



It's Music Time in '89! **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

Sunday, July 2

- Morning:** Pre-glow at 1:00.
Father Jim Miller at the Detroit Fox Theatre
- Afternoon:** Seminars
- Evening:** No-host Cocktail Party. Featured artist **Fredric Bayne**

Monday, July 3

- Morning:** **Bill Vlasak** at the Senate Theatre (DTC)
- Afternoon:** **Candi Carley Roth** at the Royal Oak Theatre
ATOS Chapter Representative Meeting, 4:00 at the Hotel
- Evening:** **Tony O'Brien**, Jam Session at the Redford Theatre

Tuesday, July 4

- Morning:** Brunch and ATOS Annual Meeting at the Westin Hotel
- Afternoon:** Seminars and Free time
- Evening:** 1988 Young Organist Competition Winner **Jelani Eddington** and featuring the 1989 Competition Winners at the Redford Theatre
No-host cocktail party sponsored by YTOE at the Hotel with Jazz band

Wednesday, July 5

- Morning:** **Jack Jenkins** at the Detroit Fox Theatre
- Afternoon:** **Richard Hore** in his first American performance at the Redford Theatre
- Evening:** **Melissa Ambrose** at the Royal Oak Music Theatre

Thursday, July 6

- Morning:** **Kurt Von Schakel** and **Gerry Gregorius** at the Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor
- Afternoon:** Lunch at the Women's League in Ann Arbor
Lyn Larsen at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor
- Evening:** Banquet at the Westin Hotel featuring the piano artistry of **John Steele**

Friday, July 7

- Morning:** **Dan Bellomy** at the Senate Theatre (DTC)
- Afternoon:** Lunch and recital by **Robin Dinda** at St. Florian's Church, Hamtramck
- Evening:** **Rob Calcaterra** and variety show at the Redford Theatre
Jam session at the Senate Theatre (DTC)

Saturday, July 8

- Morning:** Afterglow sessions 1 and 2

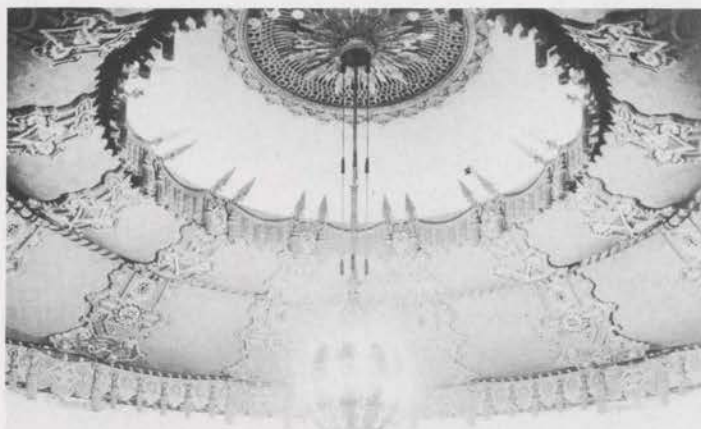
Photo: Saint Florian's Church, Hamtramck



