

# The Wilcox Wonderland

by Paul Quarino

*High on a bluff  
overlooking the narrows  
at the west end of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge,  
in an elegantly appointed modern mansion  
specially built for her,  
a lovely lady dressed in shining ebony resides.*

Often it is said that when a lady gets a new gown, she also gets a new personality. This may well be true of this lady, who started life wearing gold and ivory in the Brooklyn Fox Theatre, changed to bright royal blue and gold when she resided in the Cardinal Music Palace in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and now, in her new attire, presides over the home of Richard Wilcox.

With 48 ranks of pipes and numerous accessories to command, this console is lighter than ever before as all of its work is done by a computer system that requires only electronic components in the console and a single ribbon, about three inches wide, connecting it to the control panel. The wizardry of Mr. Wilcox has made all of this possible, and the technical skill of Ed Zollman has brought it to completion.

When asked how his interest in pipe organs began, Wilcox replied, "I've always enjoyed pipe organs." When asked whether he had played keyboards as a young man, he stated that he played guitar in a rock-and-roll band. "I just liked organs — used to listen to them on records — always thought they were fascinating, great big instruments. The

first record I got," he added, "was 'Leon Berry at the Giant Wurlitzer Pipe Organ, Hub Rink, Chicago.'" Dick owned a Hammond X-66, but was never really satisfied with its sound. He always enjoyed the chorus effect of a large pipe organ even though he never fully understood why they sounded so much better than his Hammond. A friend told him of Ray DeVault at Devtronix, so he flew his own plane to Sacramento, met Ray and bought some parts from him and started from there. His plan was to build himself an electronic simulation of a four-manual, 37-rank theatre organ in which he would incorporate his own computer relay system (see THEATRE ORGAN, November/December 1986).

When Ray DeVault saw the potential of Dick's relay system, he realized that others could benefit from this system. One of the first to purchase this new relay for his pipe organ was Dr. Dee Williams of Aurora, Colorado. When Dick went to help install it, he met technician Ed Zollman, who was installing the organ. Dick was impressed with Zollman's work, and told him to be on the lookout for a large pipe organ that he could buy and install in either a "restaurant or a house or something." Ed heard that the organ

in the Cardinal Music Palace was for sale, so they flew to Indiana to see it and bought it.

In the meantime, Wilcox planned and began construction of his (and the organ's) new home on a large site near Gig Harbor, Washington. Together Ed and Dick designed and executed the layout for the 48 ranks to which the organ had grown. Zollman is responsible for the installation of the organ; his principle assistants are Ivan Duff and Patti Simon.

When I began the research for this article, I visited the Wilcox home where I immediately found myself in another dimension. I was not in a theatre, a church, or a restaurant, but it embodied the ambience of all of them — a wonderland. This super-studio captured, for me, the essence of many of my favorite installations all in one place. Playing it brought the realization that this was not an instrument to be played just once, and I am drawn, as others will be, to return again and again. This lovely lady, in her new ebony gown, is most fortunate to have found such a home, and her new personality expresses this.

On July 7 the lucky 400 who attend the Puget Sound Encore will experience what I mean. And so will Lyn.



