



Chapter Notes

ALABAMA

Birmingham

205/942-5611 or 205/644-3606

September found a new Southerner, Jerry Myers, at the console of The Alabama Theatre's Wurlitzer. Jerry has recently moved to the Atlanta area and contacted us after hearing Tom Hazleton's recording done at The Alabama. After a little correspondence and a few phone calls, Jerry was "lined-up" for our chapter meeting. Jerry's program was varied and lots of fun.

October was undeniably the Alabama Chapter's busiest month ever. The 1988 ATOS Regional Convention, October 14-16, kept chapter members buzzing! We all truly had a wonderful time hosting the convention. Everyone worked hard and did a great job. The October 23 chapter meeting allowed the presentation of the Nominating Committee for 1989 Officers and Board of Directors. A packed house was found at The Alabama on October 29 as Tom Helms accompanied the annual performance of *The Phantom Of The Opera*. This year a new treat was added as Kathryn Tucker Windham, noted author and storyteller, opened the show with ghost stories. Over 2000 people filled the approximately 2200-seat house.

Gary W. Jones

ATLANTA

404/434-8451 or 404/948-0267

On July 24, we went video at Theatrical Paraphernalia to see special tapes on the great movie palaces in the United States. Narrated by Gene Kelly and Gaylord Carter, and featuring performances by Jesse and Helen Crawford, Don Baker, Ann Leaf, Gaylord Carter, Lyn Larsen, Carlo Curley, Hector Olivera and others, the program was created with the collaboration of several chapter members and produced with the technical skills of member Ron Carter — a fascinating trip back in time!

Dennis James showed his usual fine technique when, on August 29, he accompanied the silent *Phantom of the Opera*, (as it was presented in 1925) on the Atlanta Fox 4/43 Moller.

Dolton McAlpin, who practices law in partnership with his wife, Lidia, in Stockville, Mississippi, came over to entertain us on Theatrical Paraphernalia's 2/9 Robert-Morton on September 18. His fine

program included selections from *Music Man* as well as some by Romberg, Irving Berlin and others. We enjoyed it very much.

On October 24, we held a reception at Theatrical Paraphernalia for noted British theatre organist Trevor Bolshaw, who was here to perform at Georgia State University. He did not get away, however, without dazzling us with his virtuosity on the 2/9 Robert-Morton.

Finally, on October 26, John Muri gave us an old-time silent movie evening at Grant Park Aldersgate United Methodist Church. He accompanied the Buster Keaton film, *The General*, on the 3/7 Kimball theatre organ. Hilarious, of course, and John's splendid performance was greatly appreciated, as was the church's willingness to have us there.

Bill Hitchcock



Dolton McAlpin on the Theatrical Paraphernalia's 2/9 Robert-Morton.



(L to R): Charles Walker, owner of Theatrical Paraphernalia and its 2/9 Robert-Morton; Trevor Bolshaw, noted British theatre organist; and Nelson Guard, President of Atlanta Chapter.



Ron Carter adjusts the video for the special tapes we enjoyed.



John Muri on the theatre organ in Grand Park Aldersgate United Methodist Church.



CENTRAL INDIANA
Indianapolis
317/255-8056 or 317/787-4865

Our September meeting was a joint venture with the Indianapolis Organ Club, as Phil and Betty Hedback graciously opened their home and grounds to 150 members and guests for a catered picnic. The entertainment portion of the afternoon was ably handled by one of our newer members, Warren York. Mr. York is a self-taught musician who began playing when he was sixteen and now travels with his electronic organs and plays professional engagements in and around his home town of Urbana, Illinois. On this occasion, he brought his Lowrey Celebration, and opened his program with a prophetic "This Could Be The Start of Something Good." Other selections were "Stardust," "Isn't It Romantic?" and "If I Didn't Care." He used the Lowrey's rhythm unit to advantage on several numbers and concluded his program with a Hawaiian medley. Open console was an extra treat, and after several members entertained us, Mr. York was coaxed back to the console to play again for an audience reluctant to leave. Good food, good friends and good music — what more could one want on a beautiful fall afternoon in Indiana?

In October, we journeyed southeast to Shelbyville, Indiana, to the home of Carol and Maurice Finkel, a lovely home which houses three grand pianos, two reed organs, one electronic organ and



Warren York, guest artist for Central Indiana September meeting. *B. Johnson photo*

three (yes, count 'em, three!) pipe organs. Our artist for the occasion was Mr. Kurt von Schakel, who opened with "Japanette" on his personal favorite of the pipe organs, the two-manual Robert-Morton, and then switched to the 3/20 Louisville Uniphone for the balance of his program which included "I Like The Likes of You," "Not While I'm Around" from *Sweeney Todd* and the lyrical "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square." It is always a pleasure to hear Mr. von Schakel and to enjoy the hospitality of the Finkels. Needless to say, there were more than enough instruments to go around for open console.

Members Bob Thomas, Floyd Perry, Jack Pollock and Barbara Johnson were among the organists who played for the "Great TV Auction" which benefits WFYI Television in Indianapolis. This Auction is the main fund-raiser for the station each year, and we were happy to be part of it.

Progress continues on the Manual High School organ, thanks to the efforts of Kevin Aikman and dedicated volunteers. Eight of the eleven ranks of pipes in the Main chamber have been installed, including a new Wurlitzer Oboe Horn. Some winding and offset work remains to be done, and then it's off to the Solo chamber! We are all very excited about this instrument which will be ready for the 1990 Convention. *Barbara Johnson*



Kurt von Schakel at the console of the 3/20 Louisville Uniphone in the Finkel home, Shelbyville, Indiana. *Don Newswanger photo*

CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

614/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

As it was time to "bring it on line" for concertizing, John Polesley's 3/12 mostly Wurlitzer got its baptism October 22 when international artist Tom Wibbels played a concert for the Champaign County Arts Council. This fund-raising event featured a catered candlelit dinner at the Polesley home prior to the program. Tom's theme was "The Golden Years of Theatre Organ," which traced the history of the instrument from the 1920s to the present with musical illustrations of various periods in the organ's popularity. Notable renditions were "China Doll," "Elephant Boy" and "Under Paris Skies." His closing "Climb Every Mountain," from *The Sound of Music*, brought him a well-deserved standing ovation. Dr. Polesley, who suffered an all-time high level of anxiety concerning the reliability of the instrument, had only one small, innocuous cipher to correct.

Even on a dull, gray day with a steady, fine rain, 25 members and guests found their way to the home of Janet and Charles Prior, Jr., for our annual meeting on October 23. After the business meeting and election of directors for the coming year, Charles presented a delightful program on his Conn 651 which was followed by open console music by a number of our playing members. A buffet of Halloween and harvest time dishes, together with an outdoor backdrop of colorful autumn leaves, made the day a festive occasion. *John Polesley*



The copying machine is said to be the single most important factor in the decline of serious music publishing.

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

203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269



Dan Bellomy autographing one of his albums at his September concert. Rita Goodkin photo

Our annual picnic was held at the home of Rich Marshall and Jimmie Miller in Windsor, Connecticut, on August 13. The grills were fired up and that, coupled with one of the longest hot, dry spells in some time, called for ample hamburgers and hot dogs to go with a generous supply of cooling beverages. There was no organ, but there was a fine stereo system and those in attendance were treated to the latest theatre organ releases on compact discs.

Dan Bellomy opened our concert season at Shelton High School on Saturday, September 24. This was Dan's third appearance in Connecticut, and his introduction to our 3/12 Austin. Many of Dan's Connecticut fans turned out to welcome him back.

Our October membership meeting was held at Shelton High School on October 8. Our guest artist was Bob Legon from our neighbor chapter, Eastern Massachusetts. Bob never fails to get more interesting sounds from theatre organs, and he did not disappoint the enthusiastic audience with his ninety-minute concert. Barry Goodkin



Bob Legon at the console of the Shelton High School 3/12 Austin. Barry Goodkin photo

THEATRE ORGAN



John Steele introducing his next selection.

DELAWARE VALLEY

Philadelphia
215/566-1764

On October 22 we traveled to the home of Richard Kline in Thurmont, Maryland, where with members of other chapters we heard a program presented by noted organist John Steele playing the Wurlitzer organ located in Mr. Kline's studio. Mr. Steele is an expert in knowing how to please his audience.

His performance was followed by open console. Here, too, Mr. Steele generously offered his help with registration to those people who requested it.

A word about the instrument might be interesting. Mr. Kline's Wurlitzer was originally located in the Fox-Capitol Theatre (at another time it was the 'Loew's Capitol Theatre) in Washington, D.C. When the theatre was demolished in 1963, Mr. Kline acquired the instrument and installed it in his home, incorporating into this Wurlitzer another Wurlitzer from the Manos Theatre in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and adding a fourth manual to the original three-manual console. It would take a much longer article than this one to describe adequately this magnificent instrument and its setting.

For Delaware Valley members to come to the Kline residence to hear and play this instrument is a major event, and for this writer in particular it is a doubly interesting experience because he remembers in 1946 hearing many times this instrument in its original setting in the Loew's Capitol Theatre.

The Society thanks Mr. Kline once again for inviting us to his home.

Earl E. Strausser

Due to printer's error, the Allen Organ response card offering the Beacham recording was accidentally dropped from the November/December 1988 issue. This tape is still available and the offering card is back in this issue.



EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Wellesley
617/662-7055

We held a most enjoyable joint meeting with the Rhode Island chapter of AGO and SENETOS on September 25. Our own John Cook was the featured artist and played a winning program on that big, gorgeous 5/21 Wurlitzer. John has played that instrument several times in public concerts and knows how to use its many voices. The colorful "Radetsky March" opened his all-too-brief program. With the pizzicato relay now restored, John made use of it in his catchy "Summer Me, Winter Me." While his portion of the program ended with "That's A'Plenty," it wasn't for his audience. Members of the three groups took advantage of open console. It was a rare opportunity, not to be missed — a big, five-manual Wurlitzer in a beautifully restored theatre — what a musical challenge!

