

# Chapter Notes



## ALABAMA

Birmingham  
205/942-5611 or 205/644-3606

Alabama Chapter welcomed back a long-time favorite in March as Dolton McAlpin teamed up with the Alabama's Wurlitzer. Dolton played a wide range of selections and requests — something for everyone. Perhaps next time we can get someone to help with those Gregorina chants!!

April found the South with unique weather and the chapter with a unique weekend. Lee Erwin scored *Metropolis* April 8, at the Alabama Theatre to an enthusiastic audience. Pine Haven Baptist Church, where chapter Vice-President Gary W. Jones has been organist since 1972, recently purchased a new Rodgers Essex 655 for their sanctuary. Lee had agreed to dedicate the new instrument and chapter members gathered at Pine Haven for a unique dedicatory program. From Bach to Gershwin, and everything in between, Lee put the organ through its paces and revealed the versatility of both organ and organist.

The Alabama Theatre continues to do well with May being completely booked with live shows, classic films, private parties, children's shows, plays, etc. With only three free days in May and barely fewer in June, chapter members are grateful for both bookings and breaks.

Gary W. Jones



Lee Erwin and Gary Jones at Lee's dedicatory program at Pine Haven Baptist Church.

## ATLANTA

404/428-4809 or 404/948-0267

Tom Helms, from Pensacola, Florida, performed for us on March 12. Tom is a well-known concert organist and builder, restorer, voicer and tonal finisher of organs across the United States. He played the newly installed 3/33 Moller organ in suburban Chamblee's First United Methodist Church. His very enjoyable program included church numbers, light classics and popular numbers reminiscent of the romantic American organ, ranging from "Jerusalem" and "Oh, Sacred Head," to "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "Stormy Weather," "El Capitan" and "Finlandia." It was exciting to hear.

On April 16, the Allen Organ Studios hosted us for a performance on a three-manual Allen 4600. The artist was Jerry W. Myers, who was originally from the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, area, but who moved here from Ohio a year and a half ago. Jerry is Music Associate and organist at the First Baptist Church, College Park, just south of Atlanta, and has performed throughout the United States. He played a variety of pieces, from "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Jesus Shall Reign" to "Chicago" and "Button Up Your Overcoat," including Percy Fletcher's "Festival Toccata" for good measure. Jerry certainly exhibited very well both his and the 4600's great versatility.

Bill Hitchcock



Dolton McAlpin at the Alabama Wurlitzer.

Gary W. Jones photo



Jerry W. Myers plays the Allen 4600.



Tom Helms at the console of the 3/33 Moller.



**BUFFALO**  
 AREA CHAPTER, ATOS  
 New York  
 716/694-9158

Shea's Buffalo Theatre is a Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, and we cannot always hold meetings at the theatre. In March, our monthly meeting was held at Queen of Peace Roman Catholic Church which is home to a 4/32 Kilgen organ. Even though the organ is presently being restored, our club members had great fun taking turns at open console. Many of our members are really talented, playing by ear, and then there are those of us who play only by reading music. For us amateurs, our fellow members did our registrations and produced great sounds for us so that we could just play. We had a good time being together as club members and sharing our love for music.

April 9 was our last organ concert for the season with Ty Woodward doing a Pop Concert on the Mighty Wurlitzer. A couple of days later, we were back at the Shea's for our meeting. We had the thrill of sitting center stage at the Wurlitzer console in our fantasy of being "great artists," another Ty Woodward, Hector Olivera or Jesse Crawford.

May found *Porgy & Bees* at Shea's Theatre; therefore, our club meeting was held at Assumption Church with a mini-concert on the pipe organ by Bob Allen. Bob is music director at Assumption Church and is employed by the Denton, Cottier & Daniels Music Store. The pipe organ at Assumption Church is a 2/54 hybrid. Following Bob's concert, we all had our chance at open console.

Just as a reminder, we would appreciate hearing from artists and/or recording companies interested in producing a CD and record album or cassette tape of the Shea's Buffalo 4/28 Wurlitzer. Those interested please contact Harry W. Marciniak at 2645 Colvin Blvd., Tonawanda, New York 14150-4440.

*Norma J. Marciniak*

All inquiries regarding membership matters should be addressed to . . .  
**DOUGLAS C. FISK**, Executive Director of ATOS  
 P.O. Box 417490  
 Sacramento, California 95841



## CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tampa

813/577-1898 or 813/251-8325

Andy Kasparian, who had played for our chapter in February of 1988, was once again the house-guest of members Dottie and Roger Bloom in March. While here, he had the opportunity to put the 4/17 Mighty Wurlitzer belonging to Ken and Ruth Hunt through its paces. A small group was in attendance for this event at the Hunt's lovely home in Clearwater. The next day, March 12, Andy played the Bloom's Conn 652 for our monthly meeting which a record-breaking 63 members attended. Andy, we love your playing and your gracious personality. You are always welcome!

The chapter assisted the family of Elenor Nardy, a young 14-year-old organist from the Orlando area, in preparing a tape for submission in the Young Organist Competition. For this, we got nine ranks of the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer playing, and the results showed off Elenor and the organ to good advantage.

For our April meeting, we went all out. With considerable effort by a small but dedicated group, we had all 12 ranks and most of the tuned percussions working on the Tampa Wurlitzer. We brought in Rob Calcaterra, and with as much publicity as we could generate at absolutely no cost, some 500 people, including a bus load from the mid-Florida Chapter, showed up and heard a theatre organ in very good condition, played beautifully, professionally, and with considerable affection by the young, dynamic Rob Calcaterra. The audience was with him; he was with the audience, and his selections spotlighted his outstanding musicianship, showmanship, and obvious delight with the organ. The organ crew found Rob to be most pleasant to work with and patient and understanding of what we were trying to do. Rob Calcaterra, you will also be welcome back for a repeat performance on the Tampa Theatre Mighty Wurlitzer!



At left: Andy Kasparian at the Conn 652 in home of Dottie and Roger Bloom. Right: Rob Calcaterra during rehearsal on the Tampa Theatre's 3/12 Mighty Wurlitzer.

A few days after this concert, we received a call from the manager of the Tampa Theatre, indicating there was interest in co-producing an organ concert series. An idea for a series was already in the works between our chapter, and Mid-Florida Chapter. Over lunch, representatives explored the possibilities. The meeting resulted in the laying of groundwork and strategy for consideration by the respective boards. We are now looking at a five-show series with first rate organists, probably running from November 1989 thru April 1990.

Lee Erwin was in Tampa in late April to play the Tampa Wurlitzer and to accompany the fine Buster Keaton silent classic, *The General*. We were involved in some late-night tuning and assisting Lee in getting what he wanted out of the organ. He seemed pleased with the new sound, and was even patient with a cipher that occurred during the first few minutes of the film and seemed to take forever to silence. Lee Erwin has played this organ several times and is always most pleasant to work with.

Late April also found some of our members in the Orlando area to assist with and to attend a Don Baker concert at Lake Brantley High School in Altamonte Springs. This school is the proposed site for a theatre pipe organ in the near future. Fortunately, the architect, knowingly or unknowingly, provided "organ lofts" and a blower room in the plans.

*continued*

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**CENTRAL FLORIDA cont.**

Don performed on a Conn 652, augmented by several external speakers (unfortunately, moments before curtain time, lightning zapped a couple of the speakers). Elenor Nardy also played at intermission and proved to be a crowd-pleaser.

The cooperation between the Central and Mid-Florida Chapters continues to be outstanding, which should be the norm in ATOS rather than the exception. Theatre organ is a labor of love and the work we have put in on the Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer, while strenuous and time-consuming, is worth the effort when hearing the instrument begin to soar and be worthy of the title, "King of Instruments."

*John Otterson*



**CENTRAL INDIANA**

**Indianapolis**

**317/255-8056 or 317/787-4865**

Our March meeting at the Hedback Theatre featured the Fifth Annual Dessa Byrd Scholarship Competition. This competition is eagerly anticipated by the membership. This year's winner and our entrant in the National ATOS Young Organist Competition is Mr. Barry Baker, a young man of considerable talent. Runner-up in the contest was Miss Diana Thomas. Our thanks to both these young people for sharing their music with us.