*It's Music Time in '89!
Great Organists, Great Theatres, Great Organs!*



*Father Jim Miller
Master of Ceremonies, Fox Pre-glow*



*Lyn Larsen
at the Michigan Theatre*



*Bill Vlasak
at DTOC*



The Detroit Fox Theatre



*Candi Carley Roth
at the Royal Oak*



*Tony O'Brien
at the Redford*



*Jelani Eddington
at the Redford*



*Jack Jenkins
at the Detroit Fox*



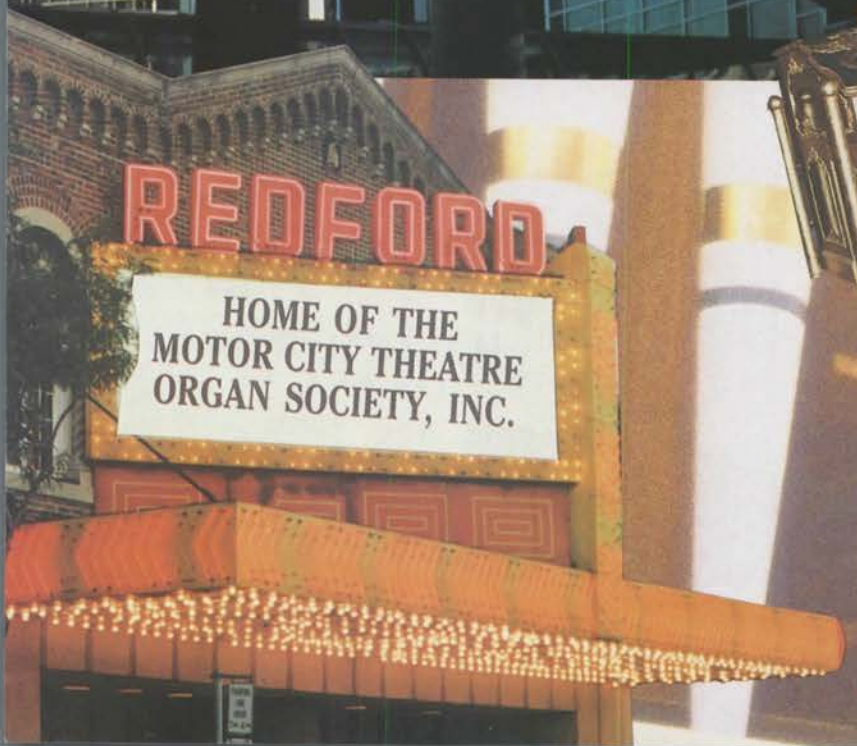
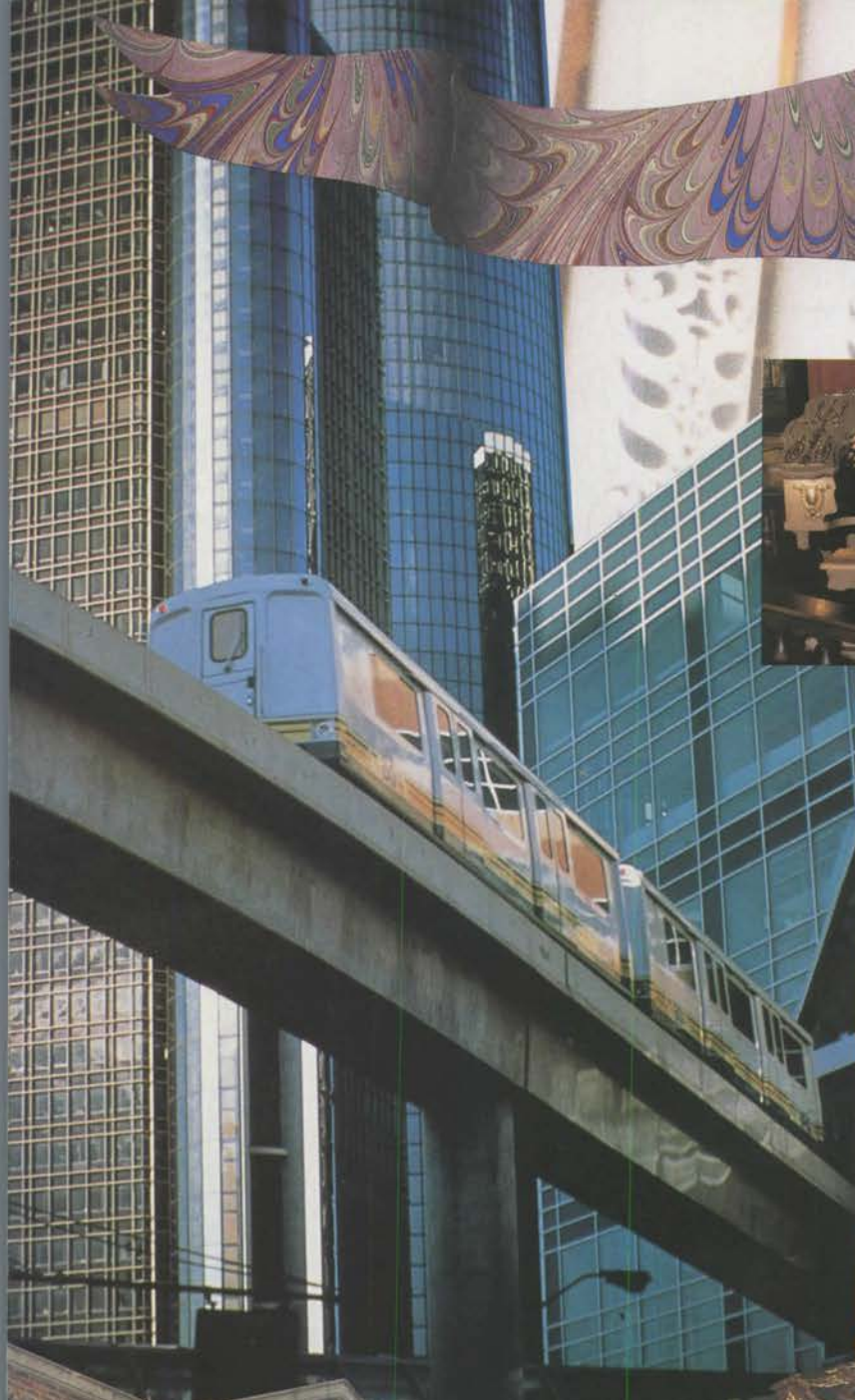
*Richard Hore
at the Redford*

ARS GRATIA THE

Convention headquarters for the 34th Convention of the American Theatre Organ Society will be the Westin Hotel in the Renaissance Center linked to greater downtown Detroit by the Detroit People Mover, an elevated railway.



The Redford Theatre is owned by the Motor City Theatre Organ Society, the host of "It's Music Time in '89!" The Chapter bought the theatre in 1976, in order to preserve the 3/10 Barton organ in its original setting.



Bufs Breathing Life Into Dead Mortuary Organ For Installation In Theatre

Life is steadily returning to the pipe organ formerly in the old Johnson Mortuary at Yuma, Arizona. When finally huffing and puffing, as all good organs do, it will be installed in the Yuma Theatre, according to an illustrated feature article published in the Yuma Daily Sun last Mar. 12.

The two-manual horseshoe console instrument, not identified as to make or size, was presented to the local Kiwanis Club which took it on as a community project.

ATOS member Gene Mignery and Jim Harland re-established a work crew that had been started by ATOS member Harold Applin of Sun City, Ariz. Work is being accomplished in a storage room next to the Yuma Theatre.

The biggest hurdle at present is a funding shortage. Work started with \$500 from a 1986 fund-raiser, and donations are being sought.

International ATOS NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

VOLUME THREE MAY 1989 NUMBER NINE

Disney/Pacific Want Organ For Theatre

Disney Studios and Pacific Theatres have disclosed they would like to have a theatre pipe organ to install in the Hollywood El Capitan Theatre. The Hollywood Blvd. showcase, currently named Paramount, is due to be restored to its original architectural decor and also have the stage rebuilt.

The house opened in the late '20s exclusively for legitimate drama, but organ chambers were provided and are still untouched.

It was learned the two firms are interested in having Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society contact them about an organ.

Tampa Theatre Organ Is Dedicated By Calcaterra

Organist Rob Calcaterra played the dedication program April 9 on the 3/12 Wurlitzer organ that has been erected in the Ebersson atmospheric Tampa Theatre, Tampa, Fla., by members of Central Florida Chapter. The instrument replaced an original 2/8 Wurlitzer that was removed many years ago.

Opera House Wurlitzer Is "Going To The Cats!"

Part of Blackpool's Opera House Wurlitzer is going to the Cats—the musical show. A decision is to be made concerning removal of organ components to storage from the main chamber so that "Cats" performers can use the space for a lift scene during the production. It is hoped that all will be re-installed when the show closes. A quote submitted for the job includes re-installation in the famed British seaside theatre.—from COS Newsletter

BIG THEATRE TO OPEN

by Jim Koller

Chicago's cavernous Uptown Theatre, a Spanish Renaissance palace, will be ready to reopen later this year, it has been reported. It was not learned what type of attractions will be offered in the 4,320-seat house.

