

# Chapter Notes

**ALABAMA**  
Birmingham  
205/942-5611 or 205/664-3606

Our October meeting at the Alabama Theatre featured Dolton McAlpin. A southeastern favorite and real crowd-pleaser, Dolton just gets better and better each time we hear him. We often wonder when he will give up his law practice and hit the tour circuit!

October 30 was our fifth annual production of *The Phantom of The Opera* starring Lon Chaney and Tom Helms. We all agree that Tom is as big a star in Birmingham as Lon Chaney. His production (including funeral procession and other mysterious effects) has become a favorite of local patrons. The sixth annual performance of this show will be October 28, 1988, and will conclude the Alabama Theatre's first Silent Film Festival which will begin in March 1988 and will include a series of five silent films. Gaylord Carter, Lee Erwin, Tom Helms and Jim Riggs will be featured organists.

Our November meeting was held in conjunction with a Yamaha HX-1 organ demonstration given by Hector Olivera. Hector's performance was outstanding and, even with the problems he encountered with the instrument, he managed to delight many of our members. The business meeting gave us a chance to approve expenditures for a new electronic relay and combination action system for the Alabama Wurlitzer. Also approved were funds for having all of the organ's reeds revoiced and repaired. The organ will be taken down just after Christmas and will be back up for Lee Erwin's performance of *King of Kings* on March 26 and 27, 1988.

The 1988 Regional Convention Committee is hard at work finalizing plans for the Alabama "Diamond Jubilee" Convention to be held October 14-16, 1988. Make your plans to attend now!

*Gary W. Jones*

**CEDAR RAPIDS AREA**  
Iowa  
319/362-9676 or 319/396-5653

We have had an interesting year. We are all grateful that Bob Ralston had only temporary discomfort following his fall from the organ lift into the open orchestra pit at the close of his concert on May 3. X-rays confirmed that there were no broken bones — for which everyone was most relieved.

Our August membership meeting was held at the Cedar Rapids Community Theatre which is the home of the 3/14 Barton installed in 1927. Joe Roost, from Keokuk, Iowa, was our artist. This was Joe's third appearance for us in recent years, and he always presents an interesting and lively concert. Joe is nearing completion of his studies for the priesthood, and we wish him well and hope to have "Father Joe" back again soon.

We arranged to have our September meeting at Brucemore, a Victorian mansion formerly owned by a wealthy Cedar Rapids family and now deeded to the U.S. Government under supervision of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A Skinner pipe organ and Baldwin grand piano are both in the home. George Baldwin played several numbers on both the organ and the piano, and open console was available for members who wished to play the organ. George also plays there during the holiday season when the mansion is open to the public and is decorated with Christmas trees and packages in every room as it was when the family lived there. Our members were given a tour of the entire mansion which was enjoyed by all, especially those who had not been there prior to our meeting.

Rob Calcaterra was the artist on the 3/11 Wurlitzer at the Paramount Theatre for our October show. Prior commitments made his stay in Cedar Rapids the shortest of any artist we have ever had — exactly 24 hours! Greeted at the airport at 4:30 Saturday afternoon, he was taken directly to the Paramount to practice and set combinations. A short dinner hour preceded a session at the theatre that lasted until 12:15 a.m. He was picked up at the hotel at 11:00 Sunday morning so he could practice before the 2:30 concert. At 4:30 he was whisked off to the airport to catch a 5:00 plane for his return to New York. Reviewer Les Zacheis of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* wrote: "Theatre Organist Thrills Audience." He said: "It was a

return engagement for the monarch of the organ, and his appearance was hailed with delight by the majority of the patrons who recalled his previous exploits on the keyboard and pedals." Another fine concert by a great artist, this was our 34th Spectacular since we organized in 1969.

We were saddened by the untimely death of secretary Mrs. Lahonta Anders in July. Her husband had undergone surgery and she was visiting him in the hospital when she fell ill and died instantly. Lahonta had worked diligently as our secretary for several years and will be missed for all the things she did to make our club better in many ways.

Our October meeting was presented by Jim Olver who is in charge of our maintenance crew at the Paramount. Jim selected recordings of various organists from his vast collection of theatre organ records and added his own commentary about the artists and the record labels. His efforts were appreciated by all who attended.

*John Hockaday*



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**JULY 2-6, 1988**





**CENTRAL  
INDIANA  
Indianapolis**

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A gala fund-raising event, Lyn Larsen in concert, sponsored by Central Indiana Chapter, was held at the Paramount Music Palace on October 5. This event was held primarily to raise money for the Dessa Byrd Scholarship Fund which contributes to the education of our young organists. The evening began with a cocktail reception, and concluded, after the concert, by Lyn greeting the audience and autographing albums. The evening was a great success, and Lyn's performance was outstanding.

We were delighted to have our own Bill Tandy present a concert at the October meeting held at the Hedback Community Theatre.

Neal Johnston, from Sturgis, Michigan, was the guest artist at the September meeting at the Long Center in Lafayette. Neal, 16-years old, is a student of Father James Miller. It was great to hear such a talented young artist.

The relay for the Manual High School organ has been installed. The relay room has been totally refurbished, new outlets and lights installed and repainted. Swell shutters from the Hub Roller Rink in the Chicago area have been purchased and are in the process of being installed. We are so fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers, directed by Kevin Aikman, who work on Saturdays on the organ and also to have so many people who have contributed to the organ fund.

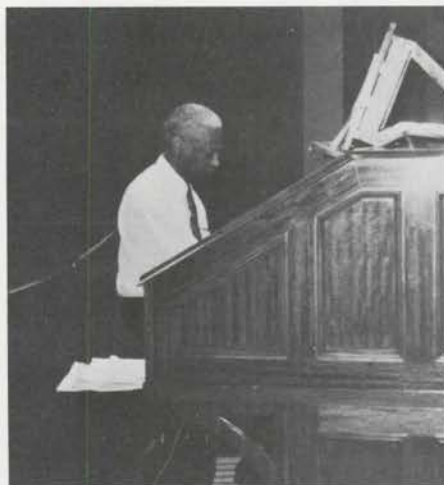
*Carol M. Andrejasich*

**Don't Forget!  
The Deadline for  
Directors Nominations  
is February 1, 1988.**

## CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

614/652-1775 or 614/882-4085



Host Mark Williams entertains Central Ohio guests on his Conn 651.



Henry Garcia turns out a beautiful rendition of "Misty" for Central Ohio Chapter. *J. Polesley Photo*

September 20 brought us back to Worthington High School for our annual membership meeting where President Polesley extended sympathy to the families of Neil Grover and Ginny Lawrence whose mother and husband respectively recently expired. He also announced that Allen Miller has been retained to make an assessment of our organ and that his recommendations will be used as a basis for a fund-raising drive to further restore the chapter's organ.

Following the business meeting, we were privileged to hear member Henry Garcia musically articulate such old favorites as "Misty" and the ever-popular "It Must Be Him." The console was seldom unoccupied after the program as a procession of members came forth to play while the rest of us enjoyed the seasonal refreshments.

The Ohio Theatre's 1986-87 organ series got underway November 1 with Australian artist Neil Jensen. Jensen's upbeat style began with "There's No Business Like Show Business" and included a tribute to Jerome Kern which was especially heartening. Applause from an enthusiastic audience brought him back for two encores.

It was a privilege to hear Dwight Thomas, 1986 Young Organist winner, at Mansfield, Ohio, on October 30. The Warner/Kearns/Carson Wurlitzer, now a 3/22, plays from chambers on either side of the proscenium while the console rises to a left, center-stage position. Dwight, a *cum laude* Butler University graduate, is now attending graduate school at Indiana University. He projected to a nearly full house as an unaffected, wholesome performer who related well to his audience. His program featured something for everyone, and he was equally at home with such ticklers as "Ironic You and Pyscopathic Me" as he was with Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band." Given his potential and a little more exposure, great things are in store for this young man.