"The Wizard of the Wurlitzer," Robert Wolfe, was our performer at Babson on October 22. A large crowd greeted the young Englishman for his first visit with us and all were quickly won over by his engaging console personality. This man of few words and much good music is certainly deserving of his advance reputation and of the mantle of "Wizard" with his amazing console dexterity. His flying hands, double pedaling and cross-legged double pedaling has to be seen and heard to be believed. Mr. Wolfe's artistry demands an organ in tip-top condition, and our "old gal" measured up without a protest. That was a tribute to the hard-working organ crew and volunteers who put in so many hours of work during the very hot summer. As a result of repositioning our two blowers, installing new windlines, a large muffler box and insulation, there are now no noises heard in the auditorium. The college re-draped the hall, including the four chamber openings, with acoustical material, so the sound really gets out.

Robert Wolfe plays mostly long medleys, and his selections had an international flavor, drawing from both sides of the Atlantic. This, plus his variations of tempi, enhanced our interest. His smooth bridging and accuracy, despite his instantaneous registration changes, show why he is one of England's top organists, and his reputation is rapidly growing in the eastern United States. Wolfe encouraged singing, and his audience participated. Spontaneous applause was given after many of his numbers and, at the end, there were many heard to remark,

continued...

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS cont.

"WOW!" and "When will HE be coming again?" It is a sure bet that this young man will again grace our console bench!

Our first fall meeting at Babson on October 30 had member Ed ("Big Ed") Wawrzynowicz give his first theatre organ concert, although he has given many on electronics. From his introductory "The Best of Times" to his encore, "God Bless America," Ed gave us a nice variety of selections. For variety, Ed had a friend of his, the "Voice of the Boston Celtics," Fred Tagg, lend his fine and powerful voice to four numbers, including the encore. With our Wurlitzer in such fine voice, it was another pleasant meeting and made one glad of such great interest — the theatre pipe organ!

Stanley C. Garniss



Garden State officers (L to R) Denise Andersen, George Andersen and Bob Norris.

Jinny Vanore photo



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

With summer over, chapter members now look forward to a busy, interesting fall schedule.

Dark, rainy streets did not deter our members from attending our fifteenth annual installation of officers and banquet at the Trenton War Memorial on September 17. Buffet and cocktail/snack tables were set up on the stage and all enjoyed the background music from the 3/16 Moller. The party atmosphere continued throughout the meal as members reminisced about their summer activities. The highlight of the evening was the thank you and presentation of our GSTOS plaque to retiring President Bruce Williams. The name, office and years of service are inscribed and placed on an attractive wood plaque holding a wooden flute pipe. Vice President Bob Norris also received one, and Fred Portz was commended for his outstanding work as sub-

stitute recording secretary and organizer of the membership books. Following this, the members took seats in the auditorium and enjoyed a mini-concert by Tim Hoag.

The first of a five-concert series was held on September 25 at the Trenton War Memorial. Robert Maidof and Dave Messineo were the "Dynamic duo" who starred in this concert. Both are excellent organists, and each performed many solos on the Moller, but the exciting part of the program was the piano and organ duets with Bob at the organ and Dave at the concert grand. Their music showed creativity, skillful coordination and many hours of practice. For their final selection, both artists went to the organ console, selected their own manuals and proceeded to "Wow" the audience with their rock version of Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue." This was a delightful concert, enjoyed by all. The tones of the piano were clearly heard via a new sound system which has been donated by our chapter founding father, Bob Balfour. Local expert George Anderson installed the huge speakers on the stage. Thank you, Bob. Thank you, George. The concert was followed by a "bring-your-own-picnic" on the stage. Compliments were given to our stage production group for the striking, 30-foot, black and white key-

board which decorated the stage during the concert.

Father James Miller's first concert for Garden State took place at the Trenton War Memorial on October 30. This was the second of the five-concert series at the War Memorial. Father Jim lives up to his reputation with his smooth, laid-back, bluesy renditions of Fats Waller, Duke Ellington and other jazz notables. It was interesting to hear blues played so well on a pipe organ. His patter was entertaining and the audience loved him. A new venture was inaugurated after the concert: the audience was asked to sign up for a tour through the pipe chambers. It is a well-known fact that most pipe chambers are accessible only to hardy crew members who are able to climb tall, iron ladders, but the Trenton War Memorial really outdoes itself by having wide, cement steps leading right to each of the chambers. 110 people took advantage of this, and the results were very successful. A happy picnic supper on the stage followed the concert. Here, too, Father Miller entertained with lots of jokes — so, some were a little corny — but the name of the game was fun and all there had lots of it.

Jinny Vanore

continued ...



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GARDEN STATE cont.



George Andersen (left) and Bob Balfour checking new sound system. Tony Juno photo



Dave Messineo (left) and Bob Maidof at Moller console. Tony Juno photo



Production crew members Elaine Dawson, Michael Cipolletti with organist Bob Maidof. Jinny Vanore photo



Father Jim Miller at Moller console. Jinny Vanore photo



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

Members Martin Lilley and Dr. Ed Mullins visited England recently where they visited The Plough, a Public House, home of the Mighty 3/10 Compton Organ, with Melotone unit. The organ was installed in the Gaumont Theatre, Finchley from 1938 to 1967. The pub is operated by Margaret and Tony Merridale.

Ena Baga was playing there and was celebrating her sixtieth year in show business that night. She played a delightful "Poodle Parade" by Robert Farnon and "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel (Ravel, the famous French composer, bestowed the title "The Poet of the Organ" on Jesse Crawford in 1928 while visiting the New York Paramount Theatre).

Lilley and Mullins also visited the Musical Museum, Brentford, as guests of curator Frank W. Holland. The museum completed its 25th Anniversary season. Three Jesse Crawford organ rolls were played on the 3/11 "Regal" Wurlitzer: #5331 - Liebestraume; #5382 - Pale Moon; and #5376 - Trees. Holland also played rolls, on the Aeolian organ, of Emil Velazco, Lew White, Pietro Yon and Edward Lemare. The museum was featured October 31 on BBC-1 television program, "Electric Avenue."

October 27 the pair were joined by chapter member Father Gerard Kerr and his housekeeper, Miss Mai Fitzgerald, on a drive to Wooton, Northampton, to Susan and Nigel Turner's Musical Merry-Go-Round. An 1896 Merry-Go-Round, with Verbeek 72-Key street organ, is housed in a large building with several large band organs. The main attraction is a 3/19 Wurlitzer theatre organ. Built in 1931 and installed in 1932 in the New-

castle Paramount Theatre, it was installed in Kitchen Brothers' motorcar showroom in the 1960s, in Diss in Norfolk. The Turner family purchased it in 1982. Enlarged to 19 ranks with an added Quintadena and Tierce and Octave couplers as well as a grand piano, the organ opened in 1983. Martin Lilley, who is a television engineer with Ampex, marvelled at their sophisticated TV system that employs six cameras with two projectors enabling the audience to see the organists hands and feet playing.

Nicholas Martin, age 24, resident organist for over five years since its opening, did a splendid job. A small TV monitor enabled him to see what was on the audience's big screens. Martin has been playing organ since he was nine. He played two years at the Tower Ballroom Wurlitzer, Blackpool before coming to Turner's. He has played concerts in 1985 and 1987 on the 4/43 mostly Wurlitzer at the Kirk of Dunedin, Florida. He has a return engagement there in February 1989 when he will play four concerts.

October 28 was Club Night at Edith and Les Rawle's Wurlitzer Lodge in Northolt. Father Kerr, Lilley and Mullins are also members of the London and South of England Chapter. Len Rawle played the 28th Anniversary concert at the 3/19 Wurlitzer, as is his wont. Len played a special Crawford number for the visitors. He played "A Broken Rosary" using Jesse Crawford's own music from when he recorded it at the 4/20 Wurlitzer at London's Empire Theatre, Leicester Square in 1933. It was lovely!

Dr. Mullins had made arrangements with the British Film Institute, National Film Archive, 21 Stephen Street, London, to view a rare silent film made about 1928. Crawford chapter members Kerr, Lilley and Mullins and London chapter members Pat and Derek Rogers, Cyril Gott and Len Rawle were guests of the Crawford chapter as were Ron Stern of the Cinema Organ Society and Charlie Kerr, Father Kerr's brother. The film was

continued...

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JESSE CRAWFORD cont.

of The Rudolph Wurlitzer Manufacturing Company, North Tonawanda, New York, and showed various shots of the Wurlitzer factory and the surrounding gardens and fountains. Unfortunately the film at the B.F.I. is incomplete. The organ crew members who viewed the film found it very instructive and interesting. ATOS members who visit London and wish to see the film can make arrangements by telephoning the B.F.I. at 01-255-1444 and ask for Miss Clare Reihill of the Viewing Service. The fee is about four pounds Sterling.

The Museum of the Moving Image is a newly opened cinema and television museum situated right under Waterloo Bridge, behind the National Film Theatre on London's South Bank near Royal Festival Hall. M.O.M.I. takes you on a journey from cinema's earliest experiments to the operations of a television studio. Royal Festival Hall has early evening organ concerts on Wednesdays. In the M.O.M.I. section on the musical accompaniment there is a piano that accompanies a silent film. In the huge display there is a photograph of a theatre organ. The explanation alongside it reads: "Cinema organs came into use around 1919. The sophisticated Wurlitzer organ, seen here, was introduced into Britain in the mid 1920s." Upon close inspection of the elaborate console with fruit jelly surround you can read the nameplate — "COMPTON."

