. Our many thanks to Mr. Muri for providing such a pleasurable afternoon.

December artist Walt Winn said it: "This is Birmingham, so it must be Christmas!" as he played his fifth annual December chapter meeting at the Alabama. Walt always manages to surprise and intrigue his audience, and this was no exception. Christmas "standards" and other theatre organ classics were heard by a most appreciative audience.

January is usually a very cold month for the Alabama Theatre; in past years we have not had adequate heating because of the temporary "closing" of the theatre. In 1987 we were given an open house *with* heat, and a rare open console was in order. The program was provided by Bryan Black, Tom Bagwell, Christine McPherson, Sam Troutman, Roy Harrison, Gary Jones and Cecil Whitmire. Open consoles are always fun and filled with versatility, especially when so much talent exists in the chapter.

The Publix #1 is currently being "turbo-

charged" as an auxiliary blower is being added to boost static pressure. Linda Whitmire donated the former Sixth Avenue Presbyterian Spencer blower to feed the intake of the original Spencer unit. Work is also progressing nicely on Freeman Andress' 3/19 Wurlitzer in the Birmingham Wedding Chapel. The chapter has begun maintenance of the 2/8 Wurlitzer installed at Fairview United Methodist Church. Placed in the church in the early thirties, this former State Theatre (Hanover, Pennsylvania) Style 190 was Wurlitzer's Opus 1913. It is used regularly for services, and our chapter is very pleased to have access to yet another theatre organ in Birmingham.

GARY W. JONES



ALOHA Honolulu

808/696-4533 or 808/523-9079

Our 4/16 Robert-Morton sounded in all its glory on May 17 when we presented the Kamehameha Concert Glee Club and Dancers in a benefit performance for the Glee Club's European Tour '87 Fund. Guest organist Mark Barville and director Dale Noble, both faculty members of the Kamehameha schools, presented a varied concert featuring their students. Mr. Barville played the "Tocatta" from Widor's Fifth Symphony, and the chorus featured an original composition by R. Fong, Chairman of the Department of Music, entitled "Ka Misia" (The Messiah), for chanter and chorus. Also assisting in the per-



The one and only John Muri makes an afternoon of it at the Alabama. (Gary W. Jones photo)



Walt Winn playing his fifth annual December chapter meeting at the Alabama. (Gary W. Jones photo)

formance was the Kamehameha School Orchestra under the direction of Robert Hamilton. Our own Galen Piepenburg played a pre-performance concert of his own arrangements of delightful melodies. A silent Charlie Chaplin comedy was accompanied by Frank Loney.

In October, Tommy Stark returned to the Robert-Morton to play again for us a splendid concert and to accompany two silent movies. Tommy's Big Band style and boundless energy combine to create a console personality that sparkles with excitement. He really has fun when he puts on a show, and our audiences love it!

In November we hosted the Sandwich Islands Barbershop Chorus, under the direction of Jim Graham, in a benefit performance which included a silent movie played by Frank Loney. Featured in a cameo was the well-known barbershop quartet, the Sugarcane Express. The boys did a great job and the show was a success.

In 1986, in addition to satisfying our regular customers with our regular theatre organ and silent movie presentations, we were able to introduce our hobby to two different segments of the musical field, the Kamehameha Schools and the Barbershop Chorus, thereby promoting even further the influence of the theatre organ in Hawaii. Our own members, who were kind enough to perform mini-concerts before chapter meetings last year, were Galen Piepenburg, Phil Dooley, Frank Bogowitz and Handy Hancock. Our thanks to all of them for a job well done.

Remember, when you vacation in Hawaii, visit us! We're on the island of Oahu. If at all possible, write in advance of your arrival as the 4/16 Robert-Morton in the Hawaii Theatre is played on special occasions, and the OTHER 4/16 Robert-Morton may be heard on Friday and Saturday evenings at the Wai-kiki 3 Theatre.

Aloha from Hawaii!

NORMAN R. KELLEY

BEEHIVE Salt Lake City

801/278-6028 or 801/486-9098

We held a general membership meeting at the home of Dr. Conrad Jenson on May 30. Dr. Jenson has reconditioned and installed the 3/16 Wurlitzer which was originally in the

Loews State Theatre in Norfolk, Virginia, about 1926. It is always a highlight of the year to enjoy Dr. Jenson's music room which houses the Wurlitzer console, a piano and a Rodgers church organ. Music by Scott Gillespie, Krehl King and Blaine Gale was followed by refreshments and open console.

On September 5 we sponsored a joint meeting with the Salt Lake Organ Club, which is one of the more active home organ clubs in the area. The combined meeting was held at the Capitol Theatre and the nearly 60 people who attended were well-entertained by Blaine Gale. The Capitol Theatre 2/12 Wurlitzer continues to be maintained by ATOS members and occasionally has a part in productions originating at the theatre. Anyone hearing the organ for the first time would naturally think that the organ is much larger than the 2/12 specifications.

Please Vote! Your BALLOT Is in this Issue.

A silent movie was presented at the Organ Loft on December 1, sponsored jointly by the Organ Loft and our chapter. Harry Langdon's movie, *The Strong Man*, was accompanied by Blaine Gale on the 5/36 Wurlitzer and was enjoyed by 75 well-satisfied guests. Additional movie presentations are planned for the future.

A Christmas party at the Organ Loft on December 3 included chapter members and members of the Salt Lake Organ Club. Dinner was catered by Larry Bray and his staff, and music was provided by Scott Gillespie.

Many improvements have been made to the Organ Loft 5/36 Wurlitzer in the past twelve months, including new cables, new solid-state switching, new keyboards, new pre-set matrix and new tabs and relays. Under the guidance of Larry Bray, the Organ Loft Wurlitzer has become a first class revitalized instrument with many years of good music in its future. Organists who play the "new" organ are hearing sounds and combinations not heard for many years because of old cables, switches and relays. Beehive Chapter is fortunate to

have such an instrument in our area, and we greatly enjoy the functions held there every year.