A year of happy married life for member Mark Williams prompted him to host our October 25 meeting at his and Cindy's home. Twenty-five members and guests listened attentively to Mark's pipe music on his Conn 651, and plenty of follow-up organists provided us with continuous musical entertainment. We thank Mark and Cindy for such a delightful day.

*John Polesley*

January 16	California Theatre, San Diego, California
January 19	Mershon Auditorium, Ohio State University
January 23	Phipps Center, Hudson, Wisconsin
January 26	Mershon Auditorium, Ohio State University
February 2	Mershon Auditorium, Ohio State University
February 5	I.U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
February 9	Mershon Auditorium, Ohio State University
February 13, 14, 15, 16	Granada Theatre, Kansas City, Kansas
March 2	Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan
March 13	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
March 18	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
March 19, 20	International Film Festival, San Francisco, California
March 26	Fox Theatre, San Diego, California
April 1	Short North Tavern, Columbus, Ohio
April 23	Fox Theatre, San Diego, California
April 25	Langley Auditorium, Washington, D.C.
May 8	World Theatre, St. Paul, Minnesota
May 15	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
November 2/ December 31	AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND Concert Tour

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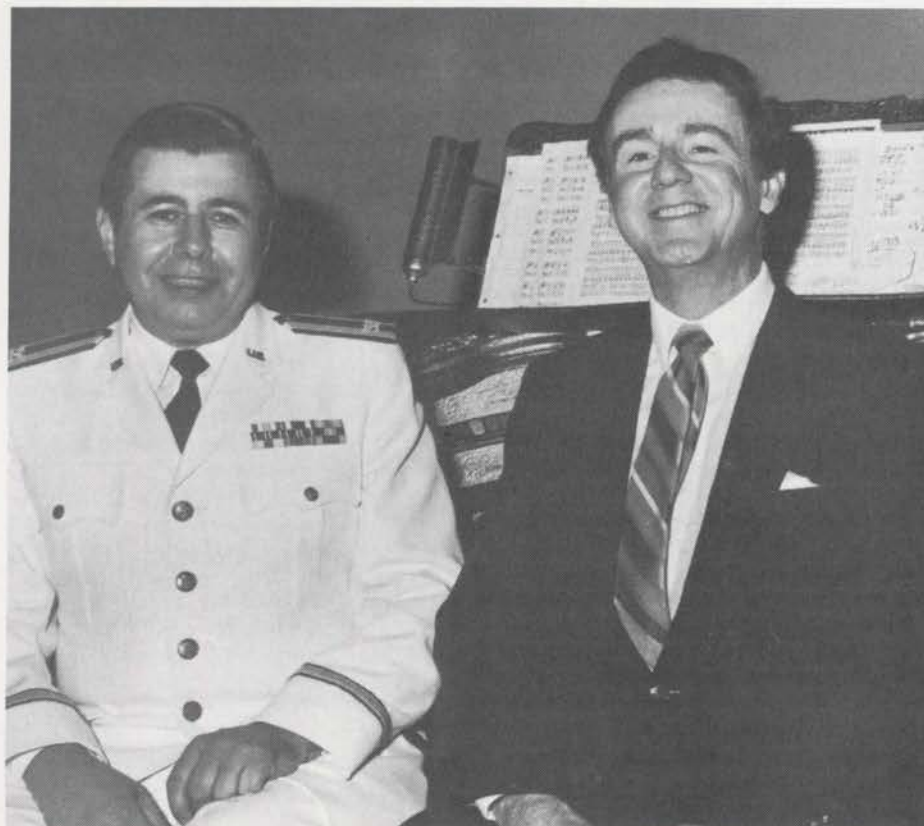
Behold! The Patio Theatre is again in full swing with a regular schedule of movie fare. A lot of love, sweat, tears (?) and cash went into the restoration of this excellent neighborhood movie theatre which is now quite similar to its original glamorous state.

To assist in the public reopening celebration and CATOE's 25th anniversary, Bob Ralston presented a program which was one of the best we've had in many a year. Bob performed beautifully at the 3/17 Barton and covered much of the gamut of the theatre's history with a program that reflected his years on the Lawrence Welk Show. This great program was further enhanced by the presence of ATOS President Jack Moelmann, who served as emcee for the evening. Laurel and Hardy added merriment to the celebration as Ralston accompanied their silent *Angora Love*. A duet with Jack Moelmann at the organ and Bob at the piano was an added treat and grand finale for this super program. Our deep appreciation to Colonel Moelmann and Bob Ralston for making this show one of our greatest.

Most of the big names in show business have been, or will be, appearing on the famous Chicago Theatre stage. And the pipe organ world has not been slighted. Gaylord Carter presented a grand, old-timer show in October, and it was nostalgia complete with organ solos and silent films. Gaylord is a master and was overjoyed to be at the Chicago Theatre console. It was a great tribute to our 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Barbara Sellers has been accompanying several silent movies at the Music Box Theatre. We are pleased to know that Barbara's talent is heard by the general public. It would be great to hear more of this around the country.

*Almer N. Brostrom*



Colonel Moelmann and Bob Ralston at the Patio Theatre for Chicago Benefit.

*Chuck Wlodarczyk Photo*



**CONNECTICUT VALLEY**

**THEATRE  
ORGAN SOCIETY**

203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269

Our fall concert season kicked off on September 26 with "1986 ATOS Organist of the Year" Tom Hazleton. Acknowledging at the offset that the Shelton organ was only the second Austin organ that he has ever played, it quickly became apparent that the organ held no secrets from this accomplished artist. Tom played over thirty selections including a razzle-dazzle arrangement of "Tip Toe Thru the Tulips," medleys from *Oklahoma* and *South Pacific* and a special tribute to George Gershwin. Tom's

formula for the evening, "Share a little music, have a little fun". Not a bad formula for any time.

Over twenty of our members shuffled off to Buffalo on October 9-11 for the Buffalo Regional Convention.

On October 17 the grand lady of the theatre pipe organ, Rosa Rio, appeared in concert at Shelton High School under the sponsorship of a local church. Chapter members participated in preparation of the organ, promotion and selling tapes and records.

The November meeting was held at Westport Piano and Organ Store in Westport, Connecticut and officers for 1988 were elected. The concert portion of the meeting was very ably handled by Greg Taylor on a Yamaha HX.

Father Jim Miller will be the featured artist at the March 26, 1988, concert at Shelton High School.

*Barry Goodkin*



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The first day of November brought a new development in South Central Pennsylvania — the kickoff meeting for the newly formed Cumberland Valley Chapter. The meeting at the Capitol Theatre in downtown Chambersburg drew more than 100 theatre organ enthusiasts to hear Mr. Bob Eyer, Capitol Theatre organist at the console of the 3/14 Möller theatre organ. In a sterling "trip around the kitchen" performance, Bob demonstrated most admirably the breadth and capability of the existent historical instrument. He performed several upbeat numbers, played a creative organ score for the silent Charlie Chaplin film, *Behind The Screen*, and rounded out his program with a variety of tunes requested by his audience. There is little doubt in the minds of his listeners, that Bob Eyer has the gift to totally engulf his listeners with the haunting strains of the theatre organ, and to fill their hearts with joy. Terry Nace, talented teenage theatre organist from York area, played the organ during the open console period.

Gordon Madison, Capitol Theatre owner and secretary for the Cumberland Valley Chapter, welcomed those present. He elaborated on ATOS and its goals as well as on the reasons for membership in

**CUMBERLAND VALLEY**  
**Chambersburg, Pennsylvania**  
**717/263-0202**

CVC. In his opening remarks Mr. Madison indicated that in 1980, in response to an ad he saw in the THEATRE ORGAN magazine, he had purchased the Capitol Theatre's Möller organ. "The Theatre," he said with a smile "was thrown in." Today, the beautiful old landmark Capitol Theatre is rapidly becoming a cultural center, where Community Theatre, Classic Movies, The Appalachian Jubilee (weekly "live" country music show), theatre organ concerts, and number of other events are staged. The theatre is an exceptionally fine location for the regular meetings of CVC. The Möller was installed in the Capitol Theatre in 1926. At the time it was the largest theatre organ in South Central Pennsylvania, and it continues to be at the present time.