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a concert by Ron Rhode. In keeping with the day, Mr. Rhode played a medley of Irish tunes, including "It's A Great Day For The Irish" and "Libiamo" from *La Traviata*. His well-rounded program included songs from the 20s and early 40s. He concluded his program with Easter favorites including "Holy City." The Sing-along and the silent movie capped off the evening nicely.

April 1, over fifty members and guests left for points east on a very successful and enjoyable organ crawl. They visited Shady Nook in Millville, Ohio, where Van Jones performed on the WLW Moon River



Ron Rhode and Phil Hedback at the Hedback Theatre. *B. Johnson photo*

organ. Several home installations were included on this trip as well as a concert by Father Jim Miller at the Renaissance Theatre in Mansfield, Ohio. The general feeling was that this was the BEST bus trip ever.

On April 9, our meeting was hosted by the Meridian Music Company, Indianapolis' new Steinway dealer. The program was held in the beautiful auditorium there and featured Sue Downs on the new Yamaha US-1. Sue's program was designed to demonstrate the varied capabilities of this instrument. "Send In The Clowns" was a perfect selection to show off the piano and harp stops; "When I Fall In Love" featured the violins and vocal chorus. I particularly enjoyed her jazz interpretation of "Pennies From Heaven." Sue and James Janssen collaborated on a piano duet, playing Debussy's Ballet from the "Petite Suite;" then it was back to the organ for a medley from *South Pacific*. For an encore, Sue joined our own Virginia Rectoris Wolfram in a piano-organ duet of "Begin The Beguine." This was an exciting and innovative program.

Work is progressing on schedule on the Manual Organ. Main chamber work is finished and we are well "into" the Solo. We are grateful to our members, friends, workers and community businesses for their support of this project. Come hear it at the 1990 ATOS Convention!

*Barbara R. Johnson*



**CHAPTER CORRESPONDENTS:  
PLEASE NOTE**

To help ease the burden on the editorial staff of THEATRE ORGAN, please observe the following: Type all copy, double-spaced, on letter size (8½" x 11") white paper, leaving 1¼" margins on top, bottom and both sides. Do not use erasable paper. Please include your name, address and telephone number. Type photo captions on Scotch (3M) Post-it Note sheets (-654, 3"x3" or -655, 3"x5") and attach to BACK of photo. DO NOT use any kind of tape or rubber cement to attach captions to photos, and DO NOT attach photos to sheets of paper.

Send Chapter Notes and photos to:

**GRACE E. MCGINNIS**  
4633 S.E. Brookside Drive, -58  
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222  
Phone: 503/654-5823

**DEADLINES:**

- November 10 for January/February
- January 10 for March/April
- March 10 for May/June
- May 10 for July/August
- July 10 for September/October
- September 10 for November/December



Barry Baker, CIC's entrant in the National ATOS Young Organist Competition. *D. Newswanger photo*

June 17	Hancher Auditorium, Iowa City, Iowa
June 20 to 25	Radio City Music Hall, New York City
June 28 to September 3	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
July 24	Spreckles Organ-Balboa Park, San Diego, California
July 26, 27	Lancaster Arts Festival, Ohio
August 16	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
September 8	Church of the Redeemer, Kingston, Ontario, CANADA
September 17	David Lutheran Church, Canal-Winchester, Ohio
October 2-16	France Concert Tour
October 20, 21	University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
October 22	Bushnell Auditorium, Hartford, Connecticut
October 27	World Theatre, St. Paul, Minnesota
October 28	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
October 30	Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan
November 12	Arlington Theatre, Santa Barbara, California
November 18	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
December 2	Gray's Armory, Cleveland, Ohio
January 11, 1990	Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
February 17	Symphony Hall, San Diego, California
March 4	Short North, Columbus, Ohio
March 12 to April 22	National Tour, Munich Filmmuseum

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## CENTRAL OHIO

Columbus

614/652-1775 or 614/882-4085

On March 19 we were hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hamilton in their lovely Arlington home. The highlight of the afternoon was the demonstration of their Robert-Morton organ. Not just any Robert-Morton organ but an exact replica of the Ohio Theatre instrument. Console layout, color, decoration and configuration have been painstakingly duplicated in every detail. The home installation features analog and digital solid-state electronics which reproduce 20 ranks and percussions, identical to those in the Ohio, via 24 channels and 36 speakers. The output has an awesome 2000-watt capability. To enable our 35 members and guests to see and hear the organ, Tom had rigged a video camera above and to the left of the keydesk which is remoted to the family room for display on a large video screen. Tom played several selections by way of introduction of the instrument and then invited open console. All in all an impressive home installation.

We're still heady with the afterglow of April 2. The day began at 8:30 a.m. with

the arrival of a bus load of Central Indiana Chapter members who had invaded the buckeye state for a weekend tour of restaurant and home installations. We were privileged to have organist Trent Sims play for the group on our mostly Wurlitzer 3/13 with its newly installed Trivo Post Horn. Trent's engaging "What I Did For Love" and medley of tunes from *Sound of Music* ably showcased his style and talent.

The afternoon reunited us with the Indiana group at Mansfield's Renaissance Theatre where Father Jim Miller was back for a return engagement at the console of the famed Warner/Stearn/Carson Wurlitzer. It was refreshing to see a fuller house as many of the audience who had heard him the previous year returned with their friends. In addition to Indiana Chapter, the concert was attended by members of Quad Cities Chapter of Iowa and Central Ohio Chapter.

To the all familiar theme, "The Best Things In Life Are Free," the console rose majestically to spotlight the man of the cloth himself complete with a set of red suspenders. His program was mixed and varied with liberal helpings of jazz, ragtime and standard old favorites. Who

could not be delighted with such numbers as "Paris in Springtime," "Rose of Washington Square" and "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes?" The simultaneous rendition of "Five-Foot-Two" and "Ain't She Sweet" showed his unique ability in melody integration and piano dexterity. The nostalgic "Midnight Sun," "Margie," the sing-along, his witticism and homey philosophy added up to superb entertainment. No doubt about it — he's gonna have to come back!

Donna Parker was the featured artist at the Ohio Theatre on April 16, the second in the organ series for the 1989 season. In a pink dress, she appeared radiant and effervescent, rapidly achieving rapport with her audience. The tuneful "Clap Your Hands" and "Don't Get Around Much Any More" were followed by a South American Latin number "Birds Get In The Way." Especially appealing was Donna's rendition of "Through The Eyes of Love" from *Ice Castles* when the Morton Tibias were blended with the Vox and Kinura.

It's no secret that Donna is partial to Ragtime and boogie as we listened to "Black and White Rag," "12th Street Rag" and "Jump Shirt Boogie." Nor will we forget her novelty numbers, "At the Codfish Ball" and "Kitten On The Keys." Especially touching was the composition "Forever And A Day" which was written by the brother of an ATOS member in memory of his deceased wife, a tune Donna was asked to introduce at the Paramount Music Palace some time ago. Donna's closing number was the fetching "Don't Rain On My Parade" from *Funny Girl*. Donna's musicianship deserved more of an audience than she got, and we can only hope on future occasions her appreciative audience will bring their friends.

We made our spring migration to southern Ohio's Shady Nook restaurant and Springdale Music Palace April 23 with some 25 members turning out. Hospitable organist Martin Bevis entertained them on the venerable 4/42 Wurlitzer which was originally installed and maintained by the late Stanley Todd. The organ, everyone agreed, sounded great with 27 of its ranks up and playing. The dreaded yesteryear perplex in 2 of 5 ranks has now been replaced. It was a special occasion for our President, Henry Garcia, who not only was celebrated with cake and candles in tribute to his birthday but in turn rendered at open console one of his best performances — all without music. Our members were also entertained by Margo Burkhart, who has demonstrated more than once that she is equally at home with the theatre organ as she is with the classical organ. We welcomed new member Phyllis Roberts and look forward to seeing her as well as organist Martin Bevis at future meetings.