Ed Mullins



Nicolas Martin at 3/19 Wurlitzer, Turner's Musical Merry-Go-Round, Wooton, Northampton, England.
Ed Mullins photo



Dr. Ed. Mullins with Ena Baga at 3/10 Compton at The Plough.
Martin Lilley photo



Len Rawle at parents' 3/19 Wurlitzer, Wurlitzer Lodge.
Ed Mullins photo



**It's Music
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JULY 2-8, 1989



Miss Ena Baga at The Plough, Great Munden, Hertsfordshire, England. Margaret Merridale surprised Miss Baga with a beautiful floral arrangement.
Ed Mullins photo



Frank Holland, M.B.E., Curator of The Musical Museum, Brentford, Middlesex, England, seated at 3/11 Wurlitzer with roll-player console.
Ed Mullins photo

Father James Miller

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We do have extreme weather conditions here in Minnesota — hardly had time to put our hot weather clothing away when we're searching for our boots — a sign of what is to come was a two-inch snowfall on November 5!

October 23 at the World Theatre in downtown St. Paul was a pleasant afternoon when our board met briefly before member Jim Kennedy took over at the Wurlitzer. Jim is an old-timer at any organ and it is very evident in the way he uses the stops, keyboards and his repertoire of tunes. He played almost steadily for an hour, recalling some melodies and tunes we haven't heard in a while. It was open console after that, and our members are becoming braver as they take their turns at this magnificent instrument at the World.

Several chapter organ buffs attended concerts held on October 23 and 24 at the Christ Episcopal Church in Woodbury, a suburb of St. Paul, when Richard Purvis, famous American composer and concert organist, dedicated their new Rod-

gers — a very elaborate machine utilizing both pipes and electronic voices. The four-manual console has more stops than the Minneapolis Auditorium's Kimball. Mr. Purvis performed all very listenable classical selections and, in the second half, played all his own compositions. The organ is located in the rear of the church and a picture screen was placed on the stage in front of the audience so we could all watch him from our seats. Very interesting.

Dennis James, at the Wurlitzer at the World Theatre on October 28, played, in his own inimitable style, some very spooky music appropriate for Halloween for fifteen minutes before the 1932 restored movie *Doctor X* which featured Fay Wray, known as the "Scream Queen," Lionel Atwill and Preston Foster. Fay Wray, in person, 81-years-young, introduced the movie and shared reminiscences about her role in the formative years of motion pictures. After the film, she again came on stage to answer questions from the audience. As Dennis played some concluding tunes, people gathered around the organ and were spellbound! We observed the young people in the audience looking curiously around the theatre as sounds emanated from the chambers, not ever having realized there was such a wonderful instrument in the Twin Cities! *Verna Mae Wilson*



Mike Erie at the Wurlitzer, World Theatre, open console.



Jim Kennedy in a relaxed moment after his program at the World Theatre.

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Our August concert at Kilburn featured our "Young Professionals," Rachael Ward, David Redfern, Peter Holt and Martin Harris, who were all determined to give of their best. Attendance was very good, and we were soon assured that the future of theatre organ is safe in these young artists' hands. All patrons left with smiles on their faces and a sense of pride in these young folk.

Our competition day, September 18, was another chapter experience with seven young entrants surprising us with their talent. Our worthy adjudicators were Frank Fowler, Dr. Joanna Fraser, and Walford James, with Nigel Ogden, BBC, to chair the competition. The boys won this year, but the girls are determined to alter the position. It was a lovely day, and we hope to show off this talent in our Safari in 1989.

Our August meeting was held at Wurlitzer Lodge where 11-year-old Benjamin Vine admirably entertained us at the Wurlitzer. His approach to music from the shows was a delight to hear, with good phrasing and registration. We predict that Ben is definitely a face for the future. Keep an eye out, U.S.A.! Geoffrey Solman played the second half of the program. Every time we hear Geoffrey, he gets better and better. We are happy to say that he has agreed to join Dena Cooper on our committee. In this way, we can keep pace with ideas from the younger generation.

We are pleased that attendances are increasing at our concerts, and we are proud to report that the BBC recorded Martin Harris at the Northolt Wurlitzer. Nigel Ogden from the BBC "Organist Entertains" program, came along to produce the recording. The next day the team were at the Top Rank Club at Kilburn to record William Davies at the Torch Wurlitzer. This is the first recording in many years, so many fans are pleased to know the mighty theatre organ is back on the air.

We have had a good year, and hope that 1989 will bring us even more young people to share our interests.

Edith Rawle



"Stars of Tomorrow" - Anthony Milligan (19), Steven Young (18), Jason Pfeiffer (15), Willie Harbert (14), Gwen Harbert (15), Jason Koh (12), Patrick Dusenberry (10).
Zimfoto



Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society

P. O. Box 1913, Glendale, California 91209

213/217-9202 or 818/792-7084

After our tremendously successful membership meeting at John Ledwon's home on August 28, we took the month of September off. However, we got back to concerts on October 2 with our very own Ty Woodward at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. This was a kick-off concert for Ty's October concert tour, which I'm sure some of you were privileged to hear. He opened with "Cabaret," a lively number to start the show. "The Music of the Night" from *Phantom of the Opera* was an enjoyable tune. Of course, since Ty is also a very talented classical organist he included his own arrangement of Bach's "Concerto in A Minor" after Vivaldi, and "Trumpet Tune in D" by Purcell. The surprise for the concert was a great scoring of the classic silent *Freddy at the Throttle*. Other numbers included "March of the Wooden Soldiers," "Everything's Coming Up Roses" and "Days of Wine and Roses" plus a Scott Joplin tune. The audience certainly enjoyed the program, and Ty was called back for two encores.

On November 6, the young artists' competition, "Stars of Tomorrow," was presented at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. This star-studded event opened with the announcement that our scholarship fund has been renamed the "Annie Olive Memorial Scholarship Fund" in honor of the late Annie Olive, a long-time supporter of LATOS and well known to many members of ATOS. Our emcee for the afternoon, local organist Rosemary Bailey, brought the console up and introduced the judges: Ty Woodward, Tony Wilson, John Ledwon, and Stan Kann. The winner of the Junior Division was twelve-year-old Jason Koh from Arcadia. Patrick Dusenberry from Van Nuys won second place. In the Youth One Division, Jason Pfeiffer, the Junior Division winner in 1986, was the winner. Jason is also from Arcadia. Willie Harbert and Gwen

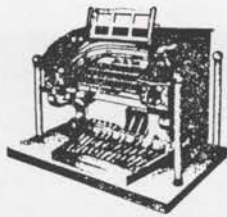
Harbert, brother and sister from San Diego, took second and third places respectively. Anthony Milligan, from San Diego, was the winner of the Youth Two Division. Second place winner was Steven Young, who is also from San Diego. After an intermission, each of the judges took a turn at the console. This was the fifteenth "Stars of Tomorrow" show, and Donn Linton introduced Deke Warner, one of the people instrumental in that first contest, to present the awards to the young artists. Mr. Warner reminded the audience that Candi Carley, Jerry Nagano, Wayne Seppala, and John Brown were among the seven contestants in that contest. Deke presented President Donn Linton with the master tape of that contest before presenting the awards. Ms. Bailey closed the show taking the console down leaving the contestants and the Stars of Tomorrow Committee on stage to receive a final round of applause from the audience. Good luck to all the participants! We are looking forward to hearing more from each of these young people in the future!

Wayne Flottman



Ty Woodward at San Gabriel Civic.

Zimfoto



MOTOR CITY
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 313/537-1133

A gala celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the opening of the Redford Theatre was held on September 16-17. Master of ceremonies Don Lockwood gave a brief history of the theatre and narrated a slide presentation, prepared by Donald Martin, of early photographs of the building and the recent restoration of the foyer. Colonel Jack Moelmann accompanied the Buster Keaton silent film *The General*, making his entrance on stage in a 1931 Ford sports roadster.

A historical marker, designating the Redford Theatre as a state historic site, was presented to President Robert Duerr by a member of the Michigan Historical Commission. The theatre is already on the National Register of Historic Places. A proclamation, signed by the members of the City Council of the City of Detroit, was also read.

The annual picnic was held at Halmich Park in Warren on September 18, and featured games supervised by social chairmen Irene FitzGerald and Marvin Spear, as well as a potluck supper, all of which fortunately occurred before a storm suddenly ended the affair.

Stan Kann appeared in concert at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on October 1. It was Stan's first program for our chapter, and an enthusiastic audience enjoyed his program and antics which included a demonstration of several primitive vacuum cleaners.

Melissa Ambrose and Brian Carmody have been added to our list of organists who play for our biweekly classic film series at the Redford.

Norm Keating, a professional musician, now retired, who played piano, guitar and organ for dances and in supper clubs, was our Fourth Sunday artist



Don Lockwood and Jack Moelmann are interviewed by Florence Larimer on radio station WCAR prior to Redford's 60th Anniversary celebration. Ray Van Steenkiste photo

at the 3/16 Barton at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Sunday morning, September 25. Sharron Patterson, who is a regular performer for the classic film series at the Redford and currently is the regular organist at three different churches, was the artist for our Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak on October 23.

Our Young Organist Competition, this year chaired by Brian Carmody, will be held at the Redford Theatre on March 5.