ATOS Man Given Up Beat Citation

ATOS member Douglas Lemmon of Boise, Idaho, was cited in Up Beat magazine, musical trade journal, as a "tremendous salesman and a tremendous employee because his work and his hobby are the same," which was stated by Mark Dunkley, owner of Dunkley Music in Boise.

The laudatory news item appeared in "Winners Circle" and noted Lemmon's work is selling and his hobby studying, playing and teaching the organ.

Listed in International Who's Who in Music, Lemmon is a noted organ teacher, arranger and composer. In the citation Lemmon is credited for teaching and having his students end up buying an organ from the firm—so many that he is the top salesman in the company.

Published above the citation column is a picture of Lemmon at the console of the Robert-Morton organ in the Ada Theatre. He figured prominently in the Egyptian Chapter project of restoring the instrument, and is a frequent performer on it.

Ambassador Organ Is Bought By Wallgreen

St. Louis' famed Ambassador Theatre Wurlitzer organ has been sold to Jim Walgreen, Illinois organ buff. This sale, not part of the theatre auction held March 12, was from the estate of the late Fred Pillsbury. He purchased the organ several years ago and stored it in a warehouse. Stuart Barrie designed the organ and played it for many years. "He was the George Wright of his time," Stan Kann has stated.

Another instrument in the estate, the former Style 260 Wurlitzer from Detroit's United Artists Theatre, which had subsequently been installed in Henry Hunt's Pied Piper Pizza Parlor, Detroit, was reportedly sold to Long Center for the Performing Arts in Lafayette, Ind. Confirmation of this sale was not received by press time and it is not known if the organ will replace the present hybrid instrument.

MOTORCYCLE SHOP FINALE MAY 14

Final Saturday night Motorcycle Shop Organ Jam Session, a 20-year on-going event, was scheduled for May 14 at the 1300 East Anaheim St., Long Beach, Calif. spot, according to a lengthy story published in the San Gabriel Valley Section of the April 16 issue of Los Angeles Times. "A 96-year-old organist, who has played the instrument for 20 years, will perform its swan song," the Times article noted (this would have to be Lloyd Del Castillo—Ed).

The organ is still for sale. Initial offering price was \$200,000; later this was reduced to \$100,000 and then to \$75,000. There is talk that the local Breakers Hotel might be interested in having the organ.

Nordwall Tells Of Fox Wurlitzer In Detroit

Returning from Detroit early in April, organist Jonas Nordwall reported that he visited the recently refurbished Fox Theatre and inspected the 4/36 Wurlitzer. He found the orchestral chamber empty and freshly painted and was told chests would be returned one or two days later.

The console cable still must be connected to the relay, but the organ is expected to be ready for the ATOS Pre-Glo program starring Fr. Jim Miller, and another show which will be played during the run of the convention.

REMEMBERING R. C. SIMONTON

by Jim Koller

This year, 1989, marks the tenth anniversary of the untimely death of our founding father, *Richard C. Simonton*. Since 1979, many goals have been established and accomplished throughout our organization. We are still trying to get ATOS visible and viable as possible through all media by generating ideas that are of interest to the public.

One thing in particular that promotes interest is our Young Organist Competition. Our impact focuses primarily—once in awhile, not all the time—on theatre organists of the past, namely Jesse Crawford. Richard Simonton was a close, personal friend of the "Poet of the Organ. There is nothing wrong with that. However, nothing has ever been mentioned about Dick Simonton since his passing.

So—I hereby express the thought that ATOS should think about renaming our Young Organist Competition and identify it as *The Richard C. Simonton Memorial Scholarship Award*.

SCHOOL KIDS LIKE 'FUSION' WITH WURLY!

by Don Zeller

Nearly 1,200 students of Denver Public Schools in grades 4 to 12 were totally enthralled by a visit to Denver's Paramount Theatre, Monday, April 17, for a *Fusion* concert by Rob Richards of Phoenix. The event was sponsored by Rocky Mountain Chapter in cooperation with Denver Public Schools as a means of generating student interest in the theatre organ and the Aladdin Wicks Organ Project at East High School.

Rob's program was a mix of traditional theatre organ and "Fusion Concept" which employs the addition of synthesized sounds.

Along with various forms of music, Rob also demonstrated some of the stops of the theatre Wurlitzer and made comparisons to the modern synthesizer.

The program also included an arrangement of "76 Trombones" for dual consoles, with Denver organist, Ed Benoit, manning the second console.

Excellent Response

Students and teachers alike were enthusiastic about the program. Bob Johnson, Supervisor of Music Education for the school system, said his phone has been ringing off the hook with response from those who attended the program.

Comments included "dynamic," "wonderful," "thanks for the opportunity." One eighth grader was so enthused that she wants to start studying organ in preparation for the coming East High instrument.

Rocky Mountain Chapter is excited about response to the program and is giving thought to doing it again in the future.

Richards commented that "Rocky Mountain Chapter is to be commended for their forward thinking in presenting such a program thereby creating audiences for tomorrow."

VOLLUM ORGAN IS BOUGHT BY JUNCHEN

Organman David L. Junchen has purchased the Howard Vollum Wurlitzer in Portland, Oregon. He currently has no plans for installing the instrument, but wants it available in the event he lands another contract. "For the past three years I have been installing one large instrument per year, and I sort of think I'll be needing one again soon," he predicted. He declined to state what he paid for the organ.

Originally installed in the San Francisco Granada/Paramount Theatre in the early 1920s, it was a Style 285, 4/31 organ and was removed when the theatre was demolished in the early 1960s. The late Howard Vollum bought and installed the instrument in a special social/gymnasium studio he built on his Portland estate.