John Polsley

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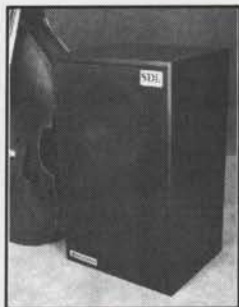
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**CHICAGO AREA**  
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We try to make our audiences happy most of the time, and often succeed. Not too long ago our board of directors decided to use local talent for some of our shows. This came about as a result of the economic situation. We do have well-known soloists each year interspersed with locals. It works quite well because the general public is not too familiar with the majority of accomplished organists. The public patrons know musicians for their abilities plus organ music. Some of these are:

Frank Pellico, who has presented his talent in the Chicago area for many years. He was at the Matterhorn Supper Club in Palos Park, for a long stretch of time. He appeared in USA concerts from east to west as a soloist and with his unique band and dynamic show.

Bob Ralston, who is widely renowned for his years with the Lawrence Welk shows.

Hal Pearl gained recognition through his many years as staff organist at the Aragon Ball Room.

Leon Berry has played for years at midwest roller rinks and draws from a large group of loyal fans when appearing in concert.

Organ club members know many soloists, but members DO NOT fill the concert halls, at least in this area. How can they! There are about 400 members for 2,000- to 3,000-seat houses. The dear public has to be enticed to attend our shows or it will be financial catastrophe. It has happened.

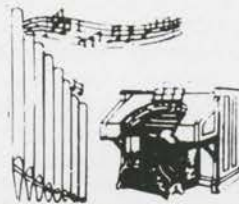
Our nomination for board members and social was in April at Christ Church in Oakbrook and featured Devon Hollingsworth at their 4/80 (plus) Austin. Devon is Musical Director for this church and gave a delightful light classical program. He also demonstrated the versatility of the Austin Pipe Organ, plus its electronic augmentation. A real treat for all attending.

A sad note is the demise of the Elm Roller Rink and its versatile hybrid pipe organ to make way for a new project. Tony Tahlman was staff organist there for many years starting with the Rink's 1956 opening and added much to the improvement of this organ. The rink owner, Bill Fuchs, gave this 4/27 Geneva Hybrid to Jim West and Paul Swiderski who maintained the organ for much of the time. This instrument will be stored awaiting a new home. Here's hoping.

*Almer Brostrom*



*Devon Hollingsworth at the Christ Church Austin.*



**CONNECTICUT VALLEY**  
203/357-4581 or 203/261-5269

Surprise turned quickly to amusement at our April 1 concert when the featured artist was announced as Father James Miller instead of the scheduled Ron Rhode. The April Fool's joke was unmasked as the white-coated artist took over the console and opened with "I Love To Hear You Singing." Everyone knows Ron wears white and Father Jim always wears . . . but more about that later.

This was Ron's second appearance at the Shelton 3/12 Austin and, as always, he held the attention of the audience with a combination of contemporary, old favorites and interesting arrangements of not-so-often-heard tunes. His program included a very novel arrangement of "Slow Poke," and "The Gypsy" which was made famous by the Ink Spots. Ron closed the program with "Zampa Over-

ture" but was brought back for two encores, a very snappy "Hot Lips" and the "Bunny Hug Rag."

Our April membership meeting was held at the Thomaston Opera House, or at least "sort of." Because of fire code violations that closed the opera house to public assembly have not been fully corrected only a few people at a time were permitted in the opera house for the concert program. The music from our beloved 3/15 Marr & Colton was transmitted by stereo to a first floor meeting room. The guest artists were Floyd Higgins, an organ design engineer and organist for St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford, member Brian Colton, and Greg Taylor, popular southern Connecticut music teacher and performer. We are happy to report that signs of the renovation effort are everywhere in the building and spill over into the parking lot where the ground is being prepared for the town hall building addition.

Our May 6 concert at Shelton High School brought back for his second Connecticut appearance of that man in black, the inimitable Father Jim Miller. Beginning with "'S Wonderful," with a Latin beat, Father Jim continued with unusual arrangements of "I Can't Get Started With You" and "I'm Just Crazy About My Baby" sounded more like a jazz trio than a single instrument. When he played Duke Ellington's "Mood Indigo" it only took the barest imagination to see a single lithesome dancer maneuvering the blue-lit stage. His inspiration for the "Bye, Bye Blues March" was from a 110-man marching band, and although he didn't duplicate the sound of the entire band, he came very close.

Father Miller also makes good use of anything in sight that suits his purpose. After the intermission, host Allen Miller reintroduced Father Miller as wanting to achieve a higher position, and the curtain opened to a balcony scene with Father Miller garbed in clerical vestments blessing all in attendance.

*continued...*



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**CONNECTICUT VALLEY cont.**



Ron Rhode with Connecticut Valley President Helen Kilburn at concert at Shelton High School.

Rita Goodkin photo

Commenting later from the console, Father Jim said that he had finally achieved one of his longtime desires of being able to stand at balcony level and bestow his blessings to a large throng. In describing the workings of the toy counter castanets, he produced a set of clacking false teeth which he said was actually a model for the castanets on the toy counter.

We love you, Father Jim, continue to make people feel good with your fine music and good humor.

In the finest tradition of afterglows, a reception was held in honor of Father Jim Miller on Sunday afternoon, May 7, at the Glastonbury, Connecticut, home of Allen Miller. Those who attended were treated to a variety of tasteful appetizers and music as played on Allen Miller's self-designed and built organ and the Knabe Grand Piano with Ampico Player.

Barry Goodkin



Cumberland Valley member Gil Singer at the Eyer Moller.

CVTOS photo



Father Jim Miller calls this "Beauty and the Priest." Connecticut Valley Vice President Jimmie Miller helps Father Jim with his formal wear after his recent Shelton High School concert.

Rita Goodkin photo

**CUMBERLAND VALLEY**

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

717/263-0202

Our chapter project, begun earlier this year, the restoration of the Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Capitol Theatre's original 3/14 Moller, is on schedule and proceeding smoothly. Saturdays, and many Sundays and weeknights, have been workdays for our chapter president and technical director, Mark Cooley, and his crew.

Releathering and unification work on chests from the Solo chamber is nearly complete. Several hundred new magnets have been purchased, and repairs to damaged pipes are underway. The empty chamber has been cleaned, patched, and painted, and will have new fluorescent lighting and additional outlets installed, both of which will be a considerable improvement for future servicing of the organ.

In March, our chapter outing was to the Strand-Capitol Theatre in York, Pennsylvania, for a Sunday afternoon performance of a vaudeville show, which included a sing-along and Buster Keaton's silent film *One Week* accompanied by Don Kinnier at the theatre organ.

Member and Past President Bob Eyer, Jr. hosted our April meeting at his Chambersburg home where the former Penn Hall organ has resided in the basement since 1984. The 3/7 mostly Moller was in fine form, and Bob treated us to a mini-concert of old and new favorites. Several individuals tried their hands at the "Little Mo" during an open console period that followed.

Bob Maney

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## EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Wellesley  
617/662-7055

The chapter's 3/13 Wurlitzer at Babson College was put through its paces on March 18 by John Cook, our 19-year-old star. This 1987 ATOS National Young Organist Competition Intermediate Division winner presented a full-fledged public concert to a large and very enthusiastic audience. We have all witnessed John's considerable progress these last few years and his dedication to music and the theatre organ, but this was special. He was the sole spotlight performer and thoroughly justified our confidence in his abilities.

Mr. Cook was completely prepared and even composed his great opening number, "Pipes on Parade." Our organist may be young in years, but he showed an appreciation of the old with several oldies like his perky "I Got a Gal in Kalamazoo" and a super arrangement of Gershwin's "Embraceable You" as examples. John's program had some Carmichael, Rodgers, a Youmans medley, Confrey and other favorites, all carefully registered and with correct tempi used, as with all of his renditions. With St. Patrick's Day only the day previous, "The Minstrel Boy" was nicely played

as the green spot bathed our artist.

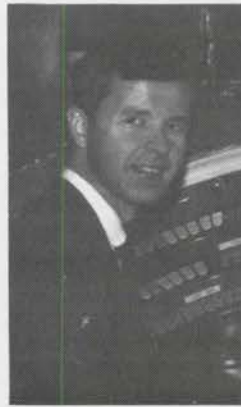
At the conclusion of his program, an even more lusty applause greeted John and he responded with "Another Opening, Another Show." Here was a local boy who made good, and we all felt proud of him. He is no rubber stamp, with his original arrangements, compositions and constant practice producing polished performances. He does not get into the rut of all-too-many musicians with the same selections used time after time. New numbers mean time, research, perseverance, imagination and a driving desire to succeed in learning something unfamiliar. Watch this young man — he has the ability to go far!