For more information, write: Motor City Theatre Organ Society, 17360 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan 48219, or phone 313/537-2560. Don Lockwood



Stan Kann at the 3/16 Barton organ at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. He was vacuum packed. Bo Hanley photo



Behind the scenes personnel for the Redford's 60th Anniversary program: Norwood Martin, Tom Hurst; Sally Montroy, who drove Jack Moelmann on the stage in her 1931 Ford, David Martin, Allen FitzGerald and Sandy Kreuger. Ray VanSteenkiste photo



Norm Keating at the Royal Oak Music Theatre in September. Jim Meyers photo



Sharron Patterson at the Royal Oak's Barton organ in October. Fred Page photo

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NEW YORK

914/457-5393 or 718/225-1643

Dan Bellomy opened our fall season on September 26 with a superb performance at the Beacon Theatre in Manhattan. Flawlessly rendering a wide range of musical selections, Dan provided a wonderful evening at Broadway's last remaining vintage movie palace (now performing arts theatre). Dan's unique arrangements and creative harmonies and registrations kept his program interesting to the very last note. The mood of the season was captured with his beautiful rendition of "September In The Rain." With two toe-tapping selections, "Teach Me Tonight" and "When You and I Were Young Maggie Blues," both from his new CD recording, Dan showed us why he has earned his reputation as a top jazz organist. He rounded out his program with several Broadway favorites. A beautiful and haunting arrangement of "I Have Dreamed" was his closing encore. He also took a moment to acknowledge the "New York connection" of great organists — Eddie Layton who inspired him and got him started while on tour for Hammond in Dan's home town in Texas; Ashley Miller, whose arrangements and recordings influenced him,

and Lee Erwin. Ashley and Lee both attended the concert. And as always, thanks to Mel Robinson and Joe Vanore, the Beacon's 4/19 Wurlitzer was in fine tune.

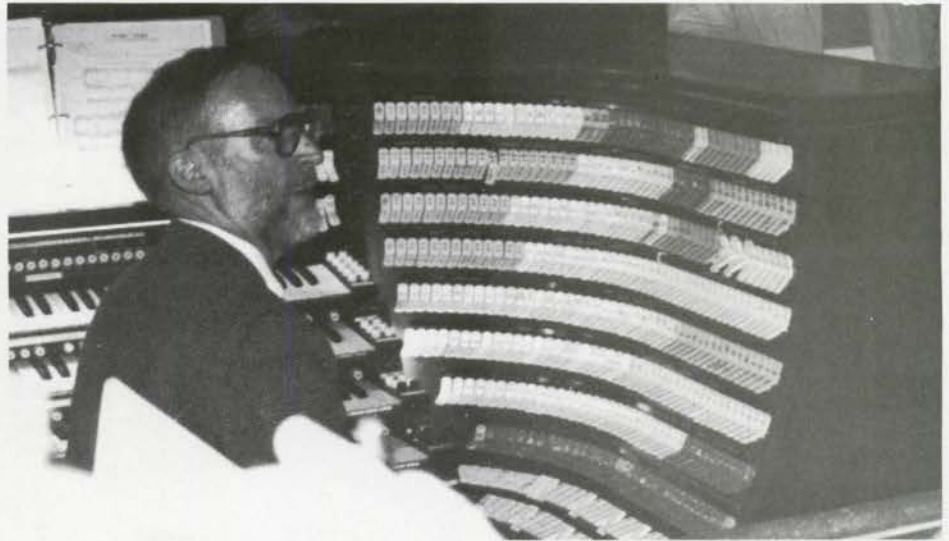
Chapter members boarded a charter bus in Manhattan on October 22 for our "Fall Festival" trip to the Hudson Highlands at the peak of the foliage season. First stop was West Point where Cadet Chapel Organist and Choirmaster Lee Dettra took us on a tour of the historic Academy grounds before heading to the Cadet Chapel for a concert and demonstration of the world's largest church organ. Lee interspersed his excellent musical performance with informative and interesting comments about the 4/299 (soon to be 301) Moller. He demonstrated the vast resources of the instrument with selections that included among others Elgar's "Imperial March," "Sweet 16th" by Albright, "Donkey Dance" by Elmore and "Finlandia." An unexpected surprise was a remarkable performance by Lee's fourteen-year-old son, Scott. A slight lad with a vast talent, Scott is in full command of the huge 1,000 stop horsehoe console that almost seems to engulf him. He rendered two selections for us, including a rousing "Washington Post March." The organ

world will certainly hear much more from this talented young man.

After leaving West Point, it was on to dinner and then to New York Military Academy in Cornwall for an outstanding performance by Rob Calcaterra at the 4/31 Moller. Rob blends his extraordinary musical talent with real showmanship to provide an evening of excellent theatre organ and delightful entertainment. The range of music presented demonstrated the versatility of both the artist and the instrument. Highlights of his program included such seasonal favorites as "Autumn in New York" and "Indian Summer," a creatively registered "Syncopated Clock" and "Brazil." Two contrasting popular classics played back to back were the Vidor "Toccata" impeccably performed, and a beautifully delicate arrangement of "Clair de Lune" registered with only one Flue stop on each manual. A Harold Lloyd silent comedy and a sing-along rounded out the evening. Rob received a well-deserved standing ovation from the enthusiastic audience. Thanks to Bob Seeley, Tom Stehle, Bob Welch and Lowell Sanders, the NYMA Moller, including a new pedal Bourdon that the crew had just installed, was ready for the demands of Rob's superb program. *Tom Stehle*



Dan Bellomy at the Beacon Theatre's 4/19 Wurlitzer.



West Point Cadet Chapel Organist Lee Dettra explains the intricacies of the 4/299 West Point Moller. *continued ...*

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Fourteen-year-old Scott Dettra performs at the West Point 4/299 Moller while his dad, Lee Dettra, Cadet Chapel organist looks on.



Rob Calcaterra greets his audience following his concert for the New York chapter at the New York Military Academy 4/31 Moller.



NOR-CAL
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 415/846-3496 or 415/524-7452

Our annual picnic was held at the home of Jack Gustafson and Richard Quigley. We were gifted with perfect weather for the backyard affair. It is often quite hot in San Jose in August, so we felt the 75 to 80-degree afternoon was just right. Jack and Richard have a very nice home with a beautiful yard and a fine music room for their 3/10 Kimball organ. The instrument sounds pretty as well as powerful. The new grand piano is wonderful, and the unique pneumatic action built by Jack for the accordion is very interesting. After lunch, Jack played a fine concert for us and included some interesting history about the cultivation of his Kimball pipe organ. Several members played open console following his program while the rest of us finished the remaining chips and cookies and downed another sip of soda or wine. As always, Aunt Blanch's lime jello, marshmallow, cottage cheese surprise was without peer! Our great thanks to Jack and Richard for opening their home to us.

We returned to the wonderful Castro Theatre in September for a very special program. Our artist was Ron Rhode. This was Ron's first time playing the Castro Wurlitzer, but, of course, the combination of such a fine instrument and a true artist was flawless. Two or three of his numbers were from Ron's new recording,

"Corn silk," which I highly recommend. Ron's playing is crisp, precise, energetic and tasteful. Two of his favorite areas of music are operettas and Ragtime, both of which were highlighted in his concert. It is a rare opportunity to have one of the top concert artists play for our chapter. We thank Ron and all who made this program possible.

We met in October at Angelino's Restaurant in San Jose. Our artist for the afternoon was Dick Bailey, who now plays the 3/12 Wurlitzer there on Thursday nights. There was a fine turnout, and many members arrived early to enjoy items from the very tempting menu. Dick opened with "Two Hearts in 3/4 Time," which set the rhythmic program in motion. He read the words to the poem, "The Rose," to us before playing a lovely rendition of the song. After intermission, Dick invited some young, restless children in the audience to help him play "Yellow Bird" with all the effects. This seemed to restore their patience and silence. The second half included music from *Top Hat*. Dick's arrangement of "Isn't It A Lovely Day" was quite nice. The program concluded with a medley from *The King And I*, for dear Virginia, who was there, and "Colonel Bogie's March." Dick plays ballads with gentleness and uptempo pieces with punch and great enthusiasm. The organ has some squeaks and rough spots, and, sadly, has had its Post Horn removed (sounds painful), but nothing a little attention cannot fix. Thank you, Dick and Angelino's, for making this program possible.

Kevin King



Ron Rhode at the Castro Theatre.



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NORTH FLORIDA

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The major organ dealers here have been supportive by providing meeting facilities and organs. They also supplied organs and artists for the first Jacksonville Organ Extravaganza on October 16, which we sponsored, and Susan Cole Keyboard Productions of Mt. Dora produced at the new Jewish Community Alliance Auditorium.

Our July meeting in the new Nice House of Music auditorium featured Winston Miller playing "oldies" on a Kawai and a quiz challenging the members to identify whether or not the brief excerpts of recorded music could be called theatre organ music.

Member Verdie Frampton arranged our August meeting at the store she manages for Kelly's Piano and Organ. Jim Lawson, also a member, entertained with our kind of music played on a Gulbransen.

We had a surprise treat at the September meeting in the home of Mark and Carrie Renwick. Midway through Mark's concert on his Rialto II, Carrie, who has a warm soprano voice of rare beauty, sang "Only A Rose," with Mark accompanying. After the rendition, Mark dashed into another room and returned with a single rose which he presented to his wife.

There was no October meeting in deference to the Organ Extravaganza when we heard superb artists Tony Testino, Rosemary Bailey, Gordon Leslie and Chris Anderson playing organs supplied by Allen, Technics, Kawai and Yamaha. This was an entertainment bargain!

Our chapter is fortunate to have discovered in our city a genuine, thoroughbred theatre pipe organist who got her start as relief organist for Milton Charles at the Chicago Theatre in the late 1920s. Despite her advancing years, Betty Gray Ragatz retains her youthful energy, charm and wit as a high-charge organist. She will play for our November meeting.