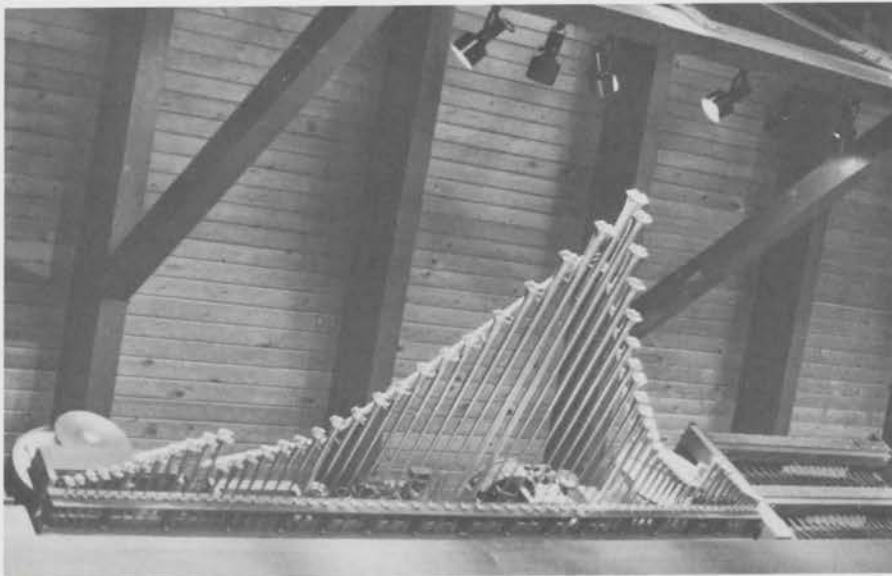
*As the console first appeared  
with 37 ranks  
in the Brooklyn Fox Theatre.  
Rosa Rio is seated at the console  
in this 1934 picture.*



*As the console next appeared  
with 30 ranks  
in the Cardinal Music Palace  
in Fort Wayne, Indiana.*



*As the console now appears  
with 48 ranks  
in the Richard Wilcox residence.*



Looking up at the Trumpet en chamade.

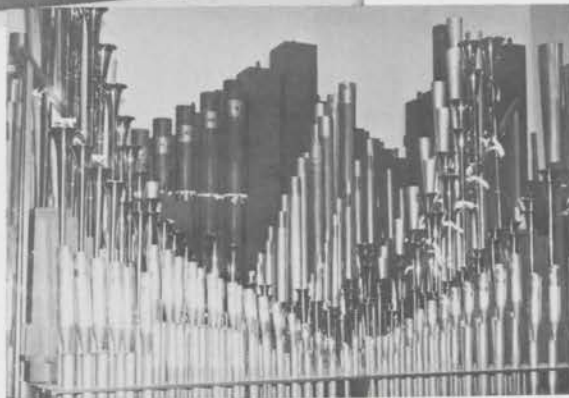
Steve Adams Photo



View from the balcony gives a sense of the height of the percussion tower. Author Quarino is at the console.



A view of the solo chamber.  
Ed Zollman Photo



Close-up of the same pipes.  
Ed Zollman Photo



Tibia pipes mounted on the south wall of the living room.  
Steve Adams Photo



Front of Wilcox home overlooking the bay.

Steve Adams Photo

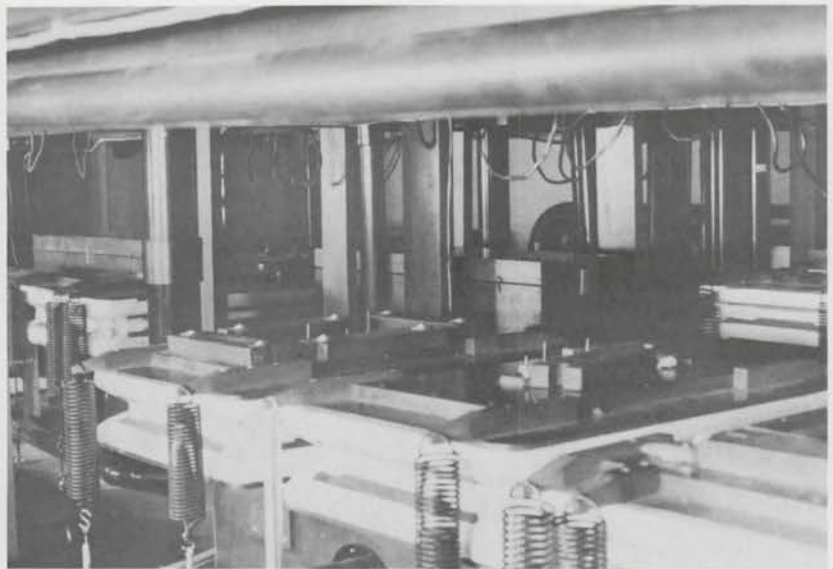


Ed Zollman in the chamber of the organ he is installing for Dick Wilcox.  
Paul Quarino Photo



Computer which controls the Wilcox instrument.