Mark Cooley, a service representative of Möller Organ Company, in Hagerstown, Maryland, is the individual who will direct the organization's effort to innovate and extend as well as to upgrade the Capitol Theatre Möller in general.

He described the present condition of the organ and the steps to be taken in bringing it to new high standards. Mr. Cooley noted that the organ has an original design flaw in that it has two Pittman Wind Chests normally found in church organs. The first step will be to remove the swell chamber and unify one of the chests in the chamber. The remainder of the steps to be taken call for projects of rewiring, releathering and building a new solid-state relay, as well as repairing damaged types and replacing missing ones. The project also calls for adding ranks of pipes: The hooded trumpet (97 pipes from 16'C) and the Horn Diapason (73 pipes for 8'C).

Mr. Cooley indicated that when these phases of the project have been completed in a long-term operation, the final undertaking will be to modify the console to accommodate unification of the Solo division. He sought volunteers from the CVC membership to help with each phase of the project. A number of individuals in the chapter have volunteered to do much of the work required.

Six new members resulted from this kick-off meeting. Several others have indicated an interest in joining.

*Max Cooley*



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**CONVENTION: JULY 2-6**  
**AFTERGLOW: JULY 7**  
**Puget Sound**





414/463-2365 or 414/771-8522

September and October were busy months for our chapter. In September the Riverside Theatre featured Dennis James accompanying *The Mark of Zorro* with Douglas Fairbanks as the hero who was more macho with his mask than without. The organ score was excellent down to the knocks on the door. The performance also included two organ solos and a short silent comedy.

October's concert featured Father Jim Miller at the Avalon Theatre where, for two-and-a-half hours, the Avalon took on the character of Milwaukee's Boom-Boom Room with plenty of bumps and grinds, Dixieland, jazz and appearances by the "Wah-wah" trumpeter. All this "naughty" organ music did have its price, and Father Jim remarked that playing "In The Garden" and "How Great Thou Art" did help him make payments on his insurance policy.

The hottest news of the fall occurred in October when a local community newspaper, *The Bay Viewer*, printed a front page story saying that the Avalon Theatre was the prime site for a new neighborhood library. It is true that the city is planning to build a new library along the Avalon's street, but there is no truth that the Reference Desk will be located in the theatre balcony. The reporter was out of bounds when he cited the Avalon as the prime site. Consultation with the Library Board resulted in the information that there are ten sites being considered for their new building (the Avalon is only one of them), and it would be much cheaper to build a new building than to remodel an old one. Although the Avalon is not 100% safe from being used as something other than a theatre, it seems that the Library is looking elsewhere. In the following issue of *The Bay Viewer*, manager Eric Lavin was given equal space and stated that he has every intention of keeping the Avalon going as a movie house. We're all glad to hear that! Besides, it would be awfully difficult for those Reference Librarians to answer questions with nineteen ranks of pipes blaring in their ears. *Bill Campbell*

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**JULY 2-6, 1988**

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**PLAN AHEAD FOR THE 1988 CONVENTION!**

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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"x3" or #655, 3"x5") 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 10 for January/February  
January 10 for March/April  
March 10 for May/June  
May 10 for July/August  
July 10 for September/October  
September 10 for November/December

*Send Chapter Notes and photos to:*

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**BABSON  
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For practically all summer, our Wurlitzer has been out of commission with the console stoprails on the cellar workbench of organ-crew chairman Dick Linder. Not only have the tabs been repositioned back into their original configuration, but the pneumatics have been replaced by Syndyne electric switches. To accommodate these, considerable routing work and careful adjusting was necessary, and Dick spent his entire vacation on the project. In addition, organ crew chief Tim Hollaran negotiated the purchase of an eight-foot Wurlitzer Trumpet whose origin was a small Wurlitzer (opus 1382) in the Interboro Theatre in New York City. This replaces the trumpet we had made (Gottfried) when much of our original Brass Trumpet was stolen. SENETOS member Gary Phillips has cleaned, installed, regulated and voiced this new set so that we are now 100% Wurlitzer again.

Because of this activity, Providence-based SENETOS, headed by Alan Goodnow, kindly invited our chapter, Connecticut Valley and Pine Tree Chapters to a joint meeting on September 27 at the Providence Performing Arts Center, home of the ex-Marbro Theatre, Chicago, 5/21 Wurlitzer. Artist for the afternoon was Gary Phillips who is an integral part of the small group of devoted members upgrading this grand instrument. With

his knowledge of its considerable resources, Gary coaxed some fine sounds from it in an all-too-brief concert before open console. Thanks, SENETOS!

We presented Ty Woodward in public concert on our Babson Wurlitzer on October 24. This popular artist, who is currently organist/choirmaster at St. Cross Episcopal Church in Hermosa Beach, California, presented a fine concert to a large audience. Being equally familiar with classical and theatre organ repertoire, Ty made a good impression in this, his first, appearance for us.

He got his program underway with a spirited "76 Trombones," and the traps and percussions got a real workout. Before intermission he included some Broadway hits, some oldies and a couple of light classics. Besides a sing-along, virgorously sung by his enthusiastic audience, Mr. Woodward's second half contained some Berlin, Anderson and Rogers & Hammerstein selections. His interpretation of "Stars And Stripes Forever" was a real crowd-pleaser. Two long standing ovations, with long, loud applause and shouting, gave us two encores, "Hornpipe" by Handel and "Mame." Ty's program material, registration and easy console manner made for a pleasing, successful concert.

The following day we again assembled at Babson for a fun meeting with veteran North Shore organist Leonard Winter at the console and seasoned nightclub pianist Paul Chavanne at the Steinway baby grand. With little or no rehearsal, this pair, with just a nod or a glance, tailor their playing to a "T." There is no substitute for experience! "Hello, Dolly" was their opener, followed by a succession of well-known pieces. "Love Let-

ters" was dedicated to the late Ray Bohr; it was a favorite of his. Paul had one solo, "Maple Leaf Rag," one of Joplin's best. Audience participation was invited for the finale, "Battle Hymn of The Republic" and "God Bless America." Lenny and Paul enjoy working together, and it showed. Some great sounds were produced on their respective instruments. It was a busy, but fun, weekend of good music!

Stanley C. Garniss



**Do You  
Know  
Any  
Young  
Organists?**

The rules and regulations for the 1988 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 West San Marcos Blvd., San Marcos, California 92069.

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## THE NIAGARA FRONTIER THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

would like to announce that Randy Piazza has retired after 29 years as chairman here and that the Board of Directors is pleased to accept audition tapes from new artists interested in playing at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, New York.

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After an enjoyable summer, which seemed all too short, we opened our season with our annual installation dinner at the Trenton War Memorial on September 18. Several members provided easy-listening music on the pipe organ during the buffet dinner. After dinner, President Joe Dorsey announced the results of the election and, for the first time in our history, there was a tie for President so a run-off election was to be held.

Plaques were presented to outgoing President Joe Dorsey and retiring secretary/treasurer Nellie Baker. Also at this time, Bob Norris, who was a prime mover of our highly successful presentation of the silent *Wings* at the Rahway Theatre, presented Elaine Dawson and Mike Cipolletti with framed photographs of themselves dressed as Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks. Bob thanked them for their inventive portrayal of the stars receiving Oscars for *Wings*. This was the first film to win an Academy Award. For the remainder of the evening, the members enjoyed a mini-concert by Bernie McGorrey, President of the Delaware Valley chapter.

The first concert of our Trenton series was held September 27. The featured artist at the 3/16 Möller was Larry Ferrari, a well-known area organist who was televised for many years on a Philadelphia channel. Larry always presents a full concert of pop music. He must have thousands of songs under his fingers, and he lets his music speak for him. All enjoyed.