Erle Renwick



Father Jim Miller at the 3/8 Robert-Morton in Lakewood Theatre.



L to R: Irving Light, Father Miller, Ruth Light, Mabel Westbay, Lorena McKee, Margaret Friedel. John Friedel was behind the camera.



NORTH TEXAS

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

Father Jim Miller captured our North Texas audience in the Lakewood Theatre on November 3 and feasted them without mercy. This concert by the "Padre of the Pipes" won't be soon forgotten by these Texans. He wowed us with his music, his contagious humor and his warm humanity, but foremost with his superb musicality. His innovative and entertaining arrangements kept the audience in his magic spell. Father Miller's music was pure theatre organ with a rich coloring of blues and jazz idioms — and everyone loved it.

Recounting the song titles from his program does nothing to convey the lush harmonies, innovative progressions, intricate rhythms, flawlessly fingered glissandos and mordants, etc., that combine with his unique arrangements to make his music something special. Father Miller is no stranger to ATOS chapters everywhere, and you will all know the thrill we felt at hearing him play.

It has been six years since Father Miller last entertained us here in Dallas (at that time on the Scottish Rite's Wicks), but you can be certain that this enthusiastic audience will be asking for a return in a much shorter interval.

Our Robert-Morton behaved beautifully despite the workout afforded by Father Miller. Nary a cipher and it stayed in tune even through the tremors-off segments typical of the Miller arrangements. For this we thank the dedicated engineers who minister to this sixty-year-old beauty, notably Earl "Mac" MacDonald and Gordon Wright. We owe you much. Thank you!!



North Texas chapter met in October at home of Bill and Jean Hanson. President John Friedel with back to camera.

Dr. Bill Hanson and his wife, Jean, were hosts for our October meeting with Dr. Bill playing the program on his Allen digital theatre organ. In addition to his busy dental practice, Bill finds time to play organ in his church and also to be one of the chapter "pros" who alternate playing intermission music in the Lakewood Theatre on the chapter's 3/8 Robert-Morton. Bill showed off some of the selections he uses to entertain the Lakewood patrons, including wearing the Phantom of the Opera cape he uses on Halloween when he plays the Bach "Tocatta," of course. We greatly enjoyed Bill's music, the fine organ installation and the friendly warmth of the Hanson home. The music continued all afternoon as many members took advantage of the call to open console.

Irving Light



Dr. Bill Hanson at his Allen digital organ.



Portland
503/771-8098

"Look, Ma, no Paul!" Paul Quarino slid off the bench and walked away from the console but, without missing a note, continued to play via the Devtronix computer memory system in this remarkable organ.

This was the scene at our September 17 meeting at the home of Pat and Ray Hughey. Their Devtronix Paramount model has a beautiful, white three-manual console with a double stop row and sound to match. It is a slightly scaled down, close copy of a 17-rank, Style 260 Wurlitzer, second touch voices and all. The multi-generators and speakers produce an impressive ensemble. Speaker locations by stop families provide excellent stereo.

The Devtronix computer system captures not only presets, but also note-for-note entire selections, even moving the stop tabs! Fortunately, this is now available for existing pipe organs.

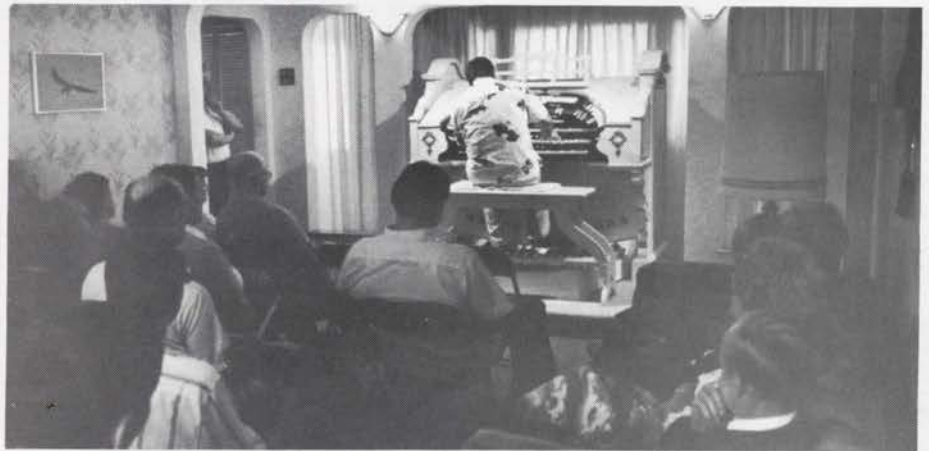
Thanks to Organ Grinder staff organist Paul Quarino for this clever program and to Pat and Ray Hughey for sharing this magnificent organ with us. *Bud Abel*

continued ...



Paul Quarino joins the audience to hear himself play the Devtronix organ.

Claude Neuffer photo



Paul Quarino at the Hughey's Devtronix.

Claude Neuffer photo

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GEORGE
WRIGHT

OREGON cont.

"It's over and done with now!" "Let's have a party!" That's what the Convention '88 committee said to each other at its final meeting just as they were about to dissolve. Our party lasted two days. Saturday night, October 22, was an appreciation dinner for all those who worked at the convention. It was like a family get-together; we even invited our cousin George from Los Angeles. He is like a member of the family. We had plenty of time to visit and enjoy each other's company. On Sunday afternoon, October 23, we enlarged the party to include all chapter members and guests and anyone who wanted to get in on the fun. We also moved the location to the Organ Grinder Restaurant so cousin George could do his thing on the 4/47 Wurlitzer. Guests came from all over the state of Oregon and Washington and even included Wendy Kieffer Patrick from Boise, Idaho.

Since we had rented the Organ Grinder until 5:00 p.m. we were in no hurry to end this party. George played for us as if he were in our living room, relaxed, unhurried; he chatted with us between songs, took requests and even let us in on a few family secrets. After a couple of enjoyable hours of George Wright at the Mighty Wurlitzer, it all came to an

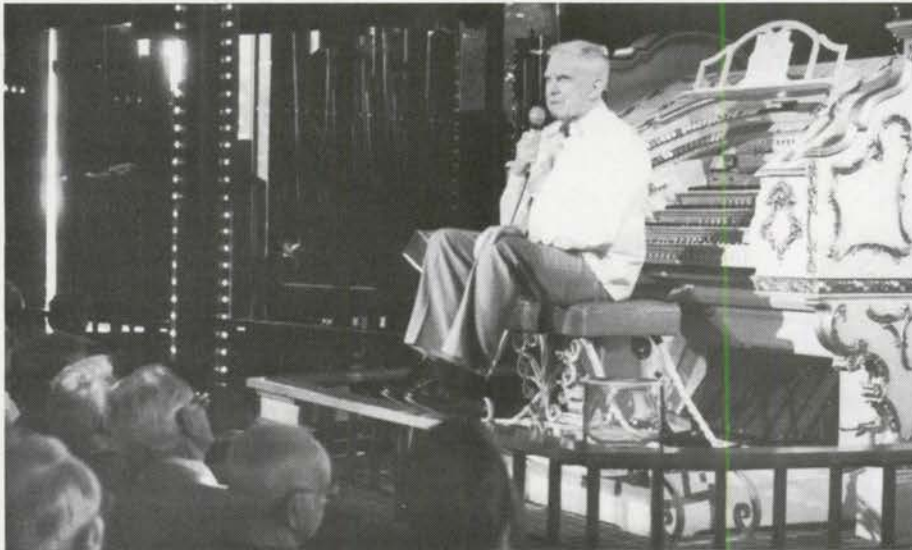


Cousin George reveals another family secret.

Claude Neuffer photo

end. Cousin George thanked us for inviting him to our party, and we told him to drop by anytime he's in our neighborhood. As people were leaving, we overhead several saying, "When are we gonna have another convention here, so we can have another party like this?"

Paul Quarino



George visits with the audience.

Claude Neuffer photo



"I don't believe I've ever learned that one."

Claude Neuffer photo

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POTOMAC VALLEY

Washington, D.C.

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We held our annual fund-raising event on September 25 at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Maryland, with Bob Eyer, Jr., president of the recently formed Cumberland Valley Chapter, at the 2/8 Wurlitzer Style 190 Special, an original installation (Tivoli Theatre) in 1926, never moved, and the only organ in a theatre in the entire state of Maryland.

Featured were many pop tunes, a hymn or two, music from the new *Phantom of the Opera*, complete with dense fog, "lightning" and Bob wrapped in a phantom costume. He also accompanied a silent classic 1916 comedy, Charlie Chaplin in *Behind the Screen*, all to the great enjoyment of the audience.

Proceeds from this event will be used to refurbish two other theatre pipe organs owned by PVTOS, a 3/10 Kimball at the University of Maryland, College Park, and a 2/8 Wurlitzer at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. Both of these organs were originally installed in theatres in downtown Washington, D.C., the Kimball in the Earle/Warner, and the Wurlitzer at the Rialto.

A month later Potomac Valley chapter met at the magnificent home of Richard F. Kline, Jr., former chairman of the chapter, near Thurmont, Maryland. It was another major event attended by about 150 persons, some from the Free State Theatre Organ Society of Baltimore. The guest artist was John Steele, a fabulous organist who had rendered much assistance with the Kline installation, and who now resides in the Detroit area. He opened with Cole Porter selections and played much pop music to the great delight of the guests.

Dick Kline's present 4/28 organ is fabricated largely from two Wurlitzer organs, a Style 260 Special 3/15, Opus 1647, shipped to the Fox (later Capitol) Theatre in Washington, D.C., from the Wurlitzer factory in 1927. The Capitol closed in 1963. The other organ was a 3/10 Style H Wurlitzer, Opus 1391, shipped to the Manos theatre in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1926.