May 1989

Rhett, Scarlett Help Put Wind In Wurlitzer

"Rhett, hun-nay, you-all, theyahs a Wulituh dawon at Cahpentuh Centuh thet needs fixin'. D'ya-all reckon we could hep put wind in it bah puttin' 'Wind' on at the Centuh?" Thus asked Scarlett of Rhett, and, sho-nuf, "Gone With The Wind" blew into Carpenter Center For The Performing Arts in Richmond, Va., April 8, at \$19.28 per ticket, of which \$14.28 was banked toward restoration of the theatre's 3/24 Wurlitzer.

It is reported about \$20,000 was raised for this purpose, and Virginia Theatre Organ Society has been invited to inspect the non-playing instrument and consider taking on its rehabilitation as a Society project.

Historically speaking, the instrument was installed early in this decade. It was donated by an unnamed individual and removed from Surf City Hotel, Long Beach Island, N. J. Basically the organ was originally installed in the Fabian Theatre, Hoboken, N.J., as a 3/16, Style 260. Additions were made in its hotel home with components from an RKO theatre in New York City.

The original Style 240, 3/13 Wurlitzer which was installed when Loew's Theatres opened the Ebersson atmospheric house, was donated to the American Film Institute. This was engineered by Ray Brubaker, but the plan to put it in a Washington, D. C. screening room fell through and the organ was sold to a private party. After Loew shuttered the theatre and it became a performing arts center, the owner of the original instrument reportedly offered to sell the organ back for \$100,000. It was a "no

—See WIND, Page Four—

Adams Buys Wurlitzer As "Good Investment"

Purchase of the 2/8, Style 190 Wurlitzer formerly installed in the Bay Theatre, Green Bay, Wisc., "has been made as an investment too good to pass up" by Steve Adams, well-known ATOS organ buff. It was removed from the theatre in the 1970s by Ed Mayo of Minocqua, Wisc., when the house was twinned. Adams has no immediate plans for the organ.

At one time Mayo also owned the former Des Moines Paramount Theatre 3/12 Wurlitzer which he sold for parts because it was not complete.

PHOENIX WILL HOST MEETING

Valley of the Sun Chapter will host a regional convention this year at the close of the Thanksgiving weekend in Phoenix. Full particulars will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Theatre Organ Journal*.

ROSA VISITS FIVE ORGAN HOME IN AUSTRALIA DURING FAR EAST TOUR

While galavanting to Australia and the Far East, Rosa Rio and her student friend, Helen, visited the Clancey Family in Wentworthville, a suburb of Sydney. The Clancey residence has a very church ceiling and the house is opposite a reservoir in a high elevation area.

Being summer, it was humid and hot and most difficult for one situation—keeping organ pipes in tune. But there in the tremendous living room sat a theatre pipe organ, a church pipe organ and three electronic organs! Beautiful music was made.

"Your ATOS International NEWS helped make the contact possible, as well as contact with other friends around the world," Rosa advised.

She added that "playing piano on board the SS Queen Elizabeth II had people from around the globe arm-in-arm singing and humming to recognizable tunes—Hurrah for music, the great international language!"

YORK ORGAN NOW USED FOR MANY PROGRAMS

After a three-year volunteer effort, the Wurlitzer-styled theatre organ installed in the Strand/Capitol Theatre, York, Pa., is being used for public performances. The instrument is about 75 percent complete and presently includes three Strings, Concert Flute, two Tibias, Vox Humanna, Post Horn, Brass Saxophone, Diapason, Trumpet, Clarinet, Toy Counter and Tuned Percussions.

Ranks to be added include a Diapason Celeste, Kinura, Vox II, Diaphonic Diapason and French Horn. A large scale Kilgen Tibia will be substituted for a present smaller Marr & Colton set.

Performances have been well received, nearly selling out the 700-seat house. Don Kinnier has been featured at the console for a performance of Chaplin's "The Circus" and for a combined vaudeville, silent film and sing-along show. In addition, the organ is used prior to screenings of the classic film series.

Glenn Thompson, project chairman, reports in addition to completing pipe work, continued efforts are made to eliminate other problems that crop up. A major push will be made over summer months for professional restoration of the theatre ceiling, marquee and carpeting. It is anticipated several top concerts artists will be presented in the fall.

L.A. Memorial Organ Is Ready To Be Framed

Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society's Ross Reed Memorial 3/24 Wurlitzer is now 90 percent rebuilt, exclusive of the console, and ready to be set up on floor frames in the Crome Organ shop. After it has been shop mounted, the frames will be moved to chambers at Pasadena City College Sexson Auditorium so installation work can begin.

Leroy Lewis Records Moller Concert Organ

Leroy Lewis has recorded "International Passport to Music" on the large Moller Concert Organ in the Scottish Rite Cathedral at New Castle, Pa. A cassette has been produced by E.A.R., 110 Williams Drive, McMurray, Pa. 15317.

BOHM THEATRE HAS 60TH CELEBRATION

Albion (Michigan) hosted organ buffs from far and wide March 12 when a program was held at the Bohm Theatre to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the film palace. Dr. Russell Rowan, who has headed maintenance of the organ, talked briefly about the history of construction, architecture and ownership of the theatre.

Scott Smith, Lansing organist, was featured artist. Guests were present from Lansing Theatre Organ Society, State Theatre Organ Club, Kalamazoo; Grand Rapids and Toledo buffs were also there. Don Scribner, who starred as Bohm organist for many years, was present.

Following the theatre program, Rowan hosted buffs at his Albion home where he has an eight-rank Wurlitzer installed.

THEATRE AUCTION BRINGS BIG BUCKS

by Richard J. Sklenar

Serious Midwest collectors drove up prices at the auction of contents of the Ambassador Theatre, St. Louis, according to Chicago Theatre manager-turned antique dealer Peter Miller. He attended the sale March 12.

The theatre sheet music collection went for \$25,000, a large lobby chandelier for \$35,000. One collector bought railings in the lobby for \$38,000 and paid \$900 each for nine small wall brackets.

