

George Wright

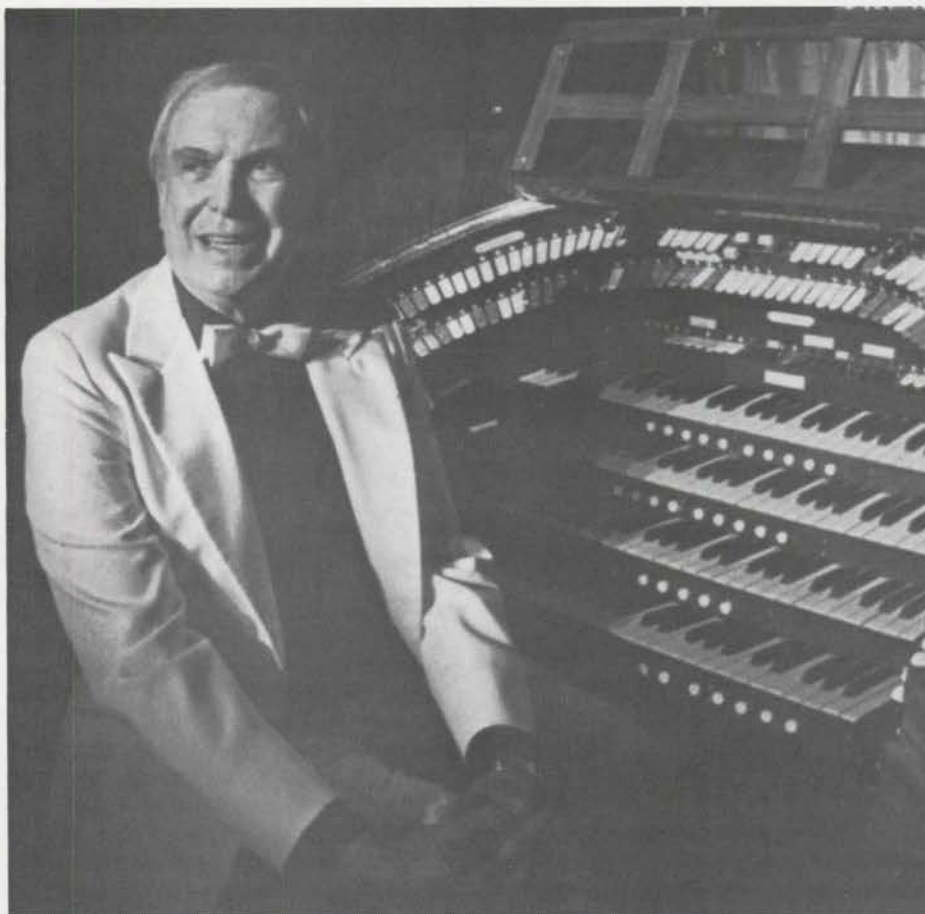
George Wright opened the Oakland Paramount's seventh annual Organ Pops Series for 1987-88 on November 14 when he walked on stage, seated himself at the console of the 4/27 Wurlitzer and played Gershwin's "Of Thee I Sing." The series has been expanded to six concerts through July, and Wright announced that he has been booked for the opening of the 1988-89 series. His new compact disc recording, "Anything Goes," has just been released and was sold in the lobby.

Two up-beat numbers in the first portion of his concert were "Little Rock Getaway" and "Deep Henderson." These will have his legion of imitators practicing for many months. An interesting diversion was "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," with apologies for jumping the Yule season.

The second part of George's program was the music of Cole Porter, George Gershwin and Jerome Kern, something to please everyone in the enthralled audience. He closed with "Night and Day." Wright played two encores: "Way Marie" for a lady in the audience named Marie who chose the key for "Night and Day," with a bit of "Frankie and Johnnie" interspersed.

The final encore was a Veterans Day tribute, with a few words about Armistice Day, George played a beautiful rendition of "My Buddy" with the first three notes of "Taps" worked in after the song's title words. It was lovely. Once again, the Master who took theatre organ from where Jesse Crawford left off into the present, delighted his audience and proved the legend to be true.

Dr. Edward J. Mullins



George Wright at 4/27 Wurlitzer console at the Oakland, California Paramount Theatre November 14 when he opened 1987-88 Organ Pop Series. Expanded to six concerts, series continues into July.

Photo: Oakland Tribune

Another Success Story

From Vancouver, British Columbia, the news of the Orpheum Theatre is, indeed, heartening. The theatre's 60th anniversary, on November 7, launched "an entire Diamond Jubilee Season of entertainment aimed at capturing some of the magic of the years past." This quote is from an item in the Vancouver *Playboard* and was sent to us by ATOS member Bill Hale, who has been active in saving the theatre and its Wurlitzer. The next presentation involving the organ will be the screening of *Wings* in April 1988, and Buddy Rogers will appear in person.

The Vancouver *Sun* said of the November show: "Ironically, the day's undisputed star was a man who'd never seen the Orpheum before last week. Veteran theatre organist, 82-year-old Gaylord Carter, coaxed a million dollar soundtrack out of the Orpheum's Wurlitzer theatre organ." Gaylord received a standing ovation at all three programs, according to Bill Hale, from an audience that, for the most part, was hearing the 3/13 Wurlitzer for the first time.