Rebuilding of the Fox/Capitol console was done by the Moller factory in near-by Hagerstown, Maryland, by adding a fourth manual keyboard along with 86 additional stop tabs (200 total), more pistons, couplers and many other features. Finishing touches were accomplished in the Kline residence. Other ranks and



John Steele advises the guests, "Turn down your hearing aids!" to the amusement of Dick Kline. Dan Swope photo

At Right Bob Eyer, Jr. at the Wurlitzer, Weinberg Center for the Arts, Frederick, Maryland. Dan Swope photo

effects were added, as well as a Weber grand player piano, all reinforced by Bose reverberation speakers high up in the rafters, a truly superb installation, surrounded by a custom-built house, glass-walled, beside a water-filled quarry in the midst of rolling Maryland countryside to make a real dream organ come true.

Jack Little



PUGET SOUND

Seattle

206/852-2011 or 206/631-1669

Thanks to the sponsorship of members Russ and Joann Evans, we were able to enjoy a very special treat: Neil Jensen, from Australia, at Greenwood Pizza and Pipes in Seattle. They have known him since he was a promising young organ student several years ago and have followed his career with much interest. He will play other concerts while he is in this country.

Neil has a charming manner, and no one will ever complain that he talks too much! His technique leaves nothing to be desired, and his choice of registrations is always suitable to the music he's playing and pleasing to the ear. He does not go in for weird or harsh sounds. He played medleys from *Swingtime*, and *42nd Street* and selections by George Gershwin. Classical selections included "Danse Macabre" and "Malaguena." His encore was "Sabre Dance."

We will enjoy home tours in the near future. Quite a number of our members are fortunate to have pipe organs in their homes, and it's always interesting to see what additions and modifications have been made since the last time.

Margaret C. Hill



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RED RIVER

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We were extremely pleased to receive a tourism award in September from the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Countryopolitan Award, which is given to an organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the tourism industry, was accepted on behalf of the Fargo Theatre by Lance Johnson, president of the Fargo Theatre Management Corporation. Also in September, we completed construction of a thrust stage which has had plenty of use already.

In October, Red River Chapter took part in the first annual Arts Fair held at Fargo's largest shopping center, West Acres. Members had shifts "minding the store" with our booth back to back with the AGO. Pictures of the organist and the theatre were on display, as well as performances and silent movies were shown to passersby.

November 4 and 5 began the 15th year of silent movie night productions at the Fargo Theatre and it was a huge success — two absolutely full houses. The theme was "Make Believe Ball Room," a tribute to the music of the 1930s and 40s ballroom dancing era. To recreate this theme, emcee Douglas Hamilton introduced the selections in the style of that era, and the Fargo Theatre Big Band All-Stars, under the direction of James Ployhar, gave us the sounds in glorious renditions. A mirrored ball and lighted skyscraper background set the mood. Music of Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Benny Goodman, Count Basie, and Glenn Miller filled the air, including the Fargo Theatre Singers and other vocalists. "I'll Never Smile Again" and "You Made Me Love You" were especially nostalgic. For the humorous touch, there was a Spike Jones' arrangement of "Glo Worm" with vocalists, props, and organ. Six dancers from the Moorhead State University Dance Theater were a special added attraction to "String of Pearls" and "In the Mood." The dozen or so numbers were brought to a close with all cast members singing "Good Night, Ladies" and the audience came to its feet.



Red River Chapter Arts Fair Booth. Carlson photo

The second part of the program brought the hilarious 1925 feature *Charlie's Aunt* starring Sydney Chaplin and excellent scoring by Lance Johnson. The Incomparable Hildegard Kraus provided pre-show and intermission music at the lobby grand, and the Red River Valley Horseless Carriage Club had antique and classic automobiles parked in front of the theatre.

At the Friday performance, we had a special guest in the audience, a young lady from California who is attending college in Moorhead. She also helped with ushering. Her name is Rebecca Smith, a grand-niece of Colleen Moore. We were pleased to have her with us, as Colleen Moore made two outstanding personal appearances on our stage in the 1980s.

Once again, the staff organists will be giving free noon-hour Christmas concerts beginning December 12, under the theme of "Merry Prairie Christmas," as part of other community Christmas events.

Sonia Carlson



Classic cars at the Fargo Theatre.

Zielinski photo

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Bill and Maureen Durand opened their beautiful home to us for our August 30 meeting. Their home boasts a large three-manual Allen digital theatre organ. Open console preceded a delicious buffet supper. Then the business meeting was chaired by outgoing President Harold Kenney who reported on our very successful public concert at the Orpheum in July, starring Bob Ralston with Jack Moelmann as emcee. Member Donna VanRiper opened the program with several selections. Dick Zdan continued with a sing-along, and George Rice accompanied a vintage newsreel. Dick Zdan followed by cuing film excerpts from D.W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*. The film opened at the Liberty Theatre in New

York City in 1915. With a little arm twisting, we persuaded both Bill and Maureen Durand to play for us, ending a very enjoyable evening.

Our September 17 meeting was hosted by Bob Markworth. Open console was followed by a sumptuous potluck supper, with Bob presiding at the grill. After a business meeting chaired by President Dick Zdan, the program opened with short appearances at the console by Dick Zdan, Jeanne Cooper and Chris Hegarty, RCTOS's entrant in the 1988 Young Organist Competition. Our star for the evening was member Robert Tookey of Fremont, Nebraska, who captivated the audience with his velvety theatre stylings. Bob has an enviable record as a professional entertainer and as a teacher of organ and piano. Special thanks are due Bob Markworth and Joyce Kelley for making this evening so enjoyable.

Tom Wolfe hosted our October 22 meeting at his newly refurbished and beautifully decorated home. Tom has both a two-manual and a three-manual Conn theatre organ, so the opportunities

for open console were abundant. Our surprise featured organist was Tom's brother, Ed, who had flown in from Arizona. After Ed's excellent performance Tom played several numbers for us, and we concluded that the Wolfe family has at least two talented musicians. The program continued with Ron Bower at the console, presenting his "Couch Potato" musical exam. The quiz consisted of identifying eight different TV themes, everything from *Petticoat Junction* to *Dragnet*. Extra points were given for naming lead actors in a show. The test also included six musical jingles advertising Gillette blades, Wrigley Double Mint Gum, etc. When the papers were exchanged and graded, we did indeed have a certified Couch Potato. Out of kindness we will omit his name, but we report that his prize was a copy of *TV Guide*, a vintage copy to be exact. Our evening was concluded with our own Jeanne Cooper at the console and with an array of delicious snacks. Many thanks to the Wolfe family for a splendid evening.

Tom Jeffery



Above: Donna Van Riper entertains at Durand's Allen organ.

Right: Chris Hegarty, who represented River City in the 1988 Young Organist Competition.

Far Right Top: Bob Tookey gave the Markworth 3/15 Kimball a real workout.

Bottom Right: Tom Wolfe (left) and his brother, Ed, both accomplished organists.

Tom Jeffery photos



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ROCKY MOUNTAIN

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Members and friends have had a wide variety of programs to choose from this fall. In August, we traveled to the picturesque resort area of Estes Park, northwest of Denver, for a potluck picnic at the home of Dick and Virginia Webb, overlooking the lake and valley. The Webb home contains four organs, and Dick gave a demonstration of his newest "baby," the Yamaha Electone.

In September, the group traveled the opposite direction, to the Parker home of Joel & Jerry Kremer for an evening program of varied music provided by Joel and the Devtronix Computer system. Joel, a former theatre organist at Denver's Paramount Theatre, always provides a delightful and varied program for his guests, and this one was no exception.

In October, our cup overflowed with program choices. Early in the month, Patti Simon played the second anniversary concert at Colorado Springs' Mount St. Francis Convent in a program sponsored by Pikes Peak Chapter. Her special guest for this program was the popular Ragtime pianist, Dick Kroeckel. The organ was in top shape, as always, and was sporting its new Post Horn rank.

In mid-October, it was "Organist of the Year" Lew Williams at the Denver Paramount, for an evening of music and silent films, sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club. Special guest for this program was none other than Joel Kremer at the Paramount's dual console. This program was well attended and provided Rocky Mountain Chapter a chance to introduce ourselves to interested persons.

We closed out October with our second annual "Ghouly Gala" costume ball. Held at Evelyn Riser's music studio, the party has proved to be a popular event. Ed Benoit was at the Riser Wurlitzer, with John Tanguma on drums and Jeff Cook on bass. We have some very creative people in our group as was shown in the costuming.

Rocky Mountain Chapter continues to be very active and growing. We have several new home installations coming on line, and we are looking forward to having programs in new settings. Planning for the installation of the former Aladdin Wicks organ in Denver's East High School continues to move along, and work is scheduled to begin shortly.

Donald Zeller



RMC leaders in costume for Halloween Ball. (L to R) Steve McCormick, Priscilla Arthur, David Love.



Belly dancer, Dorothy Retalack, at RMC Halloween dance. Ed Benoit at the console.



"Countess" and "Pillsbury Dough-Boy" at RMC Halloween Party (Priscilla Arthur and Vern West).



Dancers at the RMC Halloween Party.

ST. LOUIS

Missouri

314/343-8473

Greetings to all from the St. Louis Organ Society in the New Year! 1988 was a good year for us in every way, and with many new active members, we have an even brighter year ahead.