Bernie McGorrey at the War Memorial Möller console. *Jinny Vanore Photo*

On October 24 a pre-Halloween celebration on the silent screen was presented by our chapter and Bob Balfour at the Union County Arts Center (Rahway Theatre). The film was the dark, dramatic Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, starring John Barrymore and accompanied by Lee Erwin on the 2/7 Wurlitzer. The scene was set with skeletons and corn stalks, ghostly taped music and even a Count Dracula seeking a victim in the audience and finding a beautiful, mesmerized woman who was promptly bitten on the neck by the vampire.

The program began with an organ concert by Lee, followed by a slide presentation of organ pipes with sounds demonstrated by Lee. This was followed by an enjoyable sing-along. After intermission, the movie was screened and ably accompanied by Lee Erwin. All enjoyed the show. Financially, it was hoped that



Andy Kasparian at Trenton War Memorial Möller Console. *Jinny Vanore Photo*



Lee Erwin at Rahway Console. *Jinny Vanore Photo*

our members would back this event and purchase the two tickets sent to each of them. We were disappointed in this respect. The efforts of the hard-working committee who produced the beautiful brochure and had good newspaper coverage resulted in an event which was fairly successful.

On October 25, the second of a five-concert series at the Trenton War Memorial featured Andy Kasparian. Joe Dorsey informed the audience that the winner of the run-off election was Bruce Williams who, in turn, introduced the concert artist. Andy's program was upbeat, with multi-sound changes that enhanced many of our favorite songs. His experience at pizza restaurants and at the Suburban Restaurant enabled Andy to play a well-rounded program. The evening ended with picnic suppers, open console and lots of social chatting on the stage.

*Jinny Vanore*



L to R: Elaine Dawson, Bob Norris and Michael Cipolletti receive Bob Norris memento of them dressed for *Wings* Academy Award Skit. *JV Photo*

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Northern Wyoming**  
406/248-3171 or 406/259-6111

Members Martin A. Lilley and Dr. Edward J. Mullins attended the David Shepherd concert on October 3 at The Musical Museum in Brentford, Middlesex, England. The museum's 3/12 Wurlitzer, equipped with a roll player, was built in 1930 for a Chicago millionaire's residence. It was removed in 1932, shipped to England and installed in the Regal Cinema at Kingston-on-Thames where the original mahogany console was painted gold and a lighted fruit-jelly surround added, as was their wont.

It was installed in The Musical Museum in 1973, the colored glass surround removed and console refinished white with gold trim. David Shepherd's program consisted of many favorite English melodies and pop tunes played in his own style. As an "encore" for the visiting Jesse Crawford Chapter members, Frank Holland, museum curator, played Crawford's roll of "Pale Moon." They reported that it was a beautiful experience.

While in England, Ed Mullins acquired the sheet music for a rare popular tune, "Us and Company," composed in 1930, words and music by Steve Nelson, Johnny Burke and Jesse Crawford. Pictured on the cover are Mr. and Mrs. and Baby Jesse Crawford; little Jessica is holding her doll. This rarity is not listed in Dr. John Landon's definitive book on Crawford. The music was located by Ian Dalgliesh.

The Billings *Gazette*, on October 3 published an article by Addison Bragg in his "On The Town" column. Bragg's story, "Historian, fan keeps poet of organ alive," tells of Crawford's early career in Billings, Montana, in 1913. He also mentions the formation of the Jesse Crawford Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society. *Steve Plaggemeyer*



Left: Joe and Ruth Vaes and Tom Neadle entertained Land O'Lakes Chapter.



3/12 Wurlitzer with roll player, The Musical Museum, Brentford, Middlesex, England.



612/689-9201 or 612/771-1771

Thirteen members attended the Buffalo Regional in New York in October. The opening concert was kicked off by Lyn Larsen at the famous Shea's Buffalo Theatre. A newcomer to us, and a highlight, was the concert by 26-year-old Robert Wolfe from England at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda. What an exciting, exuberant show he gave us! His pedal-work was amazing — a form of tap dancing, yet! The afterglow was a trip to Niagara Falls, with lunch in the Manhattan Tower overlooking the Canadian side of the Falls. There were beautiful flowers and well-landscaped gardens. All too soon the convention was over,



and we headed for the airport and home. [Some of our people traveled by car and so went their various ways to continue vacation trips.]

All God's Children — Metropolitan Community Church was the site of our Chapter Event Open House on October 25. Don Johnson, Bob Scholer, Roy Wilds and others who helped paint the chambers, have been volunteering their time, money and expertise in the installation of the chapter's 3/13 Wurlitzer/Robert-Morton. Members and friends made themselves at home in the beautiful church sanctuary, social hall and chambers. A very informal program was staged with Mike Erie and Tom Neadle leading off in organ/piano duets with a special rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" to honor our Champion Minnesota Twins. Other music was provided by a six-handed trio at the grand piano (Harriet Bateman, Ruth Vaes and Verna Mae Wilson) playing "Le Secret" (also the number Dennis James played at the First Universalist Church in Rochester during the Regional); Tom Neadle in several piano solos, Joe and Ruth Vaes in organ/piano duets and open console at the church's B-3 Hammond by Joe Vaes, John Webster, Kim Crisler and Bill Eden. A relaxing, musical afternoon!

The supposedly "last concert" at the Minneapolis Auditorium featuring the Minnesota Orchestra and Hector Olivera at the 5/122 Kimball was certainly a disappointment to the many organ-music lovers who did not hear enough of Hector. We're hoping another concert can still be held before the wrecking ball begins its demolition. *Verna Mae Wilson*





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Stephen Vincent and Dena Cooper played a duet at the fundraiser.

From the moment that it was decided that our chapter's Christie was to be re-installed by our accomplished Technical Team in the Memorial Hall in the South Wales town of Barry, it was inevitable that Douglas (Mr. Brighton and Mr. Christie) Reeve would be an early concert guest. And so it was in mid-July that Douglas provided a superb performance when he entertained the enthusiastic South Wales audience (including a coach party of chapter members from the London area) in his unique brassy style. Quickly at home with the big ensemble, Douglas soon endeared himself with the perfect combination of his happy personality and his wide-ranging repertoire.

He also graciously made way for an exciting cameo spot by Peter Holt of Wetherby, Yorkshire, one of our star youngsters and winner of our 1985 Young Theatre Organist of the Year Competition, at the beginning of the second half — but not before a stage presentation from a "Grand Master" to a "Young Master" of a handsome inscribed leather briefcase on behalf of the chapter in recognition of Peter's most commendable showing in the National Young Organist

Competition and his \$400 prize as winner in his age category (13 to 16 years old). Much-appreciated advice from gentlemanly Douglas, coupled with the pride and congratulations of our chapter, led Peter towards the next phase in what we firmly believe will be an enjoyable and rewarding future for this most promising young musician.

Martin Harris, 16, our reigning Young Theatre Organist of the Year, has achieved another major milestone in his quickly developing musical career by recently becoming the winner of the National Final of the 1987 Yamaha Electone Festival held in London. As well as winning a £1000 [\$1600] prize, Martin collected a recording contract and is to visit Japan in November. He has since also played a delightful Chapter Club Night performance at Edith and Les Rawle's famed 3/19 Wurlitzer.

Martin and Peter have also recorded the South Bank Polytechnic 4/21 Wurlitzer for the popular BBC Radio programme "The Organist Entertains."

"The Younger Generation" was again the theme of our concert at the famous 4/16 Wurlitzer at the Top Rank Club in North London in August when stylish Janet Dowsett (now a nationally acclaimed demonstrator for Yamaha) played and introduced her three guests: ever-smiling Jane Darley of Ascot (now also working with Yamaha in a unique schools promotional programme), ebullient Paul Sheffield of London and diminutive Craig Boswell from Derbyshire. Combining to provide an enjoyable programme of wide musical compass, this talented quartet once again vindicated

our central chapter objective of encouraging new young keyboard exponents for the future.

Having earlier provided a fine duo Chapter Club Night at Wurlitzer Lodge, Dena Cooper (organ, violin and piano) and Suzanne Hancock — complete with glitzy custom-made outfits for each half of their programme made by Dena's Mum Judith, and their own "Dena and Sue" billboard atop the music desk of the Wurlitzer — this popular pair were again in evidence, with numerous others of our youngsters, in early September.