Free Shows In Maine For Citizens Of Portland

Portland (Maine) City Hall's Kotschmer Memorial Organ was played by Earl Miller March 22 to accompany "King of Kings." The performance was open to the public without charge. Two other organ programs were scheduled for April 14 and May 9 for public enjoyment.

RIGGS HAS BATH TUB CASSETTE AVAILABLE

"Singin' In The Bathtub" with Jim Riggs at the console of Birmingham's Alabama Theatre 4/21 Wurlitzer on compact disc at \$22, or Dolby cassette at \$12 postpaid, is ready for your audio system. Order from Riggs-Alabama Theatre Recording, P.O. Box 2372, Birmingham, Ala. 35201.



ANDY KASPARIAN entertained ATOS guests at the console of the 4/17 Ken Hunt residence Wurlitzer during a March weekend in Clearwater, Florida. He was in the state playing Baldwin-sponsored concerts.

KASPARIAN PLAYS AROUND IN FLORIDA

Just because he isn't seen and heard frequently on the ATOS concert circuit doesn't mean organist Andy Kasparian isn't busy. Following a Baldwin-sponsored whirlwind tour of Florida's east coast, he relaxed and spent the weekend of March 11/12 on the west coast of the state with Dottie and Roger Bloom, who now live in Hudson. They were formerly stalwarts of Delaware Valley Chapter but now are members of Mid-Florida in Tampa.

Kasparian played a Baldwin concert in Clearwater Saturday afternoon, then in the evening he was invited to the magnificent home of ATOS members Ken and Ruth Hunt to play the 4/17 Wurlitzer installed there.

On hand to hear him put the organ through the Kasparian mode were Mr. & Mrs. Al Hermanns and Randy Piazza. The latter-named buff was active for nearly 30 years at the Riviera Theatre, North Tonawanda, N. Y. before retiring to the so-called "Sunshine State" (It's obvious a Californian wrote this—Ed).

Then on Sunday, 60 local chapter members crowded the Bloom residence to hear Andy play the Conn 652, plus a few numbers on the Schimmel grand piano. Andy had played here in Feb. '88. Open console followed for those brave enough to display their dexterity.

On Monday Kasparian drove off to Ocala to play another concert and then return to his Cherry Hill home in New Jersey.

Elliott's Buffalo Show Shown On Telecast

Chris Elliott played "The Mark of Zorro" at Shea's Buffalo Theatre Mar. 12. He was interviewed before the performance by the local CBS Affiliate station, Channel 4, and during the performance the TV crew filmed his accompaniment of the feature.

This was telecast on the two evening news shows under the title—"Making Movie Music The Old Fashioned Way."

No Basis For Rumors, Curley Tells NEWS

As a result of several wildfire rumors spreading about the land concerning his cancellation of the Detroit Convention date he was to have played at Hill Auditorium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Carlo Curley called the NEWS April 1 to set the record straight. In reality, he noted, there was no cancellation simply because no contract, or letter of confirmation has ever been received.

Curley related that approximately a year and a half previous to calling the NEWS, he was asked if he would play the Skinner organ at the school. He said he would and assumed a contract would be sent.

During the interim his manager was busy arranging concert dates. As time passed, the coming convention program was forgotten through lack of communication and other concert dates were set. Both Curley and his manager forgot the original convention conversation.

Then, when the Mar/Apr issue of *Theatre Organ Journal* appeared, Carlo got a jolt—his picture was printed and he was announced as an artist. Curley was not booked to play a concert on that day, but to be able to play the Hill Auditorium Skinner would require about \$4,000—he would be playing a program the prior evening in Ireland. The \$4,000 would be required to transport him to Michigan and then back to Ireland because he has other concert dates there.

"I would like to play for ATOS. It was really a delight to perform at Pasadena Civic Auditorium in 1987, but because the lack of the contract and forgetting the original conversation, it is not possible," he said. "There certainly is no basis for any kind of rumor in this regrettable situation."

THREE BAY AREA PALACES LENSED

Three unique Bay Area theatres were photographed, inside and out, early in March by National Geographic lensmen. The three—Oakland Paramount, San Francisco Castro and Alhambra Theatres—are expected to appear in coming issues of the publication, possibly during late summer.

It was not learned if the shutterbugs filmed the organ consoles in the Paramount and Castro; the Alhambra, which was designed by Architects Miller and Pflueger, who also created the Castro, lost its pipe organ many years back, it was reported by Jim McMillan, Alhambra.

Miller also noted San Francisco Magazine, in its Jan/Feb '89 issue gave the Alhambra an award for "the best trend"—"The Alhambra bucked the tide by refurbishing its Moorish splendor and giving us a single, comfortable movie palace. Just the way God and Cecil B. DeMille intended."

Organist Also In Canal Boat Business

British organist David Lowe, who is currently setting up a concert tour of U. S. for November, is not only a busy console artist in London—he plays at a large ice rink—but is also in the canal boat business. "We are presently converting another barge, built around the turn of the century, into a second restaurant/general purpose trip boat to cope with demand.

On his previous visits to U. S., wherever he played the organ, he received tremendous applause and commendations for his artistry.

He has open dates available for his coming October tour and may be contacted at 18 Spruce Hills Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 4LD, England, or by calling 01-531-4979.

Three Artists In Patio Show Set For June 18

by Jim Koller

Gerry Gregorius, Kurt Von Schakel and Dave Wickerham will share the bill at Chicago's Patio Theatre June 18. Advance tickets are \$7, or \$9 at the door the day of the show.

Four Organs Available For Rochester Buffs.

Rochester (N.Y.) Theatre Organ Society members can rent practice time on four organs in Temple Civic Center, next door to the Auditorium Theatre. For a charge of \$5 per hour the four instruments available are: a two-manual, a 4/56 Moller, and two 3/24 Buhl "Rochester" model instruments.