Steve Adams Photo



Some of the regulators in the chamber of the 4/48.

Steve Adams Photo

## Dick Wilcox 4/48 Wurlitzer

### Pedal

- 32 Bombarde (E)
- 32 Diaphone (R)
- 32 Contra Bourdon (R)
- 16 Solo Post Horn
- 16 Bombarde (E)
- 16 Ophicleide
- 16 Diaphone
- 16 Tibia Plena (Unencl.)
- 16 Tibia Clausa (Solo)
- 16 Tibia Clausa
- 16 Diaphonic Horn
- 16 Solo String (E)
- 16 Violone
- 16 Clarinet (E)
- 16 Oboe Horn (E)
- 16 Bourdon
- 16 Lieblich Bourdon
- 8 Solo Post Horn
- 8 English Post Horn
- 8 Trumpet
- 8 Harmonic Trumpet
- 8 Tuba Mirabilis
- 8 Tuba Horn
- 8 Octave Diaphonic
- 8 Octave Open
- 8 Octave Horn
- 8 Tibia Plena (Unencl.)
- 8 Tibia Clausa (Unencl.)
- 8 Tibia Clausa (Solo)
- 8 Tibia Clausa
- 8 String Bass (E)
- 8 Strings VI
- 8 Cello
- 8 Clarinet
- 8 Flute
- 8 Lieblich Flute
- 16 Piano

- 8 Piano
- Bass Drum
- Tympani
- Crash Cymbal
- Roll Cymbal
- Tap Cymbal
- Sizzle Cymbal
- Finger Cymbals
- 8 Accomp. to Pedal
- 4 Acc. Octave to Pedal
- 8 Great to Pedal
- 4 Great Octave to Pedal
- 8 Solo to Pedal

### Backrail

- 8 Trumpet En chamade
- 4 Principal
- Selective Traps
- Accomp. & Pedal Traps

(E) = *Electronic*

(R) = *Resultant*

### Accompaniment

- 8 English Post Horn
- 8 Solo Trumpet
- 8 Trumpet
- 8 Harmonic Trumpet
- 8 Tuba Mirabilis
- 8 Tuba Horn
- 8 Diaphonic Diapason
- 8 Open Diapason
- 8 Horn Diapason
- 8 Tibia Clausa (S)
- 8 Tibia Clausa
- 8 Saxophone
- 8 Clarinet
- 8 Solo String
- 8 Gamba
- 8 Viol D'Orchestre

- 8 Salicional
- 8 Oboe Horn
- 8 Quintadena
- 8 Concert Flute
- 8 Lieblich Flute
- 8 Vox Humana (S)
- 8 Vox Humana
- 4 Octave Open
- 4 Octave Horn
- 4 Piccolo (M)
- 4 Solo String
- 4 Gambette
- 4 Viol
- 4 Salicet
- 4 Flute
- 4 Harmonic Flute
- 4 Lieblich Flute
- 4 Vox Humanas
- 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> Twelfth (Fl.)
- 2 Piccolo (Fl.)
- 2 Harmonic Piccolo
- 2 Lieblich Piccolo
- 4 Principal
- Mixture III
- 8 Piano
- 4 Piano
- Sub Harp
- Harp
- Sub Chrysoglott
- Chrysoglott
- Snare Drum
- Tambourine
- Castanets
- Tap Cymbal
- Sizzle Cymbal
- Choke Cymbal
- Chinese Block
- Selective Traps

- 4 Accomp. Octave
- 8 Solo to Accomp.