Our fall meetings were well attended. The September meeting at President Dennis Ammann's home in Highland, Illinois, gave us a chance to hear Dennis at his Conn organ before open console. Our Fundraiser at Lindendale Park Ballroom, also in Highland, featured Jack Moelmann and Dennis on the Conn or Hammond plus organ and piano to open the show. This was followed by the Jane Mannion Dancers and a Ben Turpin silent comedy accompanied by Jack. A delicious catered buffet preceded the dancing which featured the Don Shimer Band with Dennis Ammann as their keyboard man. At times, Jack Moelmann added some brilliance on the Hammond. What a time we all had! All went home humming the old dance and show tunes and our Fundraiser was successful.

Joe Barnes reports that work continues on our 3/23 Wurlitzer even though the Solo chamber hasn't yet been roofed over to our entire satisfaction. We have plans for a Peterson relay to be installed on our Wurlitzer on the Fox mezzanine so it can also be used by the Theatre Staff Union Organist, our Union Organist at his direction for special events.

In closing, we are all grateful for all of those Portland convention pictures in the Journal. I feel now as if I know more of you after seeing your pictures at various places. You all did a bang-up job of putting on a wonderful convention.

Dale L. Boring

Photos by Dan Zeller

SANTA BARBARA

California
805/682-1604

To say the concert on October 1 was an overwhelming success is an understatement. We oversold the house and turned down over 100 requests for tickets. The demand for MORE was loud and clear, and we will respond with more concerts just as fast as we can get organists to come and play.

Some non-technical work remains to be completed: final cleaning in the chambers and in the bank, for one. A few "wind leaks" need to be fixed in the chambers. Most of the technical work on the pipes is beyond us and must be done by professionals.

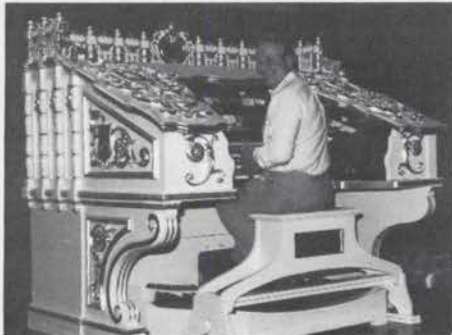
The program and stage announcements at the concert did not fully cover all the fine people who should be thanked — especially Bob McIntyre, who worked so hard with the night crew at the theatre; Nicole and her fine staff at the ticket agency, along with Mike Cooley and the great stage crew; Bruce Murdock and Roger Lagerquist and their crew; and, Jamie Ellis deserves much praise for his wonderful posters, writing and designing the program, and his success in getting so much publicity for us.

Mike McLaughlin is playing intermission at the Arlington. He is a real "pro" and the people know him and love him. He has lived here for 25 years.

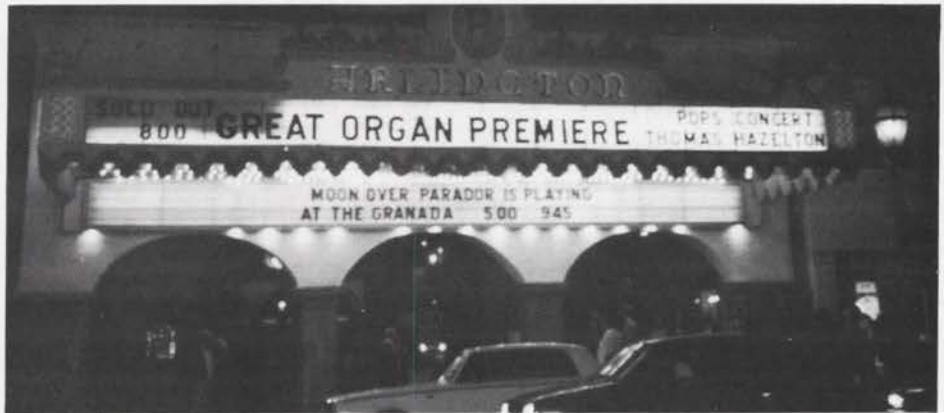
John Oien



Tom Hazleton shares a laugh with Paul Van Der Molen at the Arlington. Madeline LiVolsi photo



Mike McLaughlin at the Arlington Robert-Morton.



Arlington Theatre marquee.

Madeline LiVolsi photo

SEQUOIA

Fresno, California
209/431-4305

It has been a very eventful year for our group. We have been fortunate to secure some "name" artists to play for us, plus getting a home for our 2/9 Wurlitzer.

In March we had a fine program at Pizza and Pipes' 3/23 Wurlitzer with Mr. Dennis Scott. As Mr. Scott had been away from California for some time, this was a chance to hear him for the first time. He performed a super program. In May the one and only Dan Bellomy winged in from Portland to play a jazz program on one of his "loves," the Fresno Warnors Theatre 4/14 Robert-Morton. We shut down activities for the summer, with a few members going to the fine Portland Convention.

Our chapter's 2/9 Wurlitzer will be going into a 1929 vintage theatre in a small city southwest of Fresno. The city of Hanford is to receive the Wurlitzer for its fully restored Hanford Theatre. The atmospheric house opened with a 2/7 Wurlitzer-Maas, which is fondly remembered by residents. In the late 1950s a misguided rebuild sent the Wurlitzer-Maas to "do time" in a church. Our Wurlitzer was given to the chapter by Ruth Villemin Dresser and was rebuilt by her late brother, Richard S. Villemin.

The chapter is also involved in another project, the restoration of the 3/10 Robert-Morton in Fresno's Bethel Temple Assembly of God. The organ was installed by Richard Villemin more than 20 years ago. A self-appointed consultant ordered the console to be placed in a deep, non-visible pit, "... who wants to look at one of those awful horseshoe theatre things ...". This, coupled with a rather ugly sound, did not offer much for enthusiasts. The 3/10 was used for the (in)famous 1983 Fresno Organ Bash. It played somewhat, but was not much of an organ. Since then, the organ has metamorphosed into a big-sounding Robert-Morton theatre organ. The console has been pulled out of its tomb and sits on a movable platform. Thanks to the efforts of the church's pas-

tor, Reverend Powel Lemmons, we have a very good relationship and another theatre organ for our use. We are hoping to have the 3/10 Morton rededicated shortly after the first of 1989.

On October 28, we sponsored a program with the San Joaquin Chapter, AGO. This show presented Jim Riggs in concert at the Warnors Theatre 4/14, then accompanying the *Phantom of the Opera* with Lon Chaney, Sr. The phantom has not been shown in Fresno since a 1975 show with Tom Hazleton at Warnors.

Though not chapter sponsored, we are expectantly looking forward to the release of a new recording by San Francisco's own Larry Vannucci. The "Vannooch" loves Robert-Morton instruments and chose the Warnors' organ to record. A real low-down, dirty organist and a real low down, dirty Robert-Morton should make a great combination. Tom DeLay



Dan Bellomy and the 4/14 Robert-Morton in Fresno's Warnors Theatre.



Fox Hanford Theatre opened December 25, 1929. The house will contain Sequoia Chapter's 2/9 Wurlitzer. Photo courtesy of Dan Hermason

SIERRA

Sacramento

916/723-4438 or 916/332-5865

Our September 1 artist was Evelyn Osburn, a very popular Sacramento organist. Her program could be called a "Travelogue" as she played selections with titles of many towns, cities and countries throughout the world. This made a very interesting and entertaining program as the audience guessed where we were and did a lot of clapping. Evelyn seemed a bit afraid of the pipe organ at first, as she has not played one in ages, but during the second half of her program she went to town. She also won over her audience with her great personality. Thanks, Evelyn, we enjoyed our journey.

October 2 was a great day for Jack Gustafson at the console of our Seever Memorial Organ. Jack is a very personable and talented young organist. He also has several recordings to his credit. His program ran the gamut of novelty, pop and old favorite selections, all played with interesting arrangements and fine registrations. One of the most delightful parts of his program was his medley in memory of Fred Astaire. Acting as his own emcee, Jack told many interesting tales of his past in the entertainment world; he had the audience in stitches. Thanks, Jack, for a delightful afternoon of music and fine entertainment. *Bud Taylor*



Jack Gustafson at the console of his own Kimball organ.

SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

In the absence of temporarily ailing President Lee Smith, First-Co-Vice-President Sam Collier presided at our September meeting, held in Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. Carolyn Craft played the mini-concert on the 4/14 Robert-Morton. She opened with a stirring arrangement of "Onward Christian Soldiers," then played a number of popular selections including "More Than You Know" and "Tico Tico." Her closer was a beautiful "My Tribute." We enjoyed the music of eight persons playing at open console, including guest Gareld Payne who was visiting from Coffeyville, Kansas. Carolyn's accompaniment of her husband Paul's singing of "Because" was a spine tingler!

For October, a group of us made our annual one-day trip to Arkansas. We visited Hugh and Enid Lineback's progressing pipe organ installation in Siloam Springs, then proceeded on to Bella Vista to visit Russell and Florence Joseph. Russ played several selections on his 2/4 Wurlitzer for us, starting appropriately with "Autumn Leaves" in honor of the beautiful fall foliage we'd marvelled at on the drive down. He also entertained us with "Bird in a Gilded Cage," ably "assisted" by the toe-stud that activated the canary in the cage hanging in the corner, and with "Anchors Aweigh," which had everything in it including the kitchen sink! A short session of open console followed.

We also heard highlights of Russell's tapes of the 1988 ATOS National Convention.

After a quick tour of Bella Vista's Mildred Cooper Memorial Chapel, Russ took us to the Lutheran Church where he had been instrumental in their acquisition of a beautiful new 2/12 Wicks pipe organ. He demonstrated the stops for us, and then our four playing members each had a turn at the console.

We adjourned to the Country Club for dinner, and then headed for home.

Dorothy Smith



Ron poses with Southeast Texas board. L to R: Bill Tetley, Quentin Whitman, Lee Bryant, Carter Bidwell, Floyd Broussard and Virginia Carpenter. *Curtis Whitman photo*



Ron Rhode.