MYSTERY ARTIST REALLY NO MYSTERY, JUST 'REVAMPED' WELL-KNOWN PLAYER

Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society members who trekked to Phoenix, Ariz., over April 8/9 weekend on an organ safari were non-plussed when, at Mesa Organ Stop Pizza Parlor, the organ started playing and the sound was similar to the Lyn Larsen style of music. But the rising console hove into view and displayed a slightly different physical style of person on the bench. Viewed from back, he appeared to be much thinner than Lyn when he was last seen by the L.A. bunch. And the mop of hair was styled different than Lyn sported. But when the mystery artist finished his opener and turned to acknowledge applause, it was Lyn—about 30 pounds lighter and in new hair dress (same hair, of course).

It was also noted his musical presentation surpassed all previous concerts he had played for those present who had heard him elsewhere.

JIM, TAMMY ORGANS SOLD TO JUNCHEN

Jim and Tammy Bakker will not be using the three organs they purchased during the palmy days of "PTL"—the instruments have been sold to David L. Junchen and Dr. Robert R. Gilson for resale. Top organ in the collection is the former 4/20 Publix No. 1 Wurlitzer from the Dallas Palace Theatre. It does not have a console but is otherwise complete.

The 3/27 Welte/Wurlitzer that once sounded off in the NBC Hollywood Studios at Sunset and Vine Streets is complete—and may already be sold. Junchen disclosed that a customer is considering placing the organ in a big restaurant in Korea. It is a large international concern headquartered in Portland, Ore. Reportedly, the organ bug bit company big wigs when they heard the Wurlitzer at Portland's Organ Grinder Pizza Parlor.

Third instrument is a 3/25 Murray M. Harris (forerunner of the Robert-Morton organ), a classic job from Glendale (Calif.) Baptist Church, and is a complete instrument.

Junchen is handling all sales and may be contacted by calling 818/795-2898, or by writing him at 280 East Del Mar, Suite 311, Pasadena, Calif. 91101.

McAbee Plays June 3

Organist Kay McAbee will present a concert on the Phipps Center Wurlitzer, Hudson, Minn., June 3.

Chi Stadium To Stay; Organ To Be Recorded

Chicago's Stadium, home of the biggest Barton organ ever built, is approaching its 60th birthday and it now looks as if owner Bill Wirtz will keep it standing instead of demolishing the structure when he builds a new adjacent sports palace, it was reported in the Sunday Chicago Tribune, March 26.

The news item mentioned that events in the amphitheatre have been accompanied by the mammoth organ, "an instrument so grand and powerful that its full volume, comparable to 25 brass bands, would shatter the windows.

Tom Hazleton, who played the instrument during Chicago's '85 convention and received high praise for his handling of the difficult-to-play organ, has announced he will record it on a compact disc during June. At press time actual contract talks between ProArte and stadium officials had not started.

James In L. A., Plays Single Silent Film

Dennis James flew into L. A. March 24 for a two-night stint at Los Angeles County Museum's Bing Theatre to accompany the two-part, four hours and 48-minute "Die Nibelungen." He premiered the film at the Castro Theatre, San Francisco the previous Saturday. He also played it at the World Theatre, St. Paul, Minn., Mar. 30 and 31.

Hazleton Tapes Show For Moody Network

by Richard J. Sklenar

Tom Hazleton, in Chicago for a Windy City Organ Club meeting, taped a program on the famed Van Der Molen Robert-Morton organ in Wheaton, Ill., for broadcast on "Prime Time America," the radio magazine of the Moody Broadcast Network. The show aired Mar. 31 at 4pm, Central time, and simultaneously on 140 stations in 38 states.

Jim Warren, a Windy City member, hosts "Prime Time America" and other Moody programs.

It was during the club meeting that Hazleton also announced he will record a CD at the Chicago Stadium for Pro Arte, possibly in June.

Brown Bag In Again At Providence Center

Providence (Rhode Island) Performing Arts Center is once again presenting "Wednesday at the Wurlitzer". Starting April 12 and continuing through June 14, every Wednesday at noon the public is invited to a free hour-long concert series. Everyone is invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Those who don't wish to tote a bag can obtain light fare at a nominal charge at the theatre.

The series is sponsored by AT&T and the Providence Journal-Bulletin newspaper.

Chicago Dance Set For Oct. 8 At Aragon Palace

by Jim Koller

With success of their May '87 program at Chicago's Aragon Ballroom still being talked about, Chicago Area Theatre Organ Society is planning another tripping of the light fantastic there Oct. 8. Organist Hal Pearl has been signed to play the 3/10 Wurlitzer. Tony Barron and his orchestra will play for dancing.

Lowrey Names National Artist To Its Staff

William D. Curry has been appointed to the Lowrey Organ Company staff as a national concert artist. He will play in-store concerts and make promotional appearances at fairs, conventions and trade shows.

Buy A Villain's Abode For \$2.25

This month, musical-minded ATOS members have the opportunity for a real estate buy—"The Villain's Den" for just \$2.25. The dastardly music, which is the special tune of the month, can be ordered from ATOS Archives, 1393, Don Carlos Court, Chula Vista, Calif. 92010.

May 1989

Ringling Barton Organ Given Constant Care

Continued maintenance of the 3/9 Barton organ in the Al Ringling Theatre, Baraboo, Wisc., is carried out by ATOS member Roger Greunke of Port Edward, Wisc. "I usually spend a day or two a week and fix things in the theatre or play the organ. It may be only a nine-rank organ, and five of them are straight, but everything works," he said.

The organ was installed in 1928 and replaced a Wurlitzer, according to information published in "Bartola," official newsletter of Dairyland Chapter.

Kann To Kick Off Monday Movies At St. Louis Fox

Film mileage for the phamous Phantom is on the increase already this year. Stan Kann kicks off Monday at the Movies in St. Louis at the Fabulous Fox Theatre with Eric's eerie exercises June 12. He also plays a wondrous Wurlitzer concert preceding the Phantom's philandering under the Paris Opera House.

Continued showings year after year of "The Phantom of the Opera" should tell Universal Studios something. The film factory still has the original opera house set on one of its stages on the main lot and it might be worth developing "A Phantom Fantasy" as one of its tourist trap attractions. There is also a 3/12 Robert-Morton organ on the music sound stage that could supply music for Eric's organ via remote control to add reality to the exhibit.