### Great

- 16 Solo Post Horn
- 16 English Post Horn
- 16 Solo Trumpet
- 16 Trumpet (Metal)
- 16 Harmonic Trumpet
- 16 Bombarde
- 16 Ophicleide
- 16 Open Diapason
- 16 Diaphonic Horn
- 16 Tibia Clausa (S)
- 16 Tibia Clausa
- 16 Saxophone
- 16 Musette
- 16 Orchestral Oboe
- 16 Clarinet
- 16 Strings Ensemble (Sel.)
- 16 Bourdon
- 16 Vox Humana (S)
- 16 Vox Humana
- 8 Solo Post Horn
- 8 English Post Horn
- 8 Solo Trumpet
- 8 Trumpet (Metal)
- 8 Harmonic Trumpet
- 8 Tuba Mirabilis
- 8 Tuba Horn
- 8 Diaphonic Diapason
- 8 Open Diapason
- 8 Horn Diapason
- 8 Tibia Clausa (S)
- 8 Tibia Clausa
- 8 Saxophone
- 8 Kinura
- 8 Krumet

8 Musette	<b>Bombarde</b>	4 Bombarde Octave	Sub Chrysoglott
8 Orchestral Oboe	16 Solo Post Horn	Great to Bombarde	Chrysoglott
8 Clarinet	16 English Post Horn	Great Octave to	Xylophone
8 Solo String	16 Solo Trumpet	Bombarde	Glockenspiel
8 Gamba	16 Trumpet (Metal)		Orchestral Bells
8 Viol D'Orchestre	16 Harmonic Trumpet	<b>Solo</b>	Sleigh Bells
8 Salicional	16 Bombarde	8 Solo Post Horn	Solo Birds
8 Oboe Horn	16 Ophicleide	8 English Post Horn	Cathedral Chimes
8 Quintadena	16 Diaphone	8 Solo Trumpet	
8 Concert Flute	16 Tibia Clausa (S)	8 Trumpet (Metal)	<b>Accompaniment</b>
8 Lieblich Flute	16 Tibia Clausa	8 Harmonic Trumpet	<b>Second Touch</b>
8 Vox Humana (S)	16 Saxophone	8 Tuba Mirabilis	8 Solo Post Horn
8 Vox Humana	16 Orchestral Reeds (Sel.)	8 Tuba Horn	8 English Post Horn
5 1/3 Tibia Quint (Sel.)	16 Clarinet	8 Diaphonic Diapason	8 Solo Trumpet
4 Octave (Open)	16 Vox Humana (S)	8 Open Diapason	8 Trumpet (Metal)
4 Octave Horn	16 Vox Humana	8 Horn Diapason	8 Harmonic Trumpet
4 Piccolo (S)	8 Solo Post Horn	8 Tibia Clausa (S)	8 Tuba Mirabilis
4 Piccolo	8 English Post Horn	8 Tibia Clausa	8 Tuba Horn
4 Solo String	8 Solo Trumpet	8 Saxophone	8 Diaphonic Diapason
4 Gambette	8 Trumpet (Metal)	8 Kinura	8 Tibia Clausa (S)
4 Viol	8 Harmonic Trumpet	8 Krumet	8 Clarinet
4 Salicet	8 Tuba Mirabilis	8 Musette	4 Piccolo (S)
4 Flute	8 Tuba Horn	8 Orchestral Oboe	8 Piano
4 Harmonic Flute	8 Diaphonic Diapason	8 Clarinet	Sub Harp
4 Lieblich Flute	8 Open Diapason	8 Strings Ensemble (Sel.)	Octave Glockenspiel
4 Vox Humanas	8 Horn Diapason	8 Oboe Horn	Cathedral Chimes
3 1/5 Tibia Tenth (S)	8 Tibia Clausa (S)	8 Quintadena	Triangle
2 2/3 Tibia Twelfth (S)	8 Tibia Clausa	8 Concert Flute	4 Great Octave to Accomp.