O. WENDELL HANSON

CENTRAL FLORIDA THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



Tampa

813/685-8707 or 813/734-5721

On December 7 we presented a fantastic program on our renovated and great-sounding Wurlitzer with Mr. Theatre Organ himself, Mr. Don Baker, at the console. There was a large crowd, and many wrote our club afterwards that it was a wonderful performance and show.

We have been growing quickly since we have been having these concerts, and as this area continues to grow, we anticipate more and more new members. At each concert, we distribute information about our chapter and ATOS, and the response from people interested in theatre organ in this area has been tremendous; many have joined our club.

A number of our members have volunteered to play the Tampa Theatre organ before the movies which are shown there three times a week, and we know this will generate much interest in the organ as well as providing a fun thing for our members to do.

If any of you are coming to Florida, drop us a note and we will send you a schedule of our coming events. So far, it has been a great winter here!

PAUL AND BAMBI DANIELSON



CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

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

The Long Center for the Performing Arts in Lafayette (formerly the Mars Theatre), with its beautiful theatre pipe organ, was the site of our November meeting. Carroll Copeland, representing the Long Center, accepted

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Central Ohio Chapter poses for a formal portrait at its annual meeting.

(Jack Montag photo)

the chapter's contribution and thanked us for the donation which was used to purchase a Wurlitzer 16' Flute and 16' Tuba rank. Ken Double, a guiding force in the Long Center organ which was dedicated in 1982, presented the program. Ken played many favorite selections including "The Song Is You" and "A Wonderful Day Like Today" plus a beautiful orchestral arrangement of "Winter Storms." Ken is also one of the featured artists in the Long Center Theatre Organ Series.

A Christmas party was held at Manual High School in December for members of our chapter and the Indianapolis chapter of the American Guild of Organists and their guests. Some 240 people attended this event, which began with a catered dinner on the beautifully decorated stage of Manual High School. One of the three Christmas trees was decorated with ornaments which the guests had brought and later exchanged as mementos of the evening. At a brief business meeting, President

Kevin Aikman presented a donation from the chapter to Carl Wright of Manual High School; the contribution is for a Peterson solid-state relay system for the 3/16 Louisville Uniphone. Carl thanked the chapter for its generosity.

Kevin then introduced guest artist Ron Rhode, who presented a varied program of show tunes, transcriptions and Christmas selections. His rendition of "Waltz of the Flowers" was especially beautiful.

CAROL M. ANDREJASICH

CENTRAL OHIO Columbus

513/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

Once again, we are indebted to host Tom Yanatel of the Palace Theatre in Marion, Ohio, where we held our November 23 meeting. The organ, a 3/10, Style 235 Wurlitzer,

was acquired from Betty Mason of Livonia, Michigan. Installation of this ten-rank instrument in organ chambers designed for seven ranks was no small chore, but by suspending the lower end of the Tibia rank horizontally and constructing a vertical wind-tunnel, the feat was accomplished.

The theatre was rescued from the wrecking ball (like so many similar theatres) by a civic group who purchased it and raised some \$500,000 for its renovation. Consequently, it has all new seats and a beautiful Art Deco interior suggestive of a Spanish influence. The theatre is an active centerpiece of Marion's performing arts movement, with plays, choirs, choruses and travelogues, and its organ is used frequently in connection with the travelogue presentations. We enjoyed open console with featured organists Bob Cawley, Harold Denser and Harry Connert. Many of our members provided a lively afternoon of entertainment. Newly elected President John



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Ellie Hyle takes her turn at the Marion Wurlitzer.

(John R. Polsley photo)



Members Harold Denzer and Harry Connett at the Marion Palace Wurlitzer.

(John R. Polsley photo)

Polsley conducted a short business meeting during which he introduced the officers for the coming year.

It would be hard to eclipse our 1985 Christmas party, but I think we did it on December 21 with organ talent and good food. On stage was our Wurlitzer at Worthington High School bedecked with gold and silver trim, while overhead was a banner proclaiming that this was the organ's sixtieth birthday. After a short business meeting, Shady Nook resident organist Trent Sims set the mood with a parade of Christmas music. His renditions of "Winter Wonderland" and "White Christmas" got us quickly into the holiday spirit. To commemorate the occasion, member Jack Montag, a professional photographer, took a group picture, the first — and as far as we know, the only — such photo taken of our chapter. There followed a steady stream of member organists to open console while the rest divided their attention between the music and the inviting array of food.

Our 3/16 Wurlitzer, now with 15 ranks operational, never sounded better — thanks to long hours on the part of the organ crew. It was the consensus of many of us that the instrument is right for its auditorium, and its voicing is nearly appropriate to its setting. The 1987 commitment of the organ crew is to trace out the remaining dead notes, reduce wind noise and replace leaky primary valve leather.

JOHN R. POLSLEY



Chicago Area

Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

312/794-9622 or 312/892-8136

The Chicago Theatre has been a glorious and entertaining surprise for many years and will continue to be for a long time. For two nights, just before Christmas, the walls of the theatre gloriously rang with the voices of a full house singing in praise the "do-it-yourself" Handel's *Messiah*. This musical masterpiece was accompanied by a large orchestra plus the organ which added greatly to the presentation.

The organ is scheduled to undergo a complete and extensive overhaul. Funds are available, as are eager hands to get the project going.

A 3/12 Wurlitzer-Kimball, neatly perched at the Copernicus Center (Gateway Theatre), was the site where Father Jim Miller presided at the console for our November show with good music and lots of humor. He was assisted by MC Sig Sakowicz, a Las Vegas/Chicago celebrity, and with Buster Keaton on the screen the end result was a happy, entertaining afternoon. We were pleased to have a busload of organ buffs from Central Indiana

Chapter join us for this performance. Thanks to Tess Moses of the Indiana chapter and to our President, Jim West, for arranging this tour.