The following day, Bob Legon was our organist at our regular monthly meeting. He played familiar songs and a good mixture for the season after his "Manana" opener. With spring, Easter and St. Patrick's Day to suggest themes, Bob played

representative titles, including a sing-along of Irish numbers.

Three artists entertained the Club on April 23 with the Mrs. Dorothy Elliott and Elsie Twitchell representing the distaff side and John L. Hubert, the male. Dot opened with a nicely arranged "Manhattan Serenade" and two other tunes while John started with "Whispering" — too seldom heard. He also included "In a Persian Market" with the Near East atmosphere tastefully enhanced by certain percussions. Elsie's opener was a fast moving "Tico Tico," and she included a beautiful "Jessie," one of her own compositions. Both Elsie and John are teachers of organ, piano and voice with Elsie also having played piano for the silents. These three Rhode Island "imports" with different approaches all contributed to an interesting all-too-brief console interlude.

Stanley C. Garniss



Lew Williams  
in Trenton  
War Memorial.



L to R: Garden State President Robert Norris, Joy Stevens, Eduardo Garcia and Mike Cipolletti.  
Tony Juno photo



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The fifth and final concert of the Trenton War Memorial series was held on April 16. The concert artist was Lew Williams, ATOS 1988 Organist of The Year. Lew's selections ranged from pop to light classics, all played with his special orchestral sounds. We love his up-beat style using Post Horn selectively and effectively. His stunning finger technique, acquired no doubt from hours of practice, points him up as one of our finest organists.

Lew's concert coincided with the Bicentennial celebration of the Constitution and George Washington's trip from Virginia to New York City to be inaugurated as first President of the United States. Lew played a patriotic medley in recognition of Washington's triumphant pass-

ing through Trenton, which was being reenacted that weekend. He concluded his concert with the premier performance of "U.S.A./TODAY," delighting the audience. Our traditional post-concert party followed on the stage with open console and socializing.

We have been successful in obtaining grants from Corporate donors and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to assist in presentation of theatre organ music. The Society most recently became involved with a New Jersey Literacy in the Arts Task Force which is developing a model curriculum for grades kindergarten through twelve in an attempt to strengthen and accelerate the arts in New Jersey schools.

At our February meeting, our guest speaker was Eduardo Garcia, Executive Director of New Jersey's Literacy in the Arts Task Force. We responded by forming our own Task Force comprised of Michael Cipolletti, Joy Stephens and Harry Ley. They prepared special material which expressed our needs and offered suggestions as to how to proceed and fund this ambitious venture. This was presented by Joy Stephens at a hearing in March.

Jinny Vanore





At Left: Jonas Nordwall at the 4/23 Robert-Morton in the Saenger Theatre.

## GULF COAST

Pensacola, Florida

904/932-3133 or 904/433-4683

Our meetings are held in the historic district home of our console-builder/Vice-President/Treasurer, B.D. Rhea, MD, where we held election of officers at the last meeting.

Whoever said one picture is worth a thousand words, had not seen the installation of our 4/23 Robert-Morton here in Pensacola in the Saenger Theatre. Thousands of words can't describe this work of art that Dr. Rhea created for our Chapter. There was a period of quiet following the dedication in 1985 but the few of us struggled valiantly to get it playing again. We started our premier concert season in 1988 with Lyn Larsen, followed by Tom Hazleton, then Walt Strony early in 1989 and Jonas Nordwall in April with Donna Parker in June to end the season. Our organ series has been received warmly and the audiences let you know this is music that beckons us back to the "good ole days."

Jonas Nordwall outdid himself with his mastery of our instrument. Although he may have played for royalty in his youth, no one could appreciate his "royal" treatment more than we did. How do each of the artists perform in such a manner that it is impossible to compare them? It is like comparing apples and grapefruit. It simply can't be done. Each one is marvelous and stands on his own performance. And how we love it!! Another thing, each artist plays such a well-rounded variety of music, we get an overall hearing of so much music. For

some strange reason, none of it seems to be repeated. How is this done?

We do enjoy hearing our organ "sing" again. Since we built this organ entirely with our own funds, actually we wouldn't care if no one showed up for our concerts; we would enjoy them to the "max" ourselves. Unfortunately the "color green" is a vital factor in today's economic scheme, so we work and pray to fill the seats. Naturally, the artists like a full house, too.

Our able and expert technician, Jim Scoggins, is right there to help the artists with technical problems so we can enjoy the music. Like most organ technicians, you can see him scoot from one potential problem area to another and be on hand to push the safety button to lower the console for the artist after the last encore. The audience is totally unaware of him, but we know he is back there/up there/out there and you can rest easy if any "snafus" rear their ugly heads. Our xylophone is temporarily wired on the decorative balcony of the right chamber. Before each performance, Jimmy sets it up, then takes it down as he puts the organ to bed in its own storage "garage."

We are pleased that the local Arts Council of Pensacola has accepted our group into their membership. This means our concerts are listed in their Arts calendar for general public release. We reach a very broad spectrum of music-oriented fans this way. Plus, someday, there might just be some funds involved in it for us.

Sometimes I think the audiences are like me and Eliza Doolittle — I could have "listened" all night! *Dorothy Standley*

Below: Faye Wheeler and daughter Judy Matarelli at the console of the Wheeler's 3/16 Wicks.



## JOLIET AREA

102 E. Van Buren

Chicago, Illinois

We hosted a social at the San Filippo residence on March 11 that featured Dairyland organist Perry Petta. In addition to some fancy footwork on the 4/28 mostly Wurlitzer by Perry, the club was treated to a demonstration of the many orchestrations in the San Filippo collection. Vice-President Larry Henschen was the emcee and kept the pace of the program pizzicato.

The weekend of April 22 and 23 was one of our busiest and best. The club was treated to some fine mother-and-daughter piping at the Wheeler residence in Lockport. Faye Wheeler and her daughter, Judy Matarelli, were the featured organists and gave the beautiful Wicks a real workout. Chapter President Lee Maloney teamed with Judy in an impromptu piano/organ duet that rocked the house.

On April 23 Ron Rhode and his brother, Chuck, drew an almost soldout house at the magnificent Rapp & Rapp-designed Rialto Theatre in Joliet. Ron was judicious in his use of the organ and it responded quite well. Brother Chuck added the unusual dimension of a singing voice to well-done accompaniment. *Hal Pritchard*



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## LAND O'LAKES

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In the May/June issue, I wrote about our chapter event at Northwestern College in St. Paul on March 5. Our two artists are pictured here, along with the organs played that day.

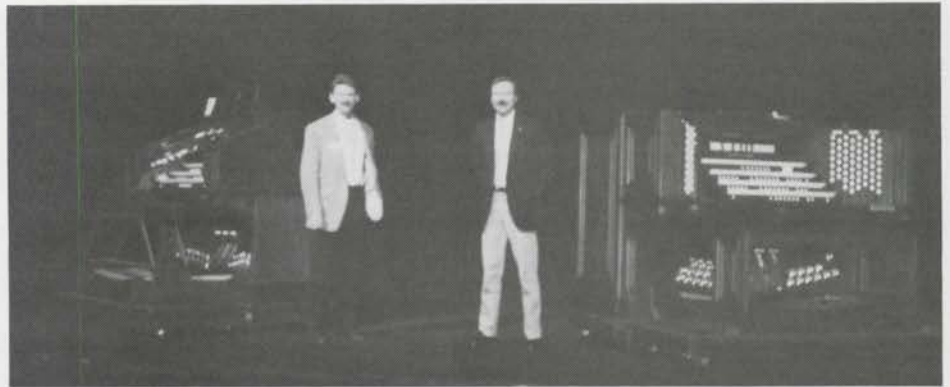
The Organaires met at the home of Verna Mae Wilson on March 23 when Mike Erie and Verna Mae organized a "volunteer crew" to prepare the mailing of flyers for the upcoming concert on April 14. April 20 the Organaires were in session at Ted and Marguerite Espe's home near Bald Eagle Lake; always a congenial group of organ enthusiasts.