2 2/3 Tibia Twelfth	8 Saxophone	8 Lieblich Flute	Solo to Accomp.
2 2/3 Twelfth (Fl.)	8 Krumet	8 Vox Humana (S)	<b>Great Second Touch</b>
2 Piccolo (Tibia) (S)	8 Musette	8 Vox Humana	16 Solo Post Horn
2 Piccolo (Tibia)	8 Orchestral Oboe	4 Octave (Open)	16 English Post Horn
2 Fifteenth (V.D.O.)	8 Clarinet	4 Octave Horn	16 Solo Trumpet
2 Piccolo	8 Strings Ensemble (Sel.)	4 Piccolo (S)	16 Trumpet (Metal)
2 Harmonic Piccolo	8 Concert Flute	4 Piccolo	8 Solo Post Horn
2 Lieblich Piccolo	8 Lieblich Flute	4 Strings Ensemble (Sel.)	Solo to Great
1 3/5 Tibia Tierce (S)	8 Vox Humana (S)	4 Flute	Great Pizzacato (Sel.)
1 3/5 Tierce	8 Vox Humana	4 Harmonic Flute	Sub Solo to Great Pizz.
1 1/3 Tibia Larigot (Sel.)	5 1/3 Tibia Quint (Sel.)	4 Lieblich Flute	Solo to Great Pizz.
1 Fife (Sel.)	4 Octave (Open)	2 2/3 Tibia Twelfth (S)	
8 Trumpet En chamade	4 Octave Horn	2 2/3 Tibia Twelfth	<b>Rank Selectors</b>
4 Principal	4 Piccolo (S)	2 Piccolo (Tibia) (S)	Tibia & Vox (S1)
2 Principal	4 Piccolo	2 Piccolo (Tibia)	Tibia & Vox (S11)
Mixture III	4 Strings Ensemble (Sel.)	2 Harmonic Piccolo	Gamba Celeste and
16 Great Sub Octave	4 Flute	2 Lieblich Piccolo	Solo String Celeste
Great Unison Off	4 Harmonic Flute	1 3/5 Tibia Tierce (S)	Viol Celeste
5 1/3 Great Fifth	4 Lieblich Flute	1 3/5 Tibia Tierce	Viox Celeste I (Sal.)
4 Great Octave	2 2/3 Tibia Twelfth (S)	1 1/3 Tibia Larigot (S)	Viox Celeste II (Sal.)
2 2/3 Greath Twelfth	2 2/3 Tibia Twelfth	1 Fife (Sel.)	Horn Diapason Celeste
Solo Sub to Great	2 2/3 Lieblich Twelfth	8 Trumpet En chamade	Quintadena Celeste
Solo to Great	2 Piccolo (Tibia) (S)	4 Principal	Flute Celeste
<b>Backrail</b>	2 Piccolo (Tibia)	Mixture III	
16 Piano	2 Harmonic Piccolo	16 Solo Sub Octave	<b>Tremulants</b>
8 Piano	2 Lieblich Piccolo	Solo Unison Off	Main
4 Piano	1 Fife (Sel.)	6 2/5 Solo Third	Main Strings
Harp	8 Trumpet En chamade	5 1/3 Solo Fifth	Solo
Chrysoglott	4 Principal	4 4/7 Solo Seventh	Solo Strings
Xylophone	Mixture III	4 Solo Octave	Tibia (S1 & S11)
Glockenspiel	8 Piano	<b>Backrail</b>	Tibia (M)
Orchestral Bells	Harp	4 Calliope	Vox Humana (S1 & S11)
	Chrysoglott	2 Band Fife	Vox Humana (M)
	Xylophone	Accordion	Diaphonic Diapason
	Glockenspiel	8 Piano	Tuba Horn
	16 Bombarde Sub Octave	Sub Harp	Tuba Mirabilis
	Bombarde Unison Off	Harp	Vibraphone
			Percussions Reit