In an imaginative day-long sponsor-ature "Music, Music, Music" marathon, another £450 (\$720) was raised in support of our YOY Fund. Stateside friend Searle Wright and Len Rawle also provided an informal Masterclass session to complete another most memorable and productive visit to Wurlitzer Lodge.

Two other complementary "at-home" fund-raising events have been held during the late summer. First was another great fun evening at the welcoming home at Walton-on-Thames of Chapter Chairman Beck Parsons. Featuring their Conn electronic, two of our earlier YOY competition winners, David Redfern (1983) from Derbyshire and Peter Holt (1985) from Yorkshire, presented most polished musical performances, with accomplished organ and clarinet cameos by Beck and Terry's young grandchildren, Miles (10) and Samantha (13). Complemented by Terry's usual magnificent supper spread, this most enjoyable and relaxing event raised over £150 (\$240) for our YOY fund and their favourite cause.

*continued...*



Some of the younger generation with Searle Wright.

*Niven photo*

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Alan and Maureen Jordan were hosts again this year for our Summer Barbecue Funday at their lovely home at High Wycombe. Organ accompaniment at the Rodgers was provided by Dena Cooper and Suzanne Hancock, with much applauded interludes by seasoned veteran theatre organ star Ena Baga. Another very happy chapter occasion.

We have also enjoyed another informal Sunday morning meeting of members at the Granada Tooting to see and hear the renowned 4/14 Wurlitzer that was restored in a monumental effort by our Technical Team a couple of years back after disastrous flooding about 12 years ago. Though still entombed following structural alterations converting the former cinema theatre into a Granada Leisure (Bingo) Club, we continue to hope that it will be possible to bring this magnificent instrument fully back into view and public performance sometime in the not-too-distant future.

Having already enjoyed Welsh, English and American star guests at Barry since the gala opening in March, it was a great delight to welcome Tony Fenelon from Australia in mid-September. His highly professional style was well matched to the big Christie and, as well as thoroughly enjoying himself and delighting his most enthusiastic audience, Tony's sensational performance amply demonstrated how and why he is justifiably regarded as one of the topmost exponents of the theatre organ anywhere in the world. By common consent, one of the finest theatre organ concerts ever to be experienced anywhere in this country. Bravo, Tony! Come back soon.

*Dr. Norman Barfield*



Smiles of joy at the days' proceeds. L to R: Dena, Chris, Suzanne, Emma



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On September 27 we celebrated the fall season with a terrific organ concert. For the first time at San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, we were honored to hear one of the stars of the 1987 National Convention, the talented and dynamic Tony Wilson. Opening with "I Love To Hear You Singing," he went on to display a well-balanced program. Tony has accepted the challenge of being the resident organist for the Lanterman Wurlitzer after a long engagement at the Great American Wind Machine Pizza Parlor. We are always impressed with the sound of the magnificent instrument at San Gabriel, and our thanks go to Mac Mc Donald and his organ crew for their constant dedication. One final word of gratitude to Tony for an afternoon of beautiful music.

Our fall meeting took place following the concert. President Stephen Ross called us to order and several reports were given. Ralph Beaudry gave us a full report on the revenue from the 1987 Convention and expressed his thanks to the committee and volunteers for a terrific success.

We can't think of a better way to celebrate Halloween than to attend a silent film. For the very first time, at the Sexson Auditorium at Pasadena College, the masterpiece *Phantom of The Opera* was accompanied by the master himself, Mr. Gaylord Carter. The purpose of the benefit concert was to raise funds for the installation of the Ross Reed Memorial Wurlitzer in the Sexson Auditorium, to begin by the end of this year. LATOS has hired Ken Crome to do the work. When completed, the organ will have three manuals controlling 20 ranks and numerous tonal and non-tonal percussion instruments. We are grateful to Bob Tall and Rodgers Organ Company for furnishing the instrument. We also thank our great artist and all the members, friends and students who made this such a promising endeavor.

Maria Olivier

OHIO VALLEY  
Cincinnati  
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Emery Theatre again became a symphonic hall on September 27. It had been the home of the Cincinnati Symphony until 1937. The purpose this particular day was to let people hear the Emery Symphony, conducted by Robert Howes, and made up largely of Cincinnati Symphony players. The soloist was Eugenia Zukerman, flutist, who has thought so much of Emery's acoustics that she donated her services to the cause of saving Emery Theatre.

Since we are an organ society, our 3/29 Wurlitzer was used as a concert organ with member/organist Richard Jaeggi playing Bach's "Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor," and Vierne's "Carillon de Westminster" from the Third Suite for Organ. As many of the ranks added in the past ten years were aimed at accompaniment work, the organ received plaudits for its great versatility.

Much of what our chapter does at Emery is aimed at re-acquainting people with Emery's many merits. Intense interest is being shown by the various arts organizations in using the facilities of the whole complex — Emery and the building of the Ohio College of Applied Science — after the University of Cincinnati vacates the building.

Emery has been a multi-purpose hall. In addition to its years as home for the Symphony, most of the legendary musical artists have performed there. It has also been the scene of many traveling road shows — both dramatic and musical. One of its most unusual uses was as a Baptist Church after that church's sanctuary had been destroyed by fire. Result: under the stage is a baptismal tank of steel with proper plumbing for baptisms by immersion. It is opened by removing a panel-section of the stage floor.

It was "birthday time" November 6, celebrating the tenth anniversary of the installation of the former RKO Albee Wurlitzer at Emery. Searle Wright was the guest organist. His concert, dazzling in both technique and musical effects, included accompanying the Harold Lloyd silent *The Kid Brother*.

Mr. Wright spent a number of years in the early '70s in Cincinnati as choir-master and organist of Christ Episcopal Church. He also was adjunct professor of organ for part of this time at the College-Conservatory of Music of University of Cincinnati.

Hubert S. Shearin

■

"Music, verily,  
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We are always delighted to be invited to the Astoria home of member Leonard Vernon. This time we experienced an excellent afternoon of open console on Leonard's 2/12 Robert-Morton. Five members kept the bench warm while charter members Bob and Nadine Rickett, who were adventuresome enough to bring their entire video set-up, made a videotape of the entire afternoon for future enjoyment. Our thanks to Leonard for another wonderful session on the Robert-Morton.

Oregon Chapter enjoyed our October meeting at Uncle Milt's Pipe Organ Pizza. Dick Schrum, well-known to long-time members as one of the driving forces in the early days of ATOS as well as a smooth musician, presented a varied blend of old favorites from lively jazz to romantic ballads. His dry humor spiced up his performance, particularly in his introduction to a nostalgic (for those old enough to remember) rendition of a medley of tunes played in Martha Lake's unique style. He apologized because Uncle Milt's Organ simply was not bad enough to support the Martha Lake technique.

We enjoyed watching another friend, the console, in action again, too. Some members have followed it from its first career as the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Portland Oriental Theatre and its starring role as the first console at the Portland Organ Grinder restaurant. Good to see you again, console.

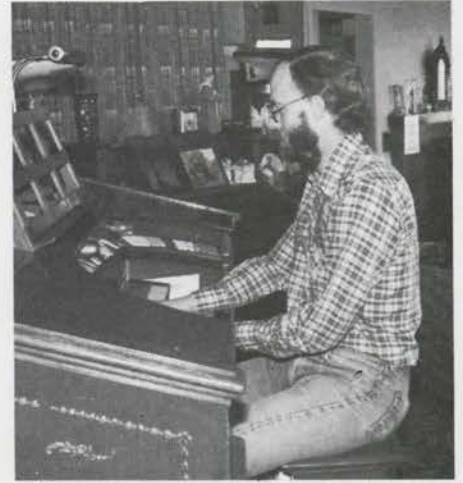
Open console followed Dick's program, and several members took advantage of the opportunity to play this fine instrument while others enjoyed Uncle Milt's fine pizza for lunch.