Fred Arnish, staff organist at the Elm Rink, presided at our November social at the Montclare Theatre which is now open and has a Kimball which replaced the former 3/10 Barton. Fred presented a lively program for which we were greatly appreciative.

Barbara Sellers did a show at the Music Box Theatre in October. The deluxe three-manual Allen organ responded beautifully under the capable hands of Barbara Sellers. We deeply appreciate the generosity of Bob Chaney and Chris Carlo who make it possible to have this well-kept theatre available for glorious music and shows.

At the Christmas show at Quigley North, Michael Shawgo presented an excellent holiday program. Michael possesses a well-rounded musical education and has classical as well as contemporary experience. It was a great treat to hear the school's Chapel Kilgen organ give forth with Michael at the console.

We have recently heard that the Hinsdale Theatre is to be turned into a boutique, thus ending another series of organ programs. Tom Wibbels is to present a farewell program on the organ which will be fitting and proper. We are grateful to Jim Glass for his maintenance of this organ and theatre throughout the years.

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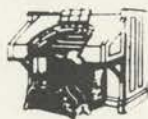
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CONNECTICUT VALLEY THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, INC.



Thomaston

203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269

We were extremely pleased to present Allen Mills in a Christmas Season Concert at the Shelton High School on December 6. Allen's Christmas concerts are very popular at Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady, New York, where he is resident organist, and, if we can judge by the audience response, just as popular in Connecticut.

From the very beginning, Allen captured the audience with a program augmented by stunning visual effects, a sing-along and Christmas Carols by the youth choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Fairfield, Connecticut, under the direction of Geoffrey Clark-Smith, plus the recitation of "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by ATOS Director Allen Miller. It was truly a night of joy as evidenced by the smiling faces of those leaving the

auditorium.

The annual Christmas party was held on December 14 at the Farmington Hills Inn in Wolcott. Even though Santa Claus did not make an appearance, everyone had a good time.

President Colver R. Briggs has announced the very generous donation by Dr. R.J.N. Kerr of Essex, Connecticut, of a theatre pipe organ to our chapter. The organ is a 4/17 Marr & Colton, Opus 22126, which was originally installed in the Capitol Theatre in Wheeling, West Virginia. We are presently looking for a suitable home for the instrument and hope to make an announcement regarding this in the near future.

Because of the popularity of the Shelton Concert Series, an additional concert has been scheduled for April 4. The artist will be Dwight Thomas, the 1986 Young Organist Competition winner.

The town of Thomaston has engaged an architect to prepare plans for the Thomaston Town Hall, which includes the Opera House where our 3/15 Marr & Colton is housed. The Opera House was closed to public concerts in 1984, and high priority will be given to reopening it sometime next year.

BARRY GOODKIN



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

On December 7 we held our annual business meeting at the Riverside Theatre for the election of officers. A concert by Clark Wilson on the Wurlitzer followed the meeting.

The search for a home for the Strassman Barton has been unsuccessful. Alverno College was a prime target for the organ, but funding was not available to complete the job. The board then decided to sell the organ in parts and put the profits to use for other organ projects.

The Avalon Theatre has come under new management. Former owner Tony Groh sold the theatre to Sue Levin of Milwaukee. She and her son, Eric, will now be managing the 58-year-old movie house. They plan no changes to the interior of the theatre. However, there will be weekend matinees and occasional double features. They are also very receptive to continuing the Monday night organ concerts sponsored by our chapter and starring Ralph Conn and other chapter members.

BILL CAMPBELL



Babson College, Wellesley
617/662-7055

With a bouncy "Wake Up and Live" to launch his Babson program on November 23, member Tim Holloran gave us a nice mix of selections covering the Jesse Crawford era, some lively Latin numbers, some Western and some Broadway tunes. A nice "That's What Friends Are For" brought us a song only a couple of years old. Tim's rather brief sojourn at the Wurlitzer console ended with an encore that said "That's All." Our artist's extensive experience playing skating rinks enabled him to produce an upbeat program of interest.

The first day of winter saw us gather at the Waltham home extension — Crystal Palace — of Rosalie and Pat Fucci. With a Merry Christmas — Happy New Year greeting stretched across the curtain "hiding" their

April 4	Castro Theatre, San Francisco, California
April 6	Emery Auditorium, Cincinnati, Ohio
April 7	Art Institute Auditorium, Chicago, Illinois
April 10	World Theatre, St. Paul, Minnesota
April 11	Christ Church, Oakbrook, Illinois
April 25	Cleveland Gray's, Cleveland, Ohio
May 10	Kilburn State Theatre, London, England
May 17	Lancastrian Trust, Manchester, England
May 23	Musical Museum, London, England
May 24	Organ Museum, St. Albans, England
May 31	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
June 6	John Dickinson High School, Wilmington, Delaware
June 25	ATOS NATIONAL CONVENTION, Los Angeles, California
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Frauenthal Center, Muskegon, Michigan
September 20	Wagnall's Memorial, Lithopolis, Ohio
October 16	Roberson Center, Binghamton, New York
October 30	I.U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
October 31	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio

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4/20 Robert-Morton, guests from Connecticut Valley Chapter and our members settled down for our Christmas meeting. Pat has about 18 ranks sounding, which Bob Legon demonstrated, then seasonal carols were played along with a sing-along and other numbers for a pleasant afternoon. The Fuccis have always been most generous, and this year have hosted us twice. Thank you, Rosalie and Pat!