APRIL 26 IS BARTON DEATH ANNIVERSARY

by Richard Sklenar

April 26 marked the 15th anniversary of the death of organ builder Dan Barton, who died one month short of his 90th birthday. Barton organs were found mostly in the midwest and he lived long enough to see many resurrected, and for he himself to be discovered and praised for the quality of his workmanship.

He would be pleased to know how many of his organs are still in use, especially that in the Iowa Theatre, Cedar Rapids, which many consider to be the finest Barton still playing.

BOOK ON MICHIGAN THEATRES FOR SALE

"Historic Theatres of Michigan" was published by Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan last year and copies are still available. A full-color booklet, 8½-by-11 inches, contains photos and brief histories of 21 theatres.

It sells for \$6.10, postpaid, and can be obtained from Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan, 350 Madison Ave., Suite 503, Detroit, Mich. 48226.



TOM HAZLETON demonstrates 'do's and Don'ts' of theatre organ playing during workshop session held last Feb. 11 and 12 at Granada Theatre, Kansas City, Kan. Patti Simon is one of the interested students.

Benzmiller Given More Austin Organ Territory

Jim Benzmiller, whom it will be recalled, played theatre organ concerts in the midwest and ultimately channeled his organ playing mainly into church work, is also Austin Organ rep in Wisconsin. He recently was given enlarged territory, according to a news item published in the March '89 issue of Diapason.

Benzmiller still plays an occasional program on the Wausau, Wisc. Grand Theatre three-manual Kilgen organ, which he has maintained for many years. He also produced a theatre album—Big, Bold and Brassy—on a church organ in his home town of Stevens Point, Wisc., which still provokes high acclaim by those who hear it.

Carter, Pirates To Cavort At Avalon Casino Theatre

Pirates, especially the famed "Black Pirate," will storm Catalina Island Casino Theatre May 27 with Gaylord Carter accompanying the silver screen cavorting on the 4/16 organ. It is the 60th anniversary of magnificent showplace at Avalon, Calif. The organ has been undergoing restoration on a continuing basis for several years and will be in top condition.

Advanced boat transportation reservations are advised.

Carter Capers Elsewhere

Other Carter caperings at various consoles: May 7, Renaissance Theatre, Mansfield, Ohio; May 10, Egyptian Theatre, Boise, Idaho (both dates feature Harold Lloyd films); May 16/17, Old Town Music Hall, El Segundo, Calif., "Mark of Zorro."

On June 10 Carter will present his Lloyd Festival at the Granada Theatre, Kansas City, Kan; June 17, 18 and 19 he will be part of workshops and silent film presentations at the University of Colorado, Fort Collins.

Wunderlich In Britain

Germany's organ ace Klaus Wunderlich toured Great Britain during March playing 28 concerts at 28 different venues.

CARLEY CAUGHT IN CURLEY RUMORING

Shortly following the onslaught of rumors concerning Carlo Curley's coming convention non-appearance, Candi Carley, who is also advertised as one of the Detroit artists, became enmeshed in the fantasy mill—she, too, had cancelled, a wildfire rumor alleged. This was quickly dispelled by calling Candi at her Canyon Country Casa. She hadn't heard this particular rumor and reasoned it was started due to similarity of the Carley/Curley names. She is definitely playing for conventioners.

But Candi had a problem rumor of her own to contend with. Someone is spreading word around that she is going to have a baby. "That's not true, and I wish the person who is doing the talking would stop," she said. She compared her rumor monger thus: "Big people talk about ideas. Average people talk about things. Very small people talk about other people."

Rare Silent To Be Seen At St. Hedwig Center

Toledo Area Theatre Organ Society will view a rare full-length silent feature film June 22 at St. Hedwig Cultural Center. Show time is 7:30pm and Bill Yaney will accompany the feature on the Marr & Colton organ.

This film is one of several acquired by Chapter President Evan Chase. They are not available for TV, library rentals or other outlets, it was noted in "Glass City Blower," official newsletter of the Society.

Organ and Trains Right Next Door

Organ/rail buffs have double pleasure in store when they visit the Lamplighter Inn at Olmstead Falls, Ohio. The eatery still has and uses its Kimball theatre organ—and next door is the International Trolley Museum with operating cars. Most organ buffs are rail enthusiasts as well, thus the double pleasure.

ATOS International NEWS section of Theatre Organ Journal is prepared by Tom B'hend, assisted Jim Koller. News items should be addressed to P. O. Box 40165, Pasadena, Calif. 91144.

WIND

—Continued from Page Two—

sale" deal and a search was started for another organ.

An inquiry by the NEWS about VTOS involvement resulted in a rather frank appraisal of the project from a reliable source that requested anonymity. "The organ is not playing and at the present rate of progress, it never will. It has been described as a 'pile of junk'. Many of the pipes are missing and those remaining need much repair. Chests have been repaired with tar to prevent air leaks.

"There is some talk about discarding this organ and starting all over. Even when it was in storage in Richmond, those in charge of converting the theatre did not want the organ; chambers were sealed up to provide office space for the technical director and had to be reopened. VTOS was barred from the project from the beginning; there were some members who did work on the project, but not in the name of the Society.

"The blower is located in the old relay room, just off the solo chamber. When it is turned on it sounds like a 747 coming through the house.

"No formal action has been taken as yet. If you know of anyone wanting to donate an organ, let VTOS know." The Society's address: P.O.Box 7082, Richmond, Va. 23221.

Postage Cost Not Given For Rhode Cassette

Last month a news story announced that Ron Rhode's latest cassette recording, which was taped on the Jasper Sanfilippo Wurlitzer in Barrington, Ill., was ready for release at \$10 per copy. It was also added that "the price includes \$2 postage".

Inadvertently, the postage part was a private bit of humor that got into print in Valley of the Sun Chapter's newsletter *The Stop Rail*, and because the publication is mailed beyond the chapter area, the NEWS staff picked up the item and published it.