We had a good turnout with more than 60 members and guests present. Visitors came from as far away as Seattle and Yakima, Washington, and Corvallis, Oregon. Our thanks to Uncle Milt Kieffer for his hospitality and for the use of his Mighty Wurlitzer. And thanks, too, to Dick Schrum for the marvelous entertainment.

*Ray Hughey*



Genial host Milt Kieffer enjoys a laugh with artist Dick Schrum.  
*Claude Neuffer Photo*



Member Bob Shafter enjoys open console on the Vernon Robert-Morton in Astoria.  
*Claude Neuffer Photo*



Host Leonard Vernon offers cookies to Ruth Maas and Paul Quarino while they listen to his Robert-Morton.  
*Claude Neuffer Photo*

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**PIKES PEAK**  
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Despite our absence from these pages for some time, our chapter has been active. Since the debut of our 3/18 mostly Wurlitzer, located at Mt. Saint Francis and featured at last year's regional convention, we have been tonally refining the instrument, have received the donation of an electronic relay from a Denver area organ enthusiast, and have been conducting a series of fund-raising concerts to purchase a Posthorn.

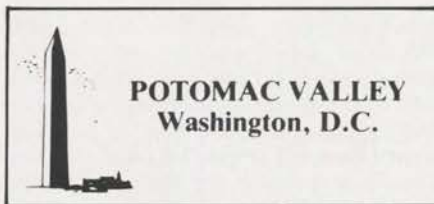
Notable concerts this last year have been played by local artists Will Lohrey and Bob Castle. However, the high point of the year came on October 11 when, for the organ's first anniversary, we had Portland, Oregon's own Paul Quarino play for us. Paul played a program which ranged from Gospel to old standards to modern pop music. His program was enthusiastically received and left us all amazed at his versatility. It was Paul who played the organ for the convention. We here in Colorado highly recommend Paul to any chapter looking for someone to play a first-class concert.

*John Grunow*



Bob Ralston at console of Wurlitzer organ in Weinberg Center for the Arts, Frederick, Maryland.

*Dan Swope Photo*



703/569-8170 or 301/652-3222

On October 25 Bob Ralston, organist for 20 years on the Lawrence Welk Show, gave a theatre pipe organ/grand piano extravaganza of super proportions to a record crowd of nearly 600 enthusiastic theatre organ fans and other enthralled persons at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Maryland. Included in the program were many familiar melodies as well as a medley of about 20 well-known numbers selected by the audience. Bob also provided extraordinary sound effects on the Wurlitzer to the antics in the last silent comedy short made by Laurel and Hardy, *Angora Love*, starring a hungry goat!

Chapter Vice-Chairman Floyd Werle, a master musician in his own right as composer/arranger for the United States Air Force Band (which will not let him retire completely), says of Bob Ralston's talent: "He honestly plays better pop piano than anybody else I have heard and could make a career on this alone." and on the Wurlitzer "... he presented us with a much higher order than we have heard on most of our past 'name' programs ... Moreover, he has a winning stage personality and a tremendous flair for showmanship."

The entire state of Maryland has only one theatre pipe organ installed in a theatre. That one is an original 2/8 Wurlitzer installation in what was, in 1926, the brand new Tivoli Theatre. That Wurlitzer, like many others fell into disuse and decay for decades, but restoration was begun at the urging of then president of Potomac Valley Chapter, Dick Kline, now famous for his Fox Capitol 4/37 Wurlitzer a few miles north of Frederick.

The blower motor in the basement suffered several soaking floods. In 1972 it had to be rewound in a hurry for the ATOS convention held in Washington, D.C., as recounted in THEATRE OR-

GAN in December 1972 in "Frederick's Man of the Hour." In 1976 a flood floated the console up and deposited it on its back on the Tivoli stage. In 1977 Tivoli owner Dan Weinberg gave the theatre to Frederick, and it has since been known as the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Talking pictures are prohibited.

A few years ago a Barton screw lift was installed and the organ is constantly nursed into playing condition by volunteers from our chapter, with George Johnson serving as chief organ technician.

Chairman Don Faehn did most of the preliminary work, such as ticket printing, publicity flyer composition and distribution, program preparation, lining up volunteer ushers, light operator, projectionists, sound technician, curtain puller, record sellers, finding guest quarters and transportation for Mr. Ralston, etc. After all that work, the enthusiasm of the audience caused Don to say that he is ready to start all over and do it again!

On October 31, 1987, George Johnson went on AM/FM radio WFRE in Frederick to explain why the Wurlitzer console needs to be replaced as a result of the great flood of 1976. Console replacement and modernization of the organ with electronics has the backing of Dan Weinberg, Dick Kline and others, with the work to be done by chapter volunteers headed by George Johnson.

Proceeds from the Bob Ralston performance will be used in part to further modernize the organ from the Washington, D.C. Earle/Warner, a 3/10 Kimball now owned by Potomac Valley Chapter and installed at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

Potomac Valley Chapter welcomes with sincere best wishes the new Cumberland Valley chapter of ATOS. Cumberland Valley is the area generally extending from Hagerstown, Maryland, to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Cumberland President Robert Eyer has entertained our chapter several times, including a standout performance a few years ago on the famous Dick Kline Wurlitzer, and also on the Weinberg Center Wurlitzer. Mr. Eyer was among the enthusiastic attendees at Bob Ralston's delightful extravaganza.

*Jack Little*

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The annual potluck and white elephant sale to benefit the organ fund was held at Haller Lake Improvement Club where the chapter organ is housed. Young David Stratkauskas, of Langley, B.C., the chapter entrant in the 1987 Young Organist Competition, played an entertaining program on the 3/11 Marr & Colton installed there.

Our guest artist has only rare opportunities to play the pipes, as the Vancouver Orpheum Wurlitzer is seldom brought out of the pit. Fortunately, David's family is very supportive of his efforts, and his father has joined an organ crew which is presently installing an organ in a nearby church. In addition to a busy scholastic schedule, David is a trombonist and teaches the Yamaha classes at a local music store. His big band arrangements are played with obvious enjoyment and a surprising credibility for a young lad, and he includes jazz improvisation and Latin tunes in his repertoire also. Borrowing from Jean-Pierre Rampal, he included a sensitive and carefully-ornamented flute solo in an arrangement of "Georgia," evoking that special pleasure in the listeners that occurs when glimpsing the fresh growth of a young talented musician.

Several members traveled to Vancouver, B.C., for the Diamond Jubilee of the carefully restored Orpheum Theatre and Hotel Georgia, built two blocks



David Stratkauskas, guest artist for Puget Sound Chapter at 3/11 Marr & Colton.

apart 60 years ago. The organ, 3/13 Wurlitzer, is as installed, maintained but never altered in any way. Tickets were 15¢ for kids at a Saturday afternoon matinee variety show, while in the evening "Diamond Dazzle" starred the ever-vivacious Yvonne De Carlo answering questions from her fans in the audience and the inimitable Gaylord Carter at the console. He later accompanied a midnight screening of *Phantom of The Opera*, to the delight of a large audience.

The first meeting of the year for the Seattle AGO chapter was held at the Paramount Theatre. Following a business meeting during which the chairperson outlined an impressive proposal to deal with problems nearly identical to those plaguing ATOS chapters, Andy Crow played an excellent program for the group. Although it was jokingly reported that one elderly gentleman walked out during "Love For Sale," it was the most enthusiastic audience this reporter has observed at an organ presentation there, and numerous people crowded a-



Ken Gallwey doing a repeat performance as auctioneer for Puget Sound Chapter White Elephant Sale.

round the membership table in the lobby for applications or to sign up for the mailing list. Several organists played during the open console session, one of whom was Patti Simon who happened to be in town at the time assisting husband Ed Zollman in the installation of the Wilcox Wurlitzer. *Diane J. Whipple*

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(714) 596-5024







Model T Ford, donated for the theatre's use by Malcolm Frisk.