Our January 3 Winter Concert with Allen Mills had Lady Luck again smile on us. A rather severe storm hit the area the day before, but the roads were clear before concert time, and the skies were cloudless. Resplendent in a bright red jacket, our artist swung onto the bench with an appropriate mad multi-faceted "Auld Lang Syne." His rendition was so elaborate that, with registrational and tempo changes, he wove a most beautiful musical pattern. With references to the recent storm, Allen took us for a "Sleigh Ride" that led us into a "Winter Wonderland," accompanied by colored slides of winter scenes projected on the screen. With Allen leading, the audience joined in a sing-along, always a popular feature with us New Englanders. The closing number, "My Romance," was as fine an arrangement as could possibly be desired. The audience immediately assumed a vertical posture as Allen left the bench amid long and loud applause. He reappeared twice for bows; then the entertainment was over. Allen Mills explored our Wurlitzer's many beautiful voices and gave his music a sensitive treatment with thoughtful registrations and using full organ sparingly. He definitely has that touch!

STANLEY C. GARNISS



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

612/689-9201 or 612/771-1771

It has been a most unusual winter here in Minnesota. For the whole month of December up to January 12, we have had no snow. And as I type, the thermometer says 48 degrees!

On November 23 fifty-four members and friends attended our annual election/buffet at Donatelle's Supper Club in New Brighton. People came early so they could relax and visit while members Ken and Betty Pofert entered

us in a musical duo with Betty at the Hammond B-3000 and Ken playing the sax, violin or drums. They played familiar dance tunes and music for our listening pleasure.

After the luncheon, we adjourned to a large meeting room where President Ralph Doble addressed the group; Don Johnson reported on the plans for the chapter organ installation; Ed Hirschhoff reported on the actions taken to save the State Theatre in Minneapolis (circa 1921), and Jim Moe, President of the Minnesota Theatre Organ Association, reported on the progress of the 3/21 Wurlitzer being installed in the World Theatre by volunteers from our chapter. For the first time, ballots were mailed to members and those which were returned were counted at the meeting, and the results of the election were announced by election chairman Mike Eric.

Our annual Christmas concert/party was held on December 7 at Cedarhurst with member David Kearn at the 3/8 Robert-Morton. This was a first for Dave on a theatre pipe organ. He played a few Christmas carols so we could join in and sing, which everyone seemed to enjoy. David has built a three-manual Devtronix electronic organ which is situated in a beautiful spotlighted studio-type room in his home in Buffalo, Minnesota. Open console followed Dave's brief concert, with several members taking turns at the organ, inspiring some dancers to do a few fancy steps on the polished ballroom floor. The Holiday spirit prevailed as Christmas cheer and goodies were served.

By the way, tapes are now available of the October 24 concert at the Minneapolis Auditorium featuring Dr. Edward Berryman and Robert Vickery at the dual console of the 5/126 Kimball. Tapes are \$11.00 postpaid and can be obtained from Michael Rider, 6637 Colfax Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55430.

VERNA MAE WILSON



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As we enter 1987 with an exciting schedule of events to highlight the celebration of our first ten years of affiliation with our great so-

ciety, we are especially looking forward to the grand opening of the British-built 4/15 "Torch" Christie in the Memorial Hall in the South Wales town of Barry on March 1.

Our last in-theatre presentation of 1986 at the Top Rank Club featured the debut in the Metropolis of Dave Peterson from Blackpool. Dave opened in breezy style and quickly showed himself to be perfectly at ease with a wide-ranging and popular choice of music which he complemented with requests in the second half. This latter section was prefaced by a delightful cameo by Martin Harris, current ATOS Young Theatre Organist of the Year. Acquitting himself extremely well, with little prior familiarization with the big Wurlitzer, Martin certainly demonstrated his potential.

Four other complementary events completed our 1986 season. First was another successful Dance and Buffet Supper night at Memorial Hall Old Windsor featuring the Compton theatre organ with our good friends, the Windsor Theatre Organ Trust and the Page One Trio led by member Keith Evans — all supported by superb refreshments provided by our ladies.

Our last Chapter Club Night at Edith and Les Rawle's lovely home brought another welcome return of international organ ambassador George Blackmore to the famous 3/19 Wurlitzer in his inimitable style, and with a German television team in attendance, to provide a fitting close to another great season.

Peter Godwin played for a delightful Christmas carol evening at Northolt just before the holiday.

About 40 members enjoyed a coach trip to Gosport near Portsmouth at the end of November to see and hear the great Douglas "Mr. Brighton" Reeve play the 3/13 Compton that was originally in the Gaumont Wood Green in London and which was donated to our chapter at the end of its long and successful tenure at the Twickenham College of Technology just southwest of London. One of the all-time greats of the British theatre organ scene, this perfect gentleman was at his brilliant best with a typically exciting repertoire which included a lusty sing-along.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of Edith Rawle, our 1987 season got off to a joyful start with a coach trip by more than 50 members to visit two home venues in Leicestershire. First stop was Mark field to see and hear

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member Stanley Whittington play the illuminated 3/10 Compton that was originally in the Ritz Leeds and is now superbly installed, completely visible behind glass panels, in the home of Alan and Veronica Trott. The organ actually belongs to their daughter, Nina, who is married and lives in Lancashire, but who was also "at home" and played a series of delightful duets at the Compton with Stan at the Hammond electronic. Young members David Redfern and Peter Holt (both previous winners of our Young Organist of the Year) had also traveled from their homes locally and tried their hands. This was topped with a marvelous lunch while Paul Kirner, who was to be our second host of the day, entertained in fine style at the Compton.

On to "Compton Lodge" at nearby Stoney Stanton and what can best be described in the Rodgers and Hart sense as the best "Small Hotel" we know. We gathered in the bar lounge to hear a fantastic afternoon of music played mainly by "Mine Host" Paul Kirner at the 3/7 Compton that was previously in the Odeon Wealdstone and now sings out loud and long virtually every day in Paul's highly capable hands. Adjoining the "Reginald Dixon" bar and incorporating an appropriately blended electronic reverb unit, this 1934 vintage instrument provided an uncannily realistic reminder of Paul's, and our, legendary Blackpool favorite in a veritable cavalcade of musical enjoyment. David Redfern, Peter Holt and our veteran "Masterclass tutor," Ron Rogers also had a go to universal pleasure.