On April 14, true theatre organ excitement arrived once more in the Twin Cities. Jim Riggs, of Oakland, California, and the World Theatre's Wurlitzer were a team in theatre organ heaven! The audience was excited; the artist was in top form and concert promoters and organ crew were riding high. Jim Riggs' knowledge of music from early films, theatre and cartoons was, indeed, impressive. His lively (hot) arrangement of "Slow Boat to China," closing the first half of the program, brought cheers from the crowd. Part of the artist's charm came from an untimely case of laryngitis. His re-creations of Jesse Crawford and Sidney Torch arrangements were flawless.

Ads in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch* and on KLBB radio brought hundreds of new faces to this concert, and we doubt that even one person left disappointed. We gained several new members for the chapter, and there were numerous requests for more information about LO'LTOS and ATOS.

The day after Jim's concert we were able to arrange some time for him at Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin, so he could play the Mighty Wurlitzer, formerly of the KSTP Broadcasting Station. He did enjoy playing it even amid the preparations on stage for Phipps' presentation of *Foxfire*, a play depicting the generation gap in the forests of Southern Appalachia (Note stage set in picture of Jim.)

Murray Burfeind, organ technician from Goodhue, who is completing the Kilgen installation in the T.B. Sheldon Auditorium in Red Wing, picked up the 5 h.p. blower from our Prescott warehouse on May 1. The blower will be added to the organ, along with new ductwork to provide adequate wind supply for the organ. As the completion date approaches on the rebuilding and re-installation of the 2/12 Kilgen, we will report on the progress.



Mike Erie (left) and Curt Olmer (right), on stage at the Northwestern College, St. Paul. 3-manual Allen digital theatre organ on the left, a 4-manual Allen digital classical organ at right which Curt played.

Don Johnson and Bob Scholer are working nearly every day on the installation of the chapter organ at the Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis. The three-manual Wurlitzer console from Gene Bryant's donated organ is being readied for temporary installation in the sanctuary.

Following a board meeting at the Phipps Center on May 7, we had two hours of open console time in which ten eager members participated. Three new members inquired about practice time on the Wurlitzer, which is easily arranged by calling the Box Office at Phipps.

Spring has finally arrived in Minnesota. My lilac bushes are loaded with buds and I have even cut the grass once!

Verna Mae Wilson



Jim Riggs at the console of the 3/16 Wurlitzer at Phipps Center.



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thinks and invents.*

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## LONDON & SOUTH OF ENGLAND

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The new year, so far, has been a good and exciting one. Our concert at Kilburn with Stephen Vincent as our artist brought in an excellent audience. Stephen does not concertize as much as we would like — his style is so pleasing to the ear and his arrangements are a pleasure to hear. We wish he would do more concerts for the younger generation's benefit.

March 5 saw us all trooping down to Wales for our second anniversary concert on the "Torch" Christie. Trevor Bolshaw was our artist, and we were not disappointed; his choice of program was in keeping with the anniversary celebration, and the Mayor of Barry and her guests thoroughly enjoyed it.

On March 12 we were back at the Top Rank Club Kilburn to hear one of the most popular young men on the concert circuit today, chapter member Michael Wooldridge. His personal taste is the Big Band sound, with which he excels and delights us. We are so fortunate to have such talent as Michael and Stephen in our midst.

At our annual meeting on March 31, all committees were re-elected and Les Rawle has agreed to continue as Chairman and head of the Technical Team. The preservation of the theatre organ goes on.

Our Springtime Safari has come and gone and we all feel rather flat right now. I will leave it to others to comment on the activities. The London chapter enjoyed having you all here, and, hopefully, we have given you an insight into our chapter activities. It was just wonderful to renew old friendships and make new ones. Many parted with the saying, "Here's to next time!"

Our greatest wish at the moment is to have our own headquarters with theatre organ, and to be able to hold regular evenings for all our members to participate in whatever they are most skilled in doing.

Edith Rawle



London chapter members on a promotion for membership at an organ festival. John Sharp photo



Michael Wooldridge at Top Rank Wurlitzer. John Sharp photo

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### Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society

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We have maintained a busy schedule! In March, our very own Gaylord "Mr. Flicker Fingers" Carter drew a large crowd of organ and silent movie enthusiasts to the Wilshire Ebell Theatre where he scored Harold Lloyd's *Grandma's Boy* on the chapter-owned 3/11 Barton. The organ performed well, as did our artist. However, when the screen suddenly flashed white and then went to black, Gaylord continued with improvisation until the projectionist, with the help of Bob Pasaick made magical repairs and the show went on. Even more exciting, and hopefully beneficial to ATOS and theatre organ in general, was the filming of a portion of the concert and interviews with Gaylord, ATOS President John Ledwon and LATOS President Don Litton by local KCET-TV personality Huell Howser who does a series of "Videologs" which are used for fillers on public broadcast stations.

The highlight of the spring season was the Phoenix Organ Crawl with two busloads of organ buffs from LATOS and our sister organization, Valley Organ Society,

continued ...



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**LOS ANGELES continued.**

spending an enjoyable weekend in Phoenix. Starting with dinner at the Organ Stop Restaurant, we were entertained by staff organist Rob Richards at the console of the huge 4/40 Wurlitzer. A short bus trip later found us at the Van Diver home where we heard Tim Versluys at an excellent installation of a 2/12 Wurlitzer formerly housed in the New York City Apollo Theatre. After a brief open console with Shirley Obert and Don Litton, it was back to the pizza parlor for a private jam session. When the beautiful console rose from the pit, imagine our surprise when, without announcement, we recognized the marvelous Lyn Larsen! The music never stopped at the end of the set when the console was lowered



Tim Versluys at Van Diver Wurlitzer.

and rose again, now with restaurant owner/manager Mike Everitt at the keyboard, not a single note was missed! It was after midnight when the last fans returned to the motel on the last bus. It was a very short night and morning found us back at the Organ Stop for a tasty brunch and more music with Clark Wilson from Milwaukee at the console. Finally, it was time to leave for the return trip to Los Angeles.

A special thanks to Dick Sheafor, Vice-President of both LATOS and VOS, for organizing the whole trip down to the last minute detail. The hospitality of Valley of the Sun Chapter in Phoenix was superb, and many of us are looking forward to returning to Phoenix in November for the Regional when we have been told we will have the opportunity to hear additional organ installations. Our thanks to the management and staff at the Organ Stop, the VanDivers, Madeline Livolsi,

Ray Danford and all the members of Valley of the Sun Chapter for a memorable weekend. Last, but not least, our thanks to Ralph Beaudry, Don Litton, Dick Sheafor and VOS President Virginia Klump who were bus captains alternating buses and who all provided a running historic commentary on the way to Phoenix.

Gene Roberson, popular composer, arranger, pianist and organist was our April artist at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium on the 3/16 Wurlitzer maintained by LATOS. The audience was well entertained with a variety of popular music ranging from "When the Leaves are Turning" and "Sassy Brass" to a medley of Buddy Cole tunes. Classical music was also represented with an inspiring rendition of Bach's "Tocatta & Fugue in D Minor" and a rousing closing with the Toccata from *Suite Gothique* by Vierne.

Wayne Flottman

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Mesa Organ Stop organist who entertained Californians: Lyn Larsen, Mike Everitt, Rob Richards and Clark Wilson.

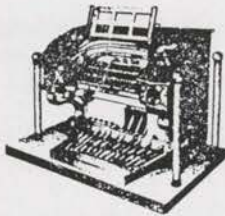


Gaylord Carter and KCET-TV cameraman at Wilshire-Ebell Theatre. At right: Gene Roberson at San Gabriel Civic Auditorium.



Zimfotos





**MOTOR CITY**  
 Detroit  
 313/537-1133

John Muri appeared in a concert presented by the Macomb Theatre Organ Society at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Saturday, March 25. John accompanied *The Gold Rush* and a musical slide presentation of "The Holy City," a re-creation of a program he did during Easter week at the Chicago Theatre in 1925. The Macomb group is currently without a home since their former venue, the Macomb Theatre in Mt. Clemens, was transformed into a dinner theatre, which folded, and the 3/9 Kilgen (from the Palace Theatre in Gary, Indiana) sold for installation in a theatre in Port Edward, Wisconsin. The Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton was made available through the courtesy of Motor City Chapter which owns the instrument.