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



It turned out to be *the* big drawing card. Two full houses for Silent Movie Nights came to see our new lobby and mezzanine just completed at the Fargo Theatre that week. November 4 was the ribbon (celluloid)-cutting ceremony with a lobby full of people and the media to hear Lance Johnson, president of the Fargo Theatre Management Corporation, the mayors of Fargo and Moorhead and other city dignitaries speak. The funds for this project were provided by the Reineke Foundation, which was represented by Alice Shiels who cut the film ribbon. A champagne reception and organ music by Lloyd Collins followed.

Then, Friday and Saturday, we presented our semi-annual Silent Movie Nights. Opening the show was theatre manager Dave Knudtson at the Mighty Wurlitzer. He played several selections of show tunes and accompanied a short film, *Ladies Please Remove Your Hats*. Next was a brief documentary of the theatre's history and the all-important role of the ATOS in keeping it alive. The traditional sing-along with Lance Johnson followed and then our own Incomparable Hildegarde, Hildegarde Krause, showed all that she is still in top form. Her last selection was a trio with Lance and Dave, as they played pianos on stage to "All Pals Together." The movie feature was *The Circus* with the great Charlie Chaplin and score by Lance Johnson.

There was much oohing and aahing over the new lobby area both nights. As close as could be managed, the basics of the 1937 streamline modern decor was brought back, with many mirrored surfaces, neon lighting, and curved walls. The exterior also got a facelift, with black glass and stainless steel.

We were overwhelmed by the many people who took us up on our offer of free tours Saturday morning. But this is not the end of our projects — the lobby organ is next, and a restored marquee for spring.

*Sonia Carlson*



Above: Hildegarde Krause and Lance Johnson after performance at the Fargo Theatre.

Left: Looking up the new mirrored walls to the ceiling in the new Fargo Theatre.



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



## ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

**APRIL 16, 1988**

### Graduate Awards:

**First Prize**  
 \$2,000 plus full tuition  
**Second Prize**  
 \$1,500 plus full tuition  
**Third Prize**  
 \$1,000 plus full tuition

All applicants must be accepted for admission to the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in order to be named a finalist. Preliminary auditions may be by tape or in Cincinnati on one of the following dates:

**January 23, 1988**  
**February 20, 1988**  
**March 12, 1988**

University of  
**Cincinnati**  
**College-**  
**Conservatory**  
 of Music

### CCM Organ Faculty:

**Dr. Roberta Gary**  
**Dr. David Mulbury**

For application materials and repertoire requirements contact:

W. Harold Laster, Assistant Dean  
 College-Conservatory of Music  
 Box T O  
 University of Cincinnati  
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0003  
 (513) 475-5462

The cash awards are made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John Strader.





**RIVER CITY**  
**Omaha, Nebraska**  
**402/292-7799 or 402/572-1040**

Our September 19 meeting was hosted by Keyboard Kastle with staff member Dan Cerveny performing on both Yamaha and Lowrey digital organs. Dan presented an outstanding program which included a memorable rendition of "South." During the evening Dan demonstrated MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) between the Yamaha and the Lowrey consoles which literally allowed him to play both organs simultaneously. A very enjoyable evening was capped with delicious refreshments.

In preparation for Jack Moelmann's fourth benefit concert for Omaha History Museum, our October 3 meeting was held at the Orpheum Theatre. While Jack Moelmann busied himself setting registrations on the 3/13 Wurlitzer, an original installation lovingly maintained by members George Rice and Stanley Gross, others attended to all of the last minute arrangements associated with a public concert. Advance ticket sales were tallied by some, while other workers draped the platform under the console. Harold Kenney and Bob Markworth

made their work assignments for the day of the concert. Finally, everything was shipshape for Sunday's concert.

On Sunday, October 4, Jack Moelmann presented his fourth edition of "Those Were the Days," a benefit theatre organ concert for Omaha History Museum. Jack and the Wurlitzer console rode the orchestra lift to stage level, flanked by Laura and Kimberly Markworth dressed as flappers and by J.J. and Janet Anderson dressed as typical 1920's youngsters. The first half of Jack's concert included medleys of Broadway show tunes and old time tunes. Then veteran performer Wendall Hall and his banjo joined Jack on stage for toe-tapping organ/banjo melodies. The first half of the program was concluded with a sing-along with slides.

After intermission Jack returned to the console with up-tempo renditions of "Everything's Coming up Roses," "Mame," "There's No Business Like Show Business," and "Hello, Dolly." Then he honored all branches of the armed forces with the songs of each service. Jack cued the Buster Keaton classic silent film, *Cops*, much to the delight of the audience. Jack closed the program with his legendary Tribute to America, a medley of traditional patriotic songs, ending with the "Star Spangled Banner." An enthusiastic audience recalled Jack to the console for two encores.

*Tom Jeffery*



Wendall Hall on banjo joins Jack Moelmann at "Those Were the Days".  
*Tom Jeffery Photo*

**ATOS Archives/Library**

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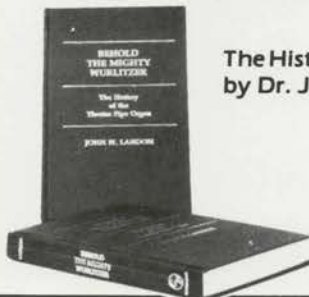
Dan Cerveny entertained on both Yamaha and Lowrey digital organs at Keyboard Kastle. *Tom Jeffery Photo*



Harold Kenney (left) and Bob Markworth plot work assignments for "Those Were the Days." *Tom Jeffery Photo*

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

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- ★ The Organ
- ★ The Score
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## SIERRA

Sacramento

916/726-5132 or 916/332-2837

On October 18 we presented Lori Frazer Bailey, our 1981 scholarship winner, in concert. Lori is a former student of Bill Thompson and is now studying with Richard Purvis. She is also a music teacher, so our efforts to interest young people are working. A recent surgery on her left foot did not stop her from playing several selections which required two-footed pedaling. This was Lori's first attempt at theatre organ playing since she won the scholarship, but she proved that her talent is not just in electronic organs. There were times when one felt she might be fighting the organ, but she turned out to be the winner.

The highlights of her program were her personality (the audience loved her), a seldom heard "Blackhawk Waltz," "Psalm 19," arranged by Richard Purvis and a medley from *Man of La Mancha*. Her registrations were in good taste, and it was an overall entertaining afternoon.

On November 1, we were proud to present Don Wallin' in concert. Don is fast becoming one of Sacramento's favorite organists since returning here from the East Coast. You might call this program a re-dedication of the famous "George Wright" Wurlitzer at Grant Union High School in Sacramento. Don played a balanced program of fine theatre stylings. This organist does not have to take a back seat to anyone.

Don and Dave Moreno, assisted by Chuck Shumate and Earl White, spent more than 80 hours the week before the concert adjusting, releathering, tuning and revoicing this beautiful organ. It hasn't sounded this good in years. The maintenance of this organ is now under the supervision of our chapter, another one of their busy projects this past year. This is a 4/21 Wurlitzer, and many of you may have read of the fire that destroyed the console some years ago.

Don acted as his own emcee and did not kill his program as so many do with too much prattle. Because of threatening weather, the audience was not as large as expected, but each and every one of them appreciated the concert that Don played for them. Welcome back anytime, Don!

*Bud Taylor*



Lori Frazer-Bailey at the Sierra Chapter Club Organ.

*Art Phelan Photo*

## SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

Our meeting for September was held once again in Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. In the absence of our president, First Co-Vice President Sam Collier presided. He told us that the console of our 3/10 Robert-Morton was ready for its second coat of paint, and that the bench was being refurbished. Wiring on the Z-tronics relay was still proceeding.

Lorene Thomas presented a delightful mini-concert on the church's 4/14 Robert-Morton. She opened with "It's a Pity to Say Goodnight" and closed with "Ruby." Open console followed. Lorene and Dick Van Dera also played some rousing duets, trading off between the organ and grand piano. [We heard "Mr. Sandman," "Sunny," "St. Louis Blues," "Hey, Look Me Over" (to name a few).] Then, after nearly everyone had gone, Dick and Dorothy Smith played more duets, mostly Gospel music.