Rhode started receiving orders with \$10 checks and considered instituting Chapter 11 bankruptcy since postage and packing costs could wipe out what little profit might accrue from sales.

Readers are advised that the cassette does sell for \$10, but there is also the added charge of \$2 to cover the costs of packing and posting.

Ron's latest recording, which is played on the Byrd Theatre 4/17 Wurlitzer in Richmond, Va., will be released as a compact disc and distributed by Virginia Theatre Organ Society. Price of the platter and its release date will be announced very soon.



ICUS ORGANUM

A highlight of the ATOS '89 Convention will be concerts at the Fox Theatre. Patrons are ushered in to the sound of a 3/12 Moller organ in the lobby — a sweet prelude to the majesty of the 4/36 Wurlitzer organ in the 7-story high auditorium.



If the weather is fine, conventioners will want to ride on a vintage double-decker trolley car. It will take more than a trolley ride to reach Ann Arbor, however. The trip will include a classical concert at Hill Auditorium, and a concert at the restored Michigan Theatre.

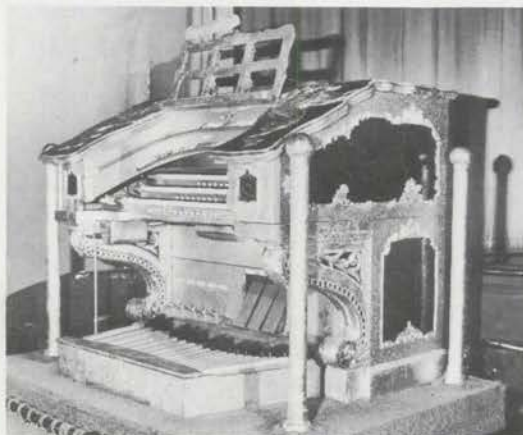


Detroit is aglow at night with restaurants, pubs, nightclubs, "festival shopping," concerts, plays, operas and ethnic festivals. A feature of Afterglow I is the exotic "Spanish Baroque" State Theatre in Kalamazoo. Mayan gods proudly stand guard on the console of the 4/32 Wurlitzer owned by the private Detroit Theatre Organ Club.

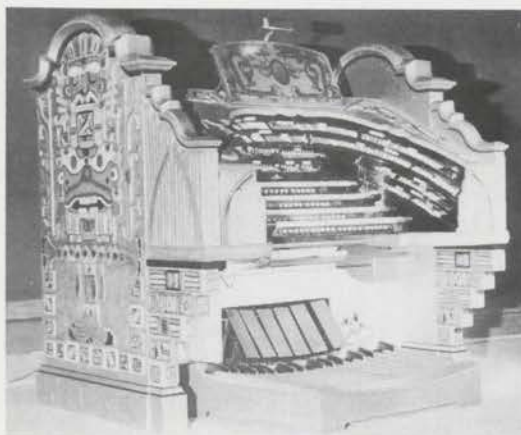




*Visit Detroit in 1989, for the time of your life
at the 34th Annual ATOS Convention, July 2-8!*



The Redford Theatre Organ



Detroit Theatre Organ Club



*Melissa Ambrose
at the Royal Oak*



Lobby of the Redford Theatre



The Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor



*Von Schakel and Gregorius
at the Hill Auditorium*



*Fredric Bayne
at the Westin Hotel*



*John Steele
at the Westin Banquet*



*Dan Bellomy
at DTOC*



*Rob Calcaterra
at the Redford*



Afterglow I

Frankenmuth Afterglow • Saturday, July 8
 8:00 a.m. — Board buses for Frankenmuth
 6:00–8:00 p.m. — Buses arrive back in Detroit

Even the most enthusiastic theatre organ buff might desire a respite from a solid week of concerts and theatre seats . . . what better way to “wind down” than a trip to the historic town of **Frankenmuth**, known as “Michigan’s Little Bavaria!” Located north of Detroit, Frankenmuth was settled by Germans and their descendants have respected and nurtured their legacy. The picturesque town features dozens of Bavarian-style buildings and lovely river-bank parks and paths for strolling.

Frankenmuth is world famous for the family-style chicken dinners served at Zehnder’s Restaurant. After we enjoy this all-you-can-eat luncheon feast, there will be plenty of time to walk and explore the multitude of specialty shops, many of them unique to Frankenmuth.

Chief among these is Bronner’s, the world’s largest Christmas store. Other stores feature such varied merchandise as clocks, Michigan wines, kites, doll houses and miniatures, woodcarvings, clothes, candies, linens, cheeses, and country-style crafts and furnishings.



Frankenmuth . . . Michigan’s Little Bavaria . . . a perfect ATOS ’89 Afterglow!

\$25 per person total cost
 (includes bus transportation and family-style chicken dinner)

Afterglow II

Southwest Michigan Afterglow • Saturday, July 8
 8:00 a.m. — Board buses for Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids
 Midnight — Buses arrive back in Detroit

Beautiful Southwest Michigan invites you to ride in air-conditioned buses through its green and pleasant countryside to the cities of Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo.

Grand Rapids

At *Good Time Charley’s* in Grand Rapids, we’ll enjoy a hearty lunch (the selection includes three choices: Veal Parmesan, Shrimp Basket, and Barbeque Chicken). While lunching and relaxing, we’ll hear organist **Charlie Balogh** concertizing on the restaurant’s mighty 3/31 Wurlitzer, originally from the Stanley Theater in Jersey City.

Kalamazoo

We’ll arrive in Kalamazoo in the midst of its Annual Flower Fest. We’ll visit the John Ebersson-designed atmospheric style **State Theatre**. The auditorium is styled to appear as a Spanish courtyard; the stars will twinkle and the clouds will race by as we listen to the silver-throated 3/13 Barton organ, played by organist **Rob Richards**.

A boxed lunch will be served before the buses depart for Detroit.

\$45 per person total cost
 (includes bus transportation and two meals)
 Limited to 330 people

Co-sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Chapter and the Motor City Theatre Organ Society Chapter, ATOS.



Charlie Balogh



Rob Richards