Don Baker, one of the legendary names in the world of theatre organ, performed before an enthusiastic audience at the Redford Theatre on May 6. Don's program won the well-deserved approval of his fans who gave him a standing ovation. The program had just gotten underway as a former member and his wife happened to drive by the theatre and spot Don Baker's name on the marquee. They made an immediate change in plans and attended the program. Such is the drawing power of Don Baker.

The old wool carpeting and padding that has served the Redford Theatre well since it was installed some 30 years ago was removed in April and a new nylon variety took its place. The change was made partly for insurance reasons and because high traffic areas were becoming threadbare. All together, over a thousand yards of new carpeting was needed to do the job, and a special dumpster required to haul away the old. Kudos to the members who responded to the call to clean each of the 1,661 seats and wipe



Don Baker at the console of the Barton in the Redford Theatre.

Bo Hanley photo

down the walls as a result of the unimaginable amount of dust that such a major project creates.

Weekly craft classes, under the direction of Marvin Spear, have resumed at the Redford. Items made by the class will be for sale at the convention.

Larry Peck, a teacher and organ demonstrator, was the artist for our Fourth Sunday program at the Barton organ at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on April 23.

Lee Erwin will accompany the silent film *Wings* at the Redford Theatre on October 13 and 14. Tony O'Brien will appear at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on November 11 and Steve Schlesing will play for the Christmas Show at the Redford on December 9.

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

Don Lockwood



**NORTH TEXAS**

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

In April, we started the road back to having our Robert-Morton playing again in the Lakewood Theatre after it had suffered severe water damage from a broken water pipe which had frozen during the winter. Our insurer has approved our damage claim and organbuilder Keith Henderson has carried away the first load of organ components that he will refurbish. While we are not able to estimate the time all of these repairs will take, it is presumed that by having the insurance funds available to have the work done mostly by an outside professional rather than chapter volunteers, it will be completed in less time. It will also allow members to concentrate on enhancements to the organ that might be made during this same period of time.

continued ...

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**NORTH TEXAS continued**

One of the foremost of these is replacing the water damaged relay with an electronic system, applying the money that would be required for the repair to the cost of the electronics. President John Friedel has appointed a technical advisory committee to evaluate available options and to recommend a suitable system for our situation. Other possible enhancements include added pipe ranks, additional stops (which would be facilitated by the change to electronic switching) and changing the color of the console from the original brown varnish to a traditional white finish with gold ornamentation.

During this period while our Robert-Morton is unavailable for meetings, we are meeting more frequently in member's homes. In April we were guests of Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Sutherland. C.B. had agreed to play the musical program for the meeting but suffered a bruising fall just days before the meeting and asked to be relieved of performing. Program Chairman Irving Light knew where to turn for help in the situation. Chapter organists Charles Evans and Bill Hanson were quick to agree to play for us on the Sutherland's beautiful Conn 652 three-manual theatre organ. And, surprisingly, C.B. had sufficiently recovered in the few days since his fall to play part of his planned program for grateful chapter members. Despite the short notice, substitutes Evans and Hanson each played very entertaining programs, belying their protestations of lack of preparation. Bill chose his song titles to outline a romance



Bill Hanson (left) and Charles Evans played for North Texas. *Irving Light photo*



Mary Anna and C.B. Sutherland were hosts to North Texas in April. *Irving Light photo*



North Texas chapter members in home of C.B. Sutherland for April meeting. *Irving Light photo*

from first encounter to married bliss (?). Charles Evans thrilled us with his "Lady of Spain," and C.B. entertained with "Strike up the Band" and "That's Entertainment" as part of their offerings. All in all, a triple-treat musical afternoon. As expected, the refreshment break was followed with a lively and entertaining open console period.

In response to the request by the National ATOS officers that each chapter add two new members by May 6, North Texas Membership Chairman Kathleen MacDonald announced that NTC had already made this objective and expected to add several more before the Convention. She introduced new members Mr. and Mrs. Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Whittingham to the membership at the April meeting; they were warmly welcomed to North Texas Chapter. *Irving Light*



**OHIO VALLEY**

Cincinnati

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"Business as usual" is becoming more complicated for our chapter as plans move slowly toward a rebuilding of Emery Theatre into a Performing Arts Center. Since we have been the most visible tenant during the past 12 years, we are frequently hosting tours of the facility. True to our first love, we "showcase" the organ whenever possible — and most touring groups request it. Since Cincinnati currently has more active construction projects in the arts than ever in civic recollection, feasibility studies at Emery are very much "the order of the day" — every day!

Meanwhile, our continuing Nostalgic Movie Series plays each Friday and Saturday night (except on rare occasions when the theatre is otherwise booked).

*continued ...*

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## OHIO VALLEY continued

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Special shows in the past few months have included a New Year's Eve "count-down" show preceded by *Sound of Music* in Cinemascope, and followed by a buffet supper on the stage.

In February Searle Wright appeared at our 3/29 Wurlitzer in a concert of romantic favorites; in the second half of the program Searle accompanied *Hunchback of Notre Dame*. This show was a gift to Cincinnati by Christ Episcopal Church (downtown Cincinnati). This was one of a series of organ recitals featuring former organist/choir masters of the church. Searle had served at Christ Church for several years in the 70s. He is one of those delightful organists who is equally at home with the classics and with the popular music of theatre pipe organs.

In April we staged another re-creation of the famous WLW radio "Moon River" program featuring artists who were active in the later years of the show — Ruby Wright and Marian Spelman, vocalists, and Bill Myers, poetry reader and master-of-ceremonies. Gene Wilson, a professional dance-band musician and one of Emery's organ staff, was organist. Gene has handled this task in most of our "Moon River" shows. This midnight program of songs, poetry, and soft dreamy organ music began and ended with a theme poem which starts: "Down the valley of a thousand yesterdays flow the bright waters of Moon River . . ." and is accompanied by the genuine "Moon River" song, Fritz Kreisler's "Caprice Viennois" — always the program's opening and closing theme. The whole program was broadcast by WVXU-FM of Xavier University. *Hubert S. Shearin*



Portland  
503/771-8098

On April 22 we had the pleasure of hearing a most delightful concert by Andy Crow, well-known Seattle/Tacoma organist, on the 3/18 Wurlitzer in the home of Nadine and Bob Rickett. Andy began his program with a "Singin' in The Rain" medley, quite appropriate for the April showers we were having that day. He also played an interesting arrangement of "Someone to Watch Over Me" using pretty harmonies.

Bob Rickett had requested some of his personal favorites including "Jealousy," "Valencia" and "Open Your Eyes" which Andy presented with interesting introductions and transitions. He ended his program with "There's No Business Like Show Business."

Bob and Nadine are most gracious hosts, and all 43 of us had a wonderful time. Let's do it again! Thanks, Bob and Nadine and Andy! *Solveig Littlejohn*



Andy and "crow" at Rickett's Wurlitzer. Roy Fritz photo



Andy Crow and a very attentive Oregon audience. Irving Ewen photo



**PINE TREE**  
Old Orchard Beach, Maine  
207/839-5700 or 207/625-3397

Ayep! We're still goin' strong here in the Northeast! We start our year in April and go until December to avoid winter storms. At our first meeting, April 16, President Richard Perham reported on the on-going rebuilding of the Loranger School 3/13 Wurlitzer (ex-Proctor RKO, New Rochelle, New York City) at Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Much work has been done this past winter, re-leathering, relay repair, and the chambers have been completely re-winded with more airtight lines.

The status of the 2/9 Wurlitzer (ex-B.F. Keith's, Dayton, Ohio) was discussed. The organ is to be installed in Johnson Hall in Gardner, Maine.

Several members played at open console.

A new summer series on Tuesday and Thursday evenings is planned for the great Kotschmar Municipal Austin concert organ. Earl Miller is now municipal organist. For further information about these concerts write to: Friends of Kotschmar, 30 Myrtle Street, Portland, Maine 04101. Donations will be welcome.