Again, great fellowship and superb refreshments completed a truly memorable day out and start to a most promising year.

DR. NORMAN BARFIELD



Rob Calcaterra at the Los Angeles Orpheum. (Zimfoto)



LOS ANGELES
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY

California
818/792-7084

Our Christmas Party/Annual Membership Meeting was held at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium on December 14. We heard guest artist "The Indestructible" Mr. Del Castillo in a very interesting Christmas program that pleased the large audience. A surprise guest artist, Jason Pfeiffer (finalist in the Stars of Tomorrow), also performed. Open console was the *finale* of a great day. The admission

fee was an unwrapped toy for the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles.

We couldn't think of a better way to start the New Year than by attending a fabulous concert at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. On January 11, in a return engagement by popular demand, we heard Mr. Rob Calcaterra. Refreshing is the best word to describe this young and versatile artist, former head organist at Radio City Music Hall, who took us on a glorious musical tour. Our thanks to Gene Davis and his crew for the maintenance of this beautiful 3/13 Wurlitzer, and our thanks to Rob for such a relaxing and enjoyable morning. I'm sure that all the members and guests wish him well in his very busy schedule.

MARIA OLIVIER



MOTOR CITY
Detroit
313/537-1133

Lyn Larsen's artistry at the Redford Theatre's 3/10 Barton on December 6 provided just the right atmosphere for our Christmas program, "Around the World at Christmas Time." In addition to Lyn's finely melded program which included many seasonal favorites, we also featured the Dunav Dance Ensemble performing folk dances from many countries. A large Christmas tree in the orchestra pit was adorned with small flags and a variety of objects used to decorate trees in other lands, with handmade paper ornaments, candy canes and strings of popcorn and cranberries representing the United States. The printed program for the evening

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Lyn Larsen and the Dunav Dancers at Motor City Christmas concert.

(Ray Van Steenkiste photo)



Dave Vincent at organ pit piano plays some "oldies" for Motor City Christmas party.

(Ray Van Steenkiste photo)

recalled the members' personal remembrances of Christmas.

Our annual Christmas party was chaired by Irene FitzGerald and was held at the Redford on December 7. Harold Bellamy narrated "The Night Before Christmas" as members watched a vintage black and white film version of this famous poem. Chapter musicians for the evening were Dave Vincent, at the pit piano, and organists Ethel O'Leary, Margaret Tapler, Gloria Sunman and Tony O'Brien. Tony appeared in place of Lou Behm who, for the first time in many years, could not appear because of health problems, and Tony dedicated his part of the program to Lou.

A handmade dollhouse, a china doll and a miniature theatre organ console were prizes donated for a drawing held at the conclusion of our annual Christmas Bazaar at the Redford. Net profit from the event came to approximately \$2000.

Board games and card games abounded at an informal New Year's Eve party at the Redford. This fourth annual get-together included a potluck dinner and open console as well as hats and horns for the revelers as they watched the countdown from Times Square on television.

A 6:30 a.m. call from Fourth Sunday artist Victor Barz who was stranded by car trouble in Battle Creek (over 100 miles from the Royal Oak Theatre) gave program planner Fred

Page just over three hours to find a replacement artist or cancel the 10:00 a.m. concert. To the rescue came Paul Kline, who plays regularly for roller skating and in lounges and has performed for previous Fourth Sunday shows. We are indebted to Paul for a beautiful program on such short notice.

Coming events include 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, 17630 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone 313/537-1133.

DON LOCKWOOD

**NEW YORK
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
New York
914/457-5393**

The Middletown Paramount was the site of our December 13 chapter meeting, and more than 40 members took advantage of the opportunity to play at open console on our 2/10, Style H Wurlitzer. Bob Seeley and crew had the organ in good voice for chapter members who came to the Paramount for a day of playing, listening and enjoying the company of fellow theatre organ enthusiasts. Those who had never heard this organ were amazed at its big Wurlitzer sound. Several of the percussions are still being rebuilt and should be in



New York Chapter member Don Lockwood takes his turn at open console on 2/10 Wurlitzer in the Paramount Theatre in Middletown.

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Tom Stehle (left) and Dave Kopp at the Möller console at New York Military Academy. (Ronnie Stout photo)



Miki Geuder and Paul Quarino entertain Oregon Chapter members and guests at the Sherwood Oriental Theatre. (Claude Neuffer photo)

place in the coming months, so members will have to wait until next Christmas to play the tuned sleigh bells.

Many members remained in the area after the open console at the Paramount and attended Dave Kopp's concert on the 4/31 Möller at the New York Military Academy in Cornwall-on-Hudson that evening. Part of the Academy's regular theatre organ series, Dave's concert was a delightful balance of Christmas and holiday selections which included fine arrangements of "Sleigh Ride" and "Snow Fall," complete with slides of snowscapes taken around New York State. The audience did so well in the sing-along that Dave invited them to join his choir. He also accompanied the hilarious Laurel and Hardy comedy, *Big Business*, a timely film for the holiday season. The day's activities seemed to leave everyone with the holiday spirit!

Work to rebuild the 2/7 Bardovan Theatre Wurlitzer is now underway in Poughkeepsie, and chapter members working in the project hope to have the instrument back in its original home in the Bardovan within the next year. John Vanderlee, who is heading the project, reports that publicity in the local media has resulted in considerable support from the community. A recently received grant from IBM will be applied to the purchase of a new electronic relay for the Bardovan organ.