Our October meeting was also held at Central Assembly. Before the music began, Don Kimes told us about the recent weekend trip to Kansas City made by himself, Sam Collier (who had organized it), Dr. Jim Routsong, Harold Weinland, and Bob Busby. They visited the newly installed 3/20 Grande Barton in the Granada Theatre, the 3/14 Wurlitzer in the home of Bill Wilson and Dave Weaver, and the 3/18 Kilgen installed in the home of Kansas City dentist Dr. Falwell. Sam and Don had the fun of playing all three instruments. The group also saw a 4/23 Wurlitzer in storage in the old Civic Auditorium in downtown Kansas City.

The evening's mini-concert was played by Sam Collier. Unfortunately, not all of the organ was working ... actually, most of the Great manual was dead. However, Sam played skillfully around



Don Wallin', our artist for the day.

*Art Phelan Photo*

the dead notes, and his music was enjoyable. Open console followed.

We have voted to add a Devtronix electronic combination action to our club-owned Robert-Morton. This was approved at our October meeting, and the order was placed immediately. Delivery was expected within two or three weeks, and would only add another week to the completion of the console wiring.

Vo-Tech's Dr. Wayman Penner was given a "tour" of the nearly complete console, and word was that "he was excited!" We're getting closer!

We are saddened by the death of another long-time member. Bob Weddle, former treasurer and recent Honorary chapter member, died on October 30. He and his wife, Betty, were charter members of Sooner State Chapter. We shall miss him.

*Dorothy Smith*

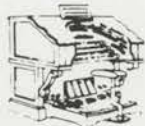
"Music,  
not being made  
up of objects  
nor referring to  
objects, is  
intangible and  
ineffable; it  
can only be,  
as it were,  
inhaled by the  
spirit: the rest  
is silence."

*Jaques Barzun*

All inquiries regarding  
membership matters should  
be addressed to . . .

Douglas C. Fisk  
Executive Director of ATOS  
P.O. Box 420490  
Sacramento, California 95842





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

419/381-6730 or 419/478-8595

Toledo Chapter is in action again! On October 25 we were proud to present a theatre organ concert and silent film festival at the historic Palace Theatre in Marion, Ohio. The Palace is a good example of the atmospheric theatre design with deep blue sky ceiling with twinkling stars. Under this 1928 splendor, Mr. Bill Yaney entertained the audience with the sounds of the 3/10 Wurlitzer followed by accompaniment of four entertaining silent comedies from that era.

November brought us back to the memorable installation in the home of Larry and Janet Evritt in Defiance, Ohio. Larry now has the organ playing 23 ranks, and an overflow crowd was treated to THREE professional theatre organists: Melissa Ambrose and John Lauter (from Detroit) and Toledo's own Bill Yaney, who recorded this organ last year. The open console artists who played afterward were no slouches either! A bountiful buffet dinner was served at intermission and afterward we were entertained with a Charlie Chase (no relation to President Evan Chase) silent comedy as well as the roll player which turns the theatre organ into a gigantic band organ sound.

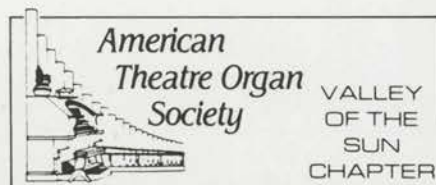
In the meantime, Evan Chase is serving on an advisory board to help preserve and restore the 1927 State Theatre in Toledo. If this is successful, another theatre pipe organ will be installed in those empty chambers. TATOS is also assisting the Tiffin, Ohio, Ritz Theatre to acquire a theatre organ for their barren chambers. We believe an historic theatre doesn't have life unless a theatre organ breathes within.

To crown 1987 as one of our best years, Bill Yaney presented a concert and silent movie program at our own installation at Toledo's old Ohio Theatre (St. Hedwig Cultural Centre). The organ is now up to ten ranks plus percussions and traps — chambers are full! The large crowd gave Bill a standing ovation last November 14 as theatre organ in the Toledo area gains new ground against modern entertainment and wins new audiences!

*Evan J. Chase*



Palace Theatre, Marion, Ohio, lovely historic marquee. *TATOS Photo*



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

August 9 found us at the Organ Stop Pizza restaurant in Mesa, where we were treated to an outstanding concert by young British organist Simon Gledhill. We heard both British and American music that day. Included were a Sidney Torch composition and a Jerome Kern medley. Simon also played some novelty tunes and some marches. It was Gledhill's "very first ever concert for ATOS," and we look forward to hearing him in Portland next year.

Members John and Bette Underwood opened their home to us on September 20 for a scrumptious potluck. In addition to all of the good food, there was an open console session on the couple's three-manual Allen 6500 theatre organ.

We are all pleased that Clark Wilson will be joining the Organ Stop staff after the first of the year. Clark played for our October 25 meeting at the pizza parlor. His varied program included some tunes of the 20s, music from *Madame Butterfly*, a Wagner transcription and a medley of songs from *Brigadoon*. Welcome to the Valley of the Sun, Clark!

*Madeline LiVolsi*



Bill Yaney at the Marion, Ohio, Palace Wurlitzer. *TATOS Photo*

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**WOLVERINE CHAPTER**  
of the American Theatre Organ Society  
**Central & Lower Michigan**  
313/284-8882 or 313/588-7118

Throughout the summer months, we presented several of our own members in a series of weekly Wednesday half-hour "brown bag" luncheon concerts at the Cleveland, Ohio, Grays' Armory 3/15 Wurlitzer. The concerts met varying degrees of success but were greatly enjoyed by the audiences. Unfortunately, the hot summer weather caused the organ to become unplayable, and the concert series ended abruptly in August.

Our September social gathering emphasized the classical aspects of our pipe organ enthusiasm as we met at Cleveland's St. Ignatius Church. Peter Miller, St. Ignatius' organist, performed for us on the 3/33 Schantz, presenting a variety of selections from the classical repertoire. The sounds of the instrument filled the church beautifully, with the instrument's 5-second reverberation enhancing the music with stately grandeur.

On October 25, we returned to downtown Cleveland's Judson Manor, a favorite among our members, to hear our own Paul Kamas at the 2/9 Kimball. Along with his selections, including "It's Only a Paper Moon," "Sweet Sixteen," "Meditation" from *Thais* and a polka medley, all performed with Paul's special artistic sensitivity, we also enjoyed a short business meeting and a delightful round of open console.

WRTOS opened its 1987-88 concert season presenting perennial favorite Larry Ferrari in concert at the Cleveland Grays' Armory 3/15 Wurlitzer on Halloween night. The response was fantastic, and Larry performed spooky favorites "Hall of the Mountain King," Gounod's "Funeral March of a Marionette" and "Phantom of the Opera," highlighted by two on-stage jack-o-lanterns.

We will present Ty Woodward in concert at the Cleveland Grays' Armory 3/15 Wurlitzer on February 27. Tickets are available in advance from: WRTOS, 1234 Bolivar Rd., Cleveland, OH 44115.

Best wishes for 1988 from all of the Western Reserve Theatre Organ Society.

*Jim Shepherd*

## Recognition Plaques Presented To Life Members



At the 1987 meeting the Board of Directors authorized the presentation of recognition plaques to those members who have expressed their faith in the goals of the American Theatre Organ Society by becoming LIFE members. The contribution necessary to earn the designation is a gift of \$1,000.

The plaques pictured are those presented to the first two so honored. They are **Edith M. Riehle** of Orchard Park, New York, 1986, and **Leo Klise, Jr.** of Columbus, Ohio, in 1987. Two additional members have made the same commitment carrying a 1988 date. They are Ruth Villemín Dresser of Malibu, California and Dale and Mary Ann Mendenhall of Fair Oaks, California. Dale serves as national treasurer of ATOS.

Membership categories encouraging additional gifts to ATOS were created by the Board in 1984. Each year participation by the membership has grown, and these funds have played a significant part in the Society's ability to create new programs, particularly the Young Organist Competition and more recently the monthly newsletter.

Congratulations and "thank you" to our pioneer LIFE members!

*For your 1988 season  
book theatre organist*

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RALSTON**

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### 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*