So all is well here in downstate Maine. Ayep. *Bob Legon*

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# QCCATOS

## QUAD CITIES

309/786-4215 or 309/797-9058

Our monthly meeting was held on March 19, at the Capitol Theatre in Davenport, Iowa. Nothing unusual about that? Read on!

The weather outside was frightful: 30°, rainy and windy, and inside it wasn't much better. We have mentioned before that the theatre is only heated to the extent that the pipes do not freeze. Have you ever played with winter coats and hats on? Perhaps. But, have you ever tried to play with gloves on? Believe me, it doesn't work! However, 26 members and guests attended, and eight brave organists did play during the open console period. A brief business meeting was held to start planning for the Stan Kann concert on May 7.

On April 24, a crew of volunteers, headed by member Howard Adams, made minor repairs and tuned the 3/12 Wicks Organ at the Capitol Theatre in preparation for the forthcoming concert.

Our meeting on April 16 was also held at the Capitol Theatre. A lengthy business meeting was held to finalize details for the Stan Kann concert.

It has been our custom to have an out-of-town guest artist play at our monthly meetings; but since we have some very good talent within our membership, it was suggested that we make use of it. The first member-artist to be selected was Ted Alexander, Moline, Illinois, who presented a thirty-minute variety program. Ted, 69, was born and raised in Berlin, Germany, where he started to play the piano at the age of four. He was the youngest student at the Berlin Conservatory of Music. At the age of fourteen, he moved to London where he learned to play the pipe organ. During some of his liturgical practice sessions he would sneak in some pop or jazz music, for which he was promptly reprimanded. His music studies turned toward the professional side, and he performed at the Odean Cinema at Leicester Square in London, England. In 1939 he came to the United States. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1943, and performed with various entertainment units. After his discharge from the Air Force he played the organ in hotels, restaurants, night clubs, and radio shows in Chicago and the surrounding area. Ted is a professional chef and is currently teaching the culinary arts at Black Hawk College in Moline.

COMING EVENT: October 15, Father Jim Miller at the Capitol.

Richard Withenbury



Ted Alexander at the 3/12 Wicks organ in the Capitol Theatre, Davenport, Iowa. R.P. Withenbury photo



Jim Hines at the Durand's Allen theatre organ. Tom Jeffery photo



Ed Martin gives the Allen theatre organ a workout during open console. Tom Jeffery photo



With Maurine Durand looking on, guest Lynn Jacobson plays selections by J.S. Bach. Tom Jeffery photo



Omaha, Nebraska  
RIVER CITY  
THEATRE  
ORGAN  
SOCIETY

402/571-6818 or 402/453-7769

Corrine and Subby Sortino hosted our March 18 meeting at their lovely home which boasts two digital organs, a Technics and a Lowrey. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, Dick Zdan opened with a medley of Irish tunes on the Lowrey, including such favorites as "Gallway Bay" and "Harrigan's." Then Jeanne Cooper continued the Irish medley on the Lowrey, including "It's A Great Day for The Irish" and "Mother McCrea." Finally, Dick Zdan at the Technics joined Jeanne Cooper in a duet. For game time, the group was divided into two teams, with Jeanne and Dick as designated organist for each team. The teams tried to stump each other by naming songs with "MOON" in the title; the other side had to play it. To the surprise of nearly everyone, we came up with quite a few titles. Refreshments, open console and a jam session rounded out a very enjoyable meeting. Many thanks to Corrine and Subby Sortino.

Our April 8 meeting was hosted by Maurine and Bill Durand, who own a large three-manual Allen digital theatre organ. After a brief business meeting chaired by President Dick Zdan, Bill Durand opened the meeting with a demonstration of the organ's features. Bill played several numbers, including "My Sin," "Rose Marie" and an excerpt from Sir John Stainer's "Fantasia." Maurine Durand followed Bill's mini-concert with one of her own, featuring such favorites as "Mr. Wonderful" and "I've Heard That Song Before." Both of the Durands are very accomplished organists.

Our guest artist for the day was member Jim Hines, who is an organist at Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium for half of the games of the Omaha Royals baseball team and of the College World Series. Jim played an interesting and varied program, including "Beautiful Ohio," "Stars and Stripes Forever," "Blue Tango," "The Fox Movietone Fanfare" and, of course, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." During open console, we had a special treat. Jim Hines' niece, Lynn Jacobson, who is working on her Master's Degree in Music at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, played several of J.S. Bach's compositions on the Allen, with a registration help from Maurine Durand. As always, we are indebted to Bill and Maurine for their hospitality.

Tom Jeffery

THEATRE ORGAN





## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Denver, Colorado

303/421-1190 or 303/233-4716

"Springtime in The Rockies" has been a busy time for us as we launched into our 25th Anniversary celebration.

In February, over 60 members and friends crowded into the suburban Denver home of Bill and Mitzi Fife for a business meeting followed by a concert of old favorites played by Mitzi on the Fife's 2/6 hybrid organ. This was our first visit to this installation in several years and it was good to visit again.

In March the chapter visited the home of Dick and Ruth Lewis for a concert by local organist DeLoy Goeglein on the 3/8 Marr & Colton installed there. DeLoy pulled out all the stops as he explored the many sounds of the Lewis instrument. And the delicious French pastries provided by Jay and Sandra Hein proved to be equally delightful for the more than 60 guests in attendance.

Rob Richards, from Phoenix, was the star performer for our April "Meet the Artist" concert at Evelyn Riser's Music Studio. A sell-out crowd of 125 crowded into the large studio to hear Rob perform a wide variety of music, including some of his "Fusion" arrangements. Rob was joined in several numbers by vocalist John Giardina, also from Arizona. (Portland convention-goers will recall that the pair performed last summer in a program at Uncle Milt's).

During his Denver visit, Rob also performed a short concert for over 1,100 Denver Public School children, grades 4-12, who were bussed into the Denver Paramount Theatre for this special event designed to stimulate interest in the theatre pipe organ. Utilizing his "Fusion" concept, Rob held the students' rapt attention from the first notes of "Foot-loose," to the last dying notes of "Boogie Woogie." Rob was also joined by Denver organist Ed Benoit, playing the Paramount slave console for one of the num-



Rob Richards surrounded by delighted Denver school children following special concert.

At Right: Chapter President David Love (left), John Giardina and Rob Richards at the Meet the Artist Concert.

Below: Mitzi Fife at the console of their 2/6 hybrid organ.

Don Zeller photos

bers. Comparing the Wurlitzer, an early day synthesizer, to a modern synthesizer, Rob demonstrated both instruments, much to the students' delight. Several students were enamored enough by the instrument to want to begin lessons on the mighty pipe organ. That's what it was all about!

In May, the chapter was invited to visit the local Allen Organ store for a program on the new three-manual ADC4600 instrument which was ably demonstrated by former Paramount Theatre organist and chapter member Joel Kremer.

We have several very special programs on the fall schedule to commemorate our 25th Anniversary. Former chapter members from around the country are especially invited to visit for these special events. Give us a call if you can visit us this fall.

Don Zeller



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## ST. LOUIS

Missouri  
314/343-8473

Spring activities are well underway here. Board member Mark Gifford presented a dedication program on a large Rodgers combination pipe/electronic organ in First United Presbyterian Church in Collinsville, Illinois, and many of our members were well-rewarded by attending the program. Mark is a very talented organist, both theatre and church, and is VP of Bybee Church Organ Company.

Our dedicated members are still assisting Joe Barnes at his home workshop with the final wiring on our two-manual Wurlitzer console and the soldering on the Peterson relay. Soon it will be transported back to the upper mezzanine level of the fabulous Fox Theatre and be readied to play for private parties

held in that area. Fox staff organist Jack Jenkins can count on our qualified organists to sub for him when he has other commitments. Marlin Mackley will keep it tuned as he does the great four-manual Wurlitzer in the lift in the pit.

We are fortunate to have organbuilders in our membership. Marlin is putting together another of our church pipe organs which we will eventually sell. It is a 2/10 Wicks with a solid-state relay and two silent blowers. Marlin is replacing some 40-50 pipes that are missing. When he finishes that job, we have a 12-rank organ he will restore.