TOM STEHLE

OREGON Portland 503/771-8098

The Sherwood American Legion Hall was the scene of our potluck dinner and annual business meeting, an occasion which is always spiced with plenty of organ-talk and holiday spirit. Member Gary Zenk brought his WWII bugle to assure us that we wouldn't miss the "Mess Call." And we didn't!

After dinner and a short business meeting we walked the half-block to the Sherwood Oriental Theatre for a fun-filled afternoon of organ music, movies and merriment under the direction of Paul Quarino. The program got underway as Paul brought the 3/8 Wurlitzer up to Solo position with a lively "Deck the Halls."

Paul always manages to inject an element of surprise into his programs, and this was no exception. He dropped the organ to movie level and stepped off the lift to introduce vocalist Miki Geuder. Miki's smoothly rendered selections included Big Band tunes of the twenties and thirties. "Always" and "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" were especially lovely. The first half of the show ended with the delightful disaster created by Laurel and Hardy and titled *Two Tars*.

Holiday music prevailed for the rest of the afternoon, and Miki led the audience in a most moving sing-along of "Silent Night." A

just-right touch of nostalgia was expressed in her beautifully sung "I'll Be Home for Christmas." A highlight of this part of the program was Paul's brilliant rendition of Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," a perennial favorite of our group. The program concluded with another classic Laurel and Hardy slapstick silent, *Sugar Daddies*, and the happy ATOSers left filled with seasonal sentiments and good cheer.

1987 is going to be an exciting and busy year for us as we countdown to the National Convention which we will host in 1988.

PUGET SOUND Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Despite a busy schedule and active involvement in Oregon Chapter's sponsorship of the George Wright concert at the Organ Grinder on November 16, Paul Quarino arranged several activities for a group of our members who traveled to Portland a day early to view and hear other organs in the area. Grace McGinnis accompanied us when we had the privilege of touring the impressive Rodgers Organ Factory, hosted by Richard Anderson. Although there were countless organs of various designs under construction, the highlight of our visit was a close inspection of a spectacular five-manual pipe organ console soon to be installed in a church in Houston, Texas. Of par-

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Members of Oregon Chapter enjoy a potluck together before their Christmas program. (Claude Neuffer photo)

ticular interest was the explanation of computerized equipment, obtained from the Fender Bass Company while under the ownership of CBS, which streamlines the task of intricate assembly of some of the printed circuit boards.

At the Sherwood Oriental Theatre, we met

members of the Oregon chapter. Managing this neighborhood house is a labor of love; Bob Rothschild runs the theatre, Gene Stoller runs the projectors and Paul Quarino is installing and playing the organ. An extensive collection of carefully oiled and polished antique movie projectors is kept upstairs, the

oldest of which is an Edison design, circa 1899. The 3/8 Wurlitzer, originally installed in the Jacksonville, Illinois, School for the Blind, will be enlarged to twelve ranks and is used regularly on weekends. Paul played a short, but most enjoyable, program of old favorites prior to accompanying Harold Lloyd's *Grandma's Boy*, which was highly entertaining. A poignant screening of the demolition of the Portland Oriental Theatre was shown, since many decorative objects were salvaged and now proudly adorn the small lobby in Sherwood.

Paul graciously limited his program in order to allow time to return to the Organ Grinder for the final hour of upbeat jazz and traditional theatre organ stylings by staff organist Dan Bellomy. Although it had been a long day (some of the group had flown down from Vancouver, B.C.), we regretted its ending.

On Sunday the group car-pooled downtown to the First United Methodist Church where Jonas Nordwall played the morning service. The beautiful, modern sanctuary is constructed of native woods, and the room is bathed in a firelight-like glow from light reflected through stained-glass windows. The organ also fills the room — it is a 76-rank Wicks, recently rebuilt with the collaboration of Jonas Nordwall and Allen Van Zoeren. The many moods and colors of the instrument were evident when Jonas chose the



Gene Stoller demonstrates one of his many film projectors in upstairs museum of Sherwood Oriental Theatre. (Diane Whipple photo)



Bob Ray, Bill and Helen Hale, and Adeline and Clyde Hook enjoy Dan Bellomy's music at the Portland Organ Grinder. (Diane Whipple photo)

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Paul Quarino in the lobby of the Sherwood Oriental Theatre, the lobby of which was salvaged from the Portland Oriental. (Diane Whipple photo)

Georges Muschel "Tocatta" for the postlude, ending with the addition of the fiery reeds mounted on the rear wall of the room.

George Wright charmed the sell-out crowd at the Organ Grinder with the magic of his

musical genius, his wit and warmth of character. Although the weekend was over too soon, we left in anticipation of more outstanding programs and thoughtful hospitality during the Portland Convention in 1988.

Live productions at the Bremerton Community Theatre continue into the forty-third consecutive season. *The Sound of Murder* was well-received in November. Enterprising members of the Bremerton Pipe Organ Society used the organ for the overture, entr'acte, and for sound effects, adding to the suspense of the plot. They plan to use it throughout the year whenever possible.

DIANE WHIPPLE

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

Our November 29 meeting was held in the Orpheum Theatre with seven members taking advantage of open console on the 3/13 Wurlitzer. Final plans and assignments were made for Jack Moelmann's third benefit concert for Omaha History Museum — Western Heritage Museum to be held the next day. It was good to have Jack back with us, even for a brief visit, and we enjoyed hearing about the 4/36 Wurlitzer in the restored St. Louis Fox



Jack Moelmann at the Orpheum's 3/13 Wurlitzer for Omaha Museum benefit concert. (Paul Kanka photo)

Theatre. Jack favored us with a mini-concert which was enjoyed by all.