Quentin Whitman photo

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Beaumont

409/886-5601

There could probably have been no more delightful way to spend October 22 than listening to Ron Rhode in concert. Our chapter is proud to have been able to bring this fine young artist into our area, and the evening proved to be enjoyable for all in attendance. The program featured music from many eras and anecdotes that thoroughly entertained our audience which itself spanned several generations. Many in the audience had never been to a theatre organ concert. What a magnificent introduction to the world of theatre organ!

Ron played an encore that featured two songs, "Let There Be Peace on Earth", and to quote Ron, "an obscure little number you probably wouldn't recognize," which was "The Yellow Rose of Texas." Needless to say, this was a tremendous hit with the audience. Ron's rendition of this old favorite was quite unique.

After the concert, Ron joined us on the mezzanine for autographs and visiting.

Lee Bryant

January 7	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
January 15	Wesley Chapel, Hilliard, Ohio
January 22	Fawcett Center, Columbus, Ohio
January 27	University Chapel, Valparaiso, Indiana
January 29	Arlington Theatre, Santa Barbara, California
February 5	Clemens Center, Elmira, New York
February 10	Museum of the American Piano, New York City
February 12	Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
February 17	Trinity Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ohio
February 18	Franklin Court Theatre, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
February 19	Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania
February 20	City Tavern, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
February 26	High School Auditorium, Berlin, New Hampshire
March 5	Hershey Theatre, Hershey, Pennsylvania
March 10	Wagnall's Memorial, Lithopolis, Ohio
March 11, 12	Granada Theatre, Kansas City, Kansas
March & April	National Tour with DIE NIBELUNGEN
March 17, 18	International Film Festival, San Francisco, California
March 30, 31	World Theatre, St. Paul, Minnesota
April 4, 5	Cleveland Art Institute, Cleveland, Ohio
April 7, 8	High Museum, Atlanta, Georgia

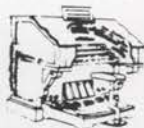
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TOLEDO AREA

Ohio

419/381-6730 or 419/478-8595

We have been active recently with our Third Annual Silent Film Program and Theatre Organ Concert which was presented on October 8. Our guest organist was the legendary Gaylord Carter. His program was excellent, and the 4/10 Marr & Colton never sounded better! The films featured were *Safety Last* (1923) and *Billy Blazes, Esq.* (1922), starring Harold Lloyd. Mr. Carter also played the 3/6 installation at President Evan Chase's home theatre.

The next day we held our October meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Evritt in Defiance, Ohio. Their excellent home installation is now up to 28 ranks and was ably handled by artist-in-residence Mr. Bill Yaney. More silent films were featured as well as a fine buffet dinner.

We have located the original Marr & Colton Tibia Plena from our organ and will begin installation soon. We also plan a re-design and upgrading of the organ at the old Ohio Theatre (St. Hedwig Cultural Center).

Many thanks to all who make TATOS a success in the behind-the-scenes operations for concerts, business and support over the years! 1989 looks promising already!



Gaylord Carter at Toledo's 4/10 Marr & Colton at the former Ohio Theatre. TATOS photo



Bill Yaney plays the 3/28 Larry Evritt Wurlitzer. TATOS photo



VALLEY OF THE SUN

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

Several chapter members were at Organ Stop Pizza on August 27 and September 3 to support member Tim Versluys in his Mesa pizza parlor debut. Tim played the first set both Saturdays when staff organist Ron Rhode had another commitment.

We heard Tim again when he played for our September 18 chapter meeting at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall. Several of his numbers were movie and show tunes, including a medley from *The Wizard of Oz*. Versluys is a very talented organist, and we're sure to hear more from him.

Our October 9 gathering at Organ Stop featured a double treat — organist Rob Richards and vocalist John Giardina. Readers may remember Giardina from Rob's Portland convention concert. Richards played a few solo numbers, then accompanied John on several songs. One of these was an original composition by the organist, "Shine, Bright Little Star."

Madeline LiVolsi



Valley of the Sun chapter member Tim Versluys at First Christian Church Wurlitzer. Madeline LiVolsi photo



John Giardina and Rob Richards at Organ Stop. Madeline LiVolsi photo

WESTERN RESERVE

Cleveland, Ohio

216/521-7269 or 216/941-0572

Members welcomed autumn with a business meeting at Cleveland's Masonic Temple on September 25. In addition, chapter member Dr. Robert Bray was featured at the Skinner console in a concert emphasizing orchestral selections ranging from the "Meditation" from *Thais* to Rossini's "William Tell Overture." Following the concert, open console time was enjoyed by many members.

On October 30 George Lukas of Cleveland's Lukas Music Co. hosted the members for a demonstration of "what's new" in electronic organs and keyboards.

continued ...

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WESTERN RESERVE cont.

The effects of the computer age and the advances of MIDI technology have had far-reaching impacts in the world of modern organ and synthesizer design, and the "refresher course" offered was an enlightening introduction for many of us.

The highlight of Halloween season was Dennis James' accompaniment of the silent Lon Chaney classic *Phantom of the Opera* at the Gartner Auditorium of Cleveland's Museum of Art, where many members gathered for a frightfully delightful encounter with "Erik." The quality of the print was exceptional, especially during the "color" ballroom scene, but it was Dennis James' artistry at the keys of the classical Holtkamp organ that commanded the audience's attention. As the screen rose to the final chords of the accompaniment, we were startled to discover that Dennis himself had transformed into a disfigured, deranged organist of Paris Opera House caliber — with a little help from a latex mask!

A volunteer crew has been working Tuesday evenings to expand our Cleveland Grays' Armory Wurlitzer 3/15 to 17 ranks. Crew members Vernon Webster, Claude Hawks, Dave Cook, Burt Sahli, Howard Kast, Dick Shepherd, Jim Shepherd and others are adding an Oboe Post Horn rank and a 16' Violone rank to the organ and hope to premiere them in the 1989-90 concert series.

On November 5, we presented Neil Jensen of Brisbane, Australia, in concert at the 3/15 Wurlitzer in Cleveland Grays' Armory. This was our first presentation of an international artist, and we were pleased with the overwhelming reception he received from our audience. His unique artistry — covering light classical works including Offenbach's Overture to *Orpheus in the Underworld*, "Malaguena," Copeland's "Rodeo," and Rossini's Overture to *The Barber of Seville* to George Wright standards "Veradero" and "Waltz in Swingtime" and even modern hits including "The Greatest Love of All" — commandeered the audience's attention. Added to that was Mr. Jensen's light-hearted outlook on life in the "Foreign" land of the U.S., resulting in one of the most entertaining evenings in the history of Western Reserve theatre organ concerts. We look forward to the continuation of Neil Jensen's U.S. tour.

Preparations are currently underway for the second of our 1988-89 concert series to be held February 25. We will be presenting Lyn Lunde of Richmond, Virginia, in concert at the 3/15 Wurlitzer of Cleveland Grays' Armory. Advance tickets are available from: WRTOS, 1234 Bolivar Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Jim Shepherd



WOLVERINE

Central & Lower Michigan

313/284-8882 or 313/588-7118

On a bright Sunday afternoon in September some 50 members of our chapter were treated to an exceptional organ recital at the church/home of Chet and Sandy Summers, in Fowlerville. The 3/42 Austin romantic organ was played by Robin Dinda. Robin, who has a doctorate in organ performance from the University of Michigan School of Music, has concertized throughout our country. His recital could very well have been entitled "A Classic Concert for People Who Don't Like Classical Music." The program included the "William Tell Overture," "Variations on the Star Spangled Banner," "The Swan" (from *Carnival of the Animals*), and even "Stars and Stripes Forever." The music showed off all the colors of the Austin. A standing ovation was the audience's way of saying they were delighted to hear "good" classical music.

We were also treated to a sampling of the still-to-be-completed 2/8 Wurlitzer, being installed in the Summers' residence. John Steele, who is installing the organ, was on hand to demonstrate what was working and whetted our appetite to return to Fowlerville next year to hear the completed installation. Host Chet rounded out the program with a demonstration on his harpsichord.



Robin Dinda at the console of the Austin.

Bo Hanley photo



Rick Cucchi and Mary Jo Degen at the DTOC's Senate Theatre.

Fred Page photo

At left: Chet Summers plays his harpsichord.

Bo Hanley photo

On October 16 Wolverine Chapter and many other organ buffs celebrated President Fred Page's birthday at the DTOC's Senate Theatre. Rick Cucchi, organist at St. Hugo of the Hills R.C. Church, Bloomfield Hills, and Mary Jo Degen, senior at the University of Michigan, presented a very well-received program which included cameo appearances by Jennifer Candea, who represented the Wolverines in the 1988 Young Organist Competition.

Organist Rick set the theme by playing "There's No Business Like Show Business." This musical statement was given substance by a clever skit which introduced us to the "Organ Angel" (Marvin Spear), trying to restore peace between two feuding musicians after the organist captured control of the piano Mary Jo was playing. After a grudging handshake, two musicians returned to their instruments and the "Angel," turning to leave, revealed himself to be a tailed devil. Other musical selections heard were "Over the Rainbow" and "Toccata" from Widor's *Fifth Symphony*, played by Rick, and "Basin Street Blues" and "Step to the Rear" by Mary Jo. Jennifer's cameos included "Fanfare to Marygrove," "Hungarian Dance #5," and a medley from the movie *The Color Purple*. Rick and Mary Jo's final encores were "Music Box Dancer" and "Brazilian Sleighride."

Charlie and Betty Baas



John Steele at the console of the Summer's Wurlitzer.

Chet Summers photo