Our recent fund-raiser at the Kirkwood Theatre, in April, which entailed the presentation of DeMille's 1927 *King of Kings*, was financially successful. President Ammann's letter and flyer went to 1250 churches.

Dale L. Boring



Mark Gifford

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## SAN DIEGO

California

619/281-0531 or 619/727-2023

We have enjoyed some delightful concerts this year. Simon Gledhill from England, Russ Peck (our own San Diego artist), Jim Riggs of Oakland, and Candi Carley Roth from Los Angeles. Each artist delighted the audience in his/her own special way. We look forward to having them back with us again.

Our two Young Organist entrants this year were Cheryl Morefield and Anthony Milligan. Cheryl is a 14-year-old who has taken lessons for the last two years. She plans to become a theatre/Church organist. Cheryl is in the ninth grade and on the honor roll. Her hobbies include writing poetry and short stories. Anthony is 19 years old and has taken lessons for four years. He won the San Diego Chapter Young Organist in 1988 and also was a winner in the Stars of Tomorrow in Los Angeles. Anthony has a brown belt in karate and is looking forward to a career as a professional organist. Our chapter is very proud of these young people and wish them a great musical career.

We have enjoyed some very special people visiting us. Dr. Ed Mullins of San Francisco, Galen Piepenberg of Hawaii, and Joanne & Len Pritchard of Columbian, Ohio. If you are in the area and wish to play our Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ at the California Theatre please call 236-0532 or 560-8952.



Anthony Milligan and Cheryl Morefield San Diego Young Organists at the 3/22 Wurlitzer.



Russ Peck, San Diego artist at the 3/22 Wurlitzer.

## SANTA BARBARA

California

805/968-00335 or 805/687-2991

We have been very busy, both socially and working on our organ. Two very successful potlucks have been held in the past four months. Many new members have been added to the local society. The Arlington organ is sounding better every month. New President, Bruce Murdock, and his technical crew have held regular work sessions eliminating dead notes, wind leaks and making console refinements and improvements. Steve Leslie and Roger Inkpen spent most of January working on the organ getting ready for another major event on January 29 when Bob Vaughn thrilled a near capacity house for *The General*. This was the first major silent film at the Arlington and the crowd loved the movie and Bob's great playing.

The organ is played almost every night from 7:15-7:45. Local organists Mike McLaughlin, Jerry Gerard, David Gell and Shea Torrent are frequent performers. The movie-going audience always wants more music.

The 1989-90 pipes concert series is set. The series will start with Tom Hazleton on October 1, followed by Dennis James on November 12. Patti Simon will perform on February 6 and Hector Olivera will conclude the series on May 6. Season tickets for all four events, plus the free Christmas Concert, will be \$55, \$45, and \$35, and can be obtained by mail order from the Chapter or the Arlington Ticket Agency at 1317 State St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

John Oien

## SIERRA

Sacramento

916/961-9367 or 916/967-9732

The Empress Theatre in Vallejo was the scene of our concert on April 16. We co-sponsored the program with Nor-Cal Chapter. The theatre and its 3/12 Wurlitzer is owned by William Elliott of that area. It is a beautiful little theatre of over 400 seats. Our artist was organ virtuoso Emil Martin, who has a vast range of playing tastes and styles. An Emil Martin concert is always a memorable event. He is a showman! He treats his audience to an enormous potpourri of show tunes, light concert music, contemporary hits and old favorites. His sparkling personality provides an entertaining day of great music. Thanks, Emil!

Bud Taylor

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## SOONER STATE

Tulsa

918/742-8693 or 918/437-2146

We enjoyed a repeat program by Dan Kimes for our March meeting at Tulsa's Central Assembly of God Church. There had been so few present to hear the beginning of Dan's mini-concert at the previous meeting that he agreed to "do it again." We heard a variety of popular favorites on the 4/14 Robert-Morton, some repeats from last month, some new this time. Eight persons participated in open console. Phil and Laura Judkins invited us to their home for an "afterglow" on their 3/9 hybrid installation, which was enjoyed by all who participated.

The program for our April meeting was presented by chapter member Gareld Payne, again on the Central Assembly of God Robert-Morton. Gareld is a one-time pizza parlor organist and is now teaching music in Coffeyville, Kansas. His music is very professional-sounding with knowledgeable registrations. We especially enjoyed "Caravan," "Wagon Wheels" (from his Western medley) and "Misty" (with full Tibias the second time around). His "Send in The Clowns" was lovely, with the solo melody played on a registration that sounded like a beautiful Horn Diapason (which this organ doesn't have). Open console followed.

We have made progress with our non-profit status with the IRS. Our documents are being processed with a few changes which they requested.

The Vo-Tech High School installation of our 3/10 Robert-Morton is ever closer. The crew is finishing the wiring of the electronics and there really is "light at the end of the tunnel." We're getting there!  
*Dorothy Smith*

## SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Beaumont

409/886-5601

On April 8, we presented the second artist of our 1988-89 concert season. Father Jim Miller performed in concert at our 3/8 Robert-Morton which is housed in its original location, the Jefferson Theatre in Beaumont.

Father Jim's program was reminiscent of the early days of the Jefferson Theatre.



Father Jim Miller visits with audience in Jefferson Theatre.

Quentin Whitman photo

The first half of the program was filled with his fine renditions of blues and jazz, for which he is so well known, and concluded with a lively sing-along. Father Jim continued the second half of the program with more of his famous song stylings and accompanied the Laurel and Hardy silent *Soup to Nuts*, furnished by member George Hockmeyer of Houston.

In addition to being an exceptionally talented organist, Father Jim kept the audience laughing with his incomparable wit and humorous stories.

After the concert, the audience was invited to the mezzanine to meet Father Jim.



Father Jim at the Robert-Morton. Quentin Whitman photo



L to R: Floyd Broussard, Mark Bayern, Carter Bidwell, Quentin Whitman, Lee Bryant, Bill Tetley and Father Jim.  
*Jeanine Bidwell photo*

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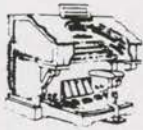
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Virg and Karen Howard at the 3/8 Lenoir/Wurlitzer of Paul Wasserman.



## TOLEDO AREA

Ohio

419/381-6730 or 419/865-0111

In March, Steve Schlesing performed in concert at Toledo's 4/10 Marr & Colton installation at the St. Hedwig Cultural Center (former Ohio Theatre, c. 1922). Steve is an artist who should be heard more widely! His style and repertoire are refreshingly different.

The theatre is undergoing renovation "Movie Palace Style," in dark golds and yellows with maroon and gold trim. The lobbies are just about complete and, hopefully, the auditorium can be done soon. The organ has been receiving a lot of attention lately as well. Our new crew chief, Mr. Tom Densel of the Lima Pipe Organ Company (successors to Page Organ Co.), has really made a difference in the voicing and design of the organ.

In March, an entourage of TATOS members joined the Southern Michigan Theatre Organ Society in their meeting at the Bohm Theatre in Albion, Michigan, to see and hear the original 3/8 Barton and then to see the excellent 2/7 Wurlitzer of Dr. R.C. Rowan.

April found us at "Hobby House" (see article in March/April THEATRE ORGAN) and the fine 3/8 Lenoir/Wurlitzer of Paul Wasserman. A packed house enjoyed an extra-special program performed by none other than Virg & Karen Howard. Virg was house organist back in the 60s at the late Toledo Paramount Theatre. Thanks to Nor-Cal Chapter, the fine Toledo Paramount Wurlitzer will see new life in the Berkeley, California, Community Theatre. Our May meeting was to have been at the Detroit Senate Theatre, but a last-minute blower breakdown forced a change of venue to the famous Larry Evritt 3/28 Wurlitzer in Defiance, Ohio.

Evan J. Chase



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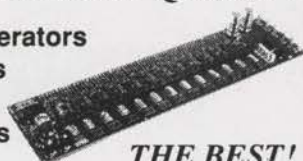
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## VALLEY OF THE SUN

Phoenix

602/972-6223 or 602/278-9107

The weekend of April 8 and 9, members of Los Angeles Chapter and the Valley Organ Society visited our area and invited us to join in some of their activities — these included dinner at Organ Stop Pizza where Rob Richards played the Wurlitzer, and a program played by member Tim Versluys at the VanDiver residence. A