Jack's benefit concert on November 30 was entitled "Those Were The Days: Holiday Memories." With the cooperation of the weatherman, an enthusiastic audience of 1200 gathered to hear his captivating musicianship on the Orpheum Wurlitzer. His program in-



Dressed in formal attire, young Peter Jordan Warrick-Marsh retorts, "Who says all organ buffs are senior citizens?" Peter is the son of Peter and Camille.

(Tom Jeffery photo)



Bob Arndt at the Markworth 3/14 Kimball.

(Tom Jeffery photo)

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cluded many old favorites, a sing-along with slides and banjo/organ duets with Omaha's own Wendall Hall on the banjo. The Mack Sennet *Those Awful Hats* brought the first half of the concert to a close. The second half was highlighted by Charlie Chaplin's *The Rink* and Jack's patriotic tribute to America. The program netted approximately \$3500 for the Museum.

Our Christmas party was held at Bob Markworth's home on December 13, with 71 members and guests there to hear Bob Arndt, who traveled with his lovely wife, Betty, from their home in Des Moines, Iowa. Bob, who is best known as the owner of Arndt Organ Supply, presented an outstanding program which included a sing-along with slides and music of the Christmas season plus a jam session with Wendall Hall on the banjo and Bob on the organ. Once again, we are indebted to Bob Markworth for his hospitality and his fine 3/14 Kimball organ.

At the invitation of Maestro Bruce Hangen, member Peter Marsh performed with the Omaha Symphony and Chorus for three Christmas concerts on the Orpheum Wurlitzer. Peter played at the beginning and end

of the concerts, during Christmas narrative by Bruce Hangen, during a sing-along and with the full orchestra for "O Come All Ye Faithful." Peter is manager of Omaha's fine arts FM station KVNO.

As part of the Centennial Celebration of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Omaha, Ron Rhode played a benefit concert on the Orpheum's 3/13 Wurlitzer on January 11. His program ranged from grand opera and religious themes to show tunes. Our chapter assisted St. Joseph's committee in the concert arrangements and had a membership booth in the lobby.

TOM JEFFERY



Denver,
Colorado
303/773-3124 or
303/233-4716

Our members have recovered from the rigors of hosting the Regional in the Rockies which drew over 400 people to the Denver

area to visit our many fine installations.

In November the group met at Fred and Evelyn Riser's Music Studio for our annual meeting followed by an open console session.

In December we continued our tradition of holding a holiday get-together between the holidays. This year we gathered at the home of Priscilla Arthur to enjoy hot punch and other holiday treats along with fine music supplied by members of the group.

Our new officers are busy planning a wide variety of activities for the new year which promises to be an exciting one.

DONALD D. ZELLER

SIERRA

Sacramento

916/967-5060 or 916/483-7351

January 10 will long be a day for our members to remember. It was a cold, foggy day, but over 150 people showed up for Don Wallin's concert at Pizza and Pipes in Sacramento. This was the first concert there since November 1985. Don had been on the East Coast for several years, and we are



Wendall Hall, on banjo, joins Bob Arndt for a toe-tapping jam session.

(Tom Jeffery photo)



Sierra Chapter artist Don Wallin at the 4/20 Wurlitzer.

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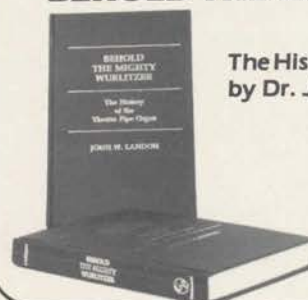
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Sierra President Chuck Shumate is MC for the Wallin concert.

grateful to have him back in Sacramento.

The 4/20 Wurlitzer in the Pizza and Pipes never sounded better. Much work has been done on the organ over the past few months. Just before the concert a tuning and reversal of the swell shades was done, making the organ speak out better than ever. This work was done by Dave Moreno and Ray Anderson.

The concert was, indeed, a thrill for the large audience which showed up at 10 o'clock in the morning. The program ranged from the era of Jesse Crawford to a few ballads and upbeat selections of today. Don's registrations were perfect, and his arrangements were all in good taste. His use of Solo stops instead of continuous full organ made the listening even more enjoyable. We wish to thank the Hogans for opening their establishment for our morning concert. Also, thanks to Jerry and his staff for their cooperation. It was a great morning for all of us.

BUD TAYLOR



Dave Moreno assists Don Wallin in a novelty arrangement of the "Trolley Song."

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our November meeting was another all-day trip to Siloam Springs and Bella Vista, Arkansas. This was our third time to take this tour, and it looks like it has become an annual event.

We left Tulsa early that Saturday morning and journeyed to Siloam Springs to the home of Hugh and Enid Lineback. We saw their still-being-installed 2/6 Kilgen-plus-chimes-plus-extras and were impressed with its progress during the year. After refreshments provided by our hosts, we were on our way again. The Linebacks and organman Bill Stephens joined our caravan.

Our destination in Bella Vista was the home of National ATOS Vice President Russell Joseph and his wife, Florence. We arrived in time to enjoy a full afternoon of organ music. Our host played first on his pure 2/4 Wurlitzer, showing us the capabilities of the instrument and its toy counter. We heard the chrysoglott, chimes and glockenspiel in Victor Herbert's "Toyland," the birdwhistle and fire siren in "A Bird in A Gilded Cage" and the reiterating xylophone, auto horn, bass drum and cymbals in "In My Merry Oldsmobile." He closed with a lovely "The Lost Chord." At open concole we heard from sev-

eral of our playing members.

Russell then played some recordings for us, samples of records and tapes, some that he had made at the recent ATOS Convention and the Denver Regional, and we understood his excitement about his "new, modified" speakers — they certainly did reproduce the lowest tones with no distortion.

Afterwards, we (all 21 of us) adjourned to the Country Club for dinner before climbing back into our cars for the return trip to Tulsa.

Our Christmas party found us once again at Tulsa's Assembly of God Church. The church is still available to us, for which we are very pleased and grateful. They very graciously allowed us to use their fellowship hall and kitchen for our potluck dinner. We then assembled in the church for music — Christmas and otherwise — on the 4/14 Robert-Morton and the grand piano. Our program was provided by Julius Chapin, Don Kimes, Phil Judkins, Charlene Roberts, Sam Collier, Dick Van Dera and Dorothy Smith. Organ and piano duets by Dick and Don, and Dick and Dorothy (trading off between both instruments) were especially delightful.

DOROTHY SMITH

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

On December 21 our chapter sponsored a free Christmas concert at the Jefferson Theatre. Local member Bob McGillivray provided appropriate Christmas music at the 3/8 Robert-Morton for the approximately 40 people who attended. Open console was held afterward with Jim Doleman and Carter Bidwell doing the honors. Following the concert, we had a presentation of Christmas selections by the Golden Triangle Musicians League, a group of talented high school band students directed by Jim Kesman. The afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Work continues on the Robert-Morton. Recently we have succeeded in getting seven of the twelve second-touch switches to operate on the Pedals and Accompaniment manual. The remaining switches on the Accompaniment and Great manuals should be working shortly. Additional work to be done includes adjusting second-touch contacts, reworking the pedalboard, reworking cancel pistons, repairing the toy counter in the Main chamber and relathering in the Solo chamber. We will keep you posted as work progresses.

CARTER BIDWELL



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We were pleased to learn that \$8500 from the State of Florida has been set aside for repairs on the Wurlitzer organ in downtown Miami's Gusman Cultural Center. The money is part of a large grant from the state for renovation of the theatre. Thanks to the efforts of Managing Director Darrell Calvin and Assistant Manager Gary Keating a chunk of the grant will help make the Wurlitzer an even better instrument.

The Gusman Wurlitzer is featured in a full-page photograph on the cover of a new publication by Belwin-Milles, *Sousa for Organ*. On the title page, the Miami Theatre Organ Society (sic) and Gusman Cultural Center are given credit. The photographer draped a military jacket, cap and gloves on the console to carry out the theme of the book.

From mid-July to mid-September, Gusman presented classic movies every Friday night. For thirty minutes before each film, members David Thurman and Bill Schaffer played the Wurlitzer.

David Thurman and members Ken Whiting and Mike Kinerk were interviewed by WTVJ, Channel 4, Miami. Reporter Steve Rondinero credited the South Florida chapter with saving the organ, calling it the "heart of Gusman," as we call it the "Voice of Gusman."

The *Miami Herald* featured three playing theatre organs in the Miami area and included interviews with Calvin Jureit, Vivian Andre, Ken Whiting and David Thurman.

Chapter musical events were a November 17 meeting at Gusman with music by David Thurman followed by open console; our annual Christmas concert at the home of Milly and Calvin Jureit with Walt Strony giving a wonderful performance; a concert at Andre Hall, owned by Vivian and Bob Andre, who have the sister organ to the Gusman Wurlitzer. Rob Calcaterra gave the recital and celebrated his birthday at the same time.

JO WERNE



**American
Theatre Organ
Society**

VALLEY
OF THE
SUN
CHAPTER

Phoenix
602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

Our November 23 meeting was held at the lovely home of Bill and Barbara Brown. Organist for the day was Pete Eveland, Evangelical minister of the First Christian Church in Phoenix. Some members of our chapter are currently helping Bill Brown with the installation of a Wurlitzer in that church's fellowship hall. Eveland opened with "There's No Business Like Show Business" and included several show tunes in his program. Having once been staff organist on the steamer Delta Queen, he played some river songs plus some classics, some songs of the South and some numbers associated with Thanksgiving. Eveland's music warmed the hearts and Barbara Brown's refreshments of hot cider and doughnuts warmed the tummies!

December was a busy month. Our annual potluck Christmas party was held at the home of Lil and Leo Carraro on December 7. A week later, several members attended Walt Strony's Christmas concert at the Mesa Organ Stop. The following Sunday, our regular meeting took place at the beautifully restored St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix. "Surprise" artist for the afternoon was our local maestro, Lyn Larsen, playing the Allen digital computer organ. Larsen's program included works by Purvis, Bach and Vivaldi as well as some traditional Christmas songs. Church bells chiming the hour added a nice touch just as Lyn began his medley of Christmas music.

MADELINE LIVOLSI



WOLVERINE CHAPTER

of the American Theatre Organ Society

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

On November 31 we were welcomed to the home of Chuck and Sharon Patterson, north of Pontiac. Coming between the holidays,



Sharon Patterson and Melissa Ambrose in duet at the Wolverine chapter meeting in November.

(Bill Vogel photo)

this event was hailed as the chapter's own Christmas gathering for 1986. All afternoon the music of Christmas rang through the Patterson's impressive home. It came from two Hammonds (an H and a B) and a piano, and frequently backed up the voice of Fran Carmody who lead in many a song of Christmas. Once hostess Sharon and Melissa Ambrose got things underway with a spirited "Brazilian Sleighride," the music was provided by our organ-playing members, playing solo, in duets or in trios. The afternoon sped by all too soon, and we reluctantly adjourned for dinner at nearby Zimm's Restaurant which served us a beautiful buffet. We offer warm thanks to the Pattersons for opening their home to us.

On December 14 many Wolverines joined the Detroit Theatre Organ Club at their home, the Senate Theatre, for a concert by veteran theatre organist Don Baker which was sponsored by DTOC.

We extend our sympathy to member Marjorie Allen whose mother, Irene, passed away in December. Many ATOSers will remember Irene, who frequently accompanied Marjorie to ATOS happenings.

Our nominating committee sought diligently for an infusion of new blood into the chapter board. Apparently the current board is doing too good a job and will return to office in 1987.

CHARLES AND BETTY BAAS □



Donald F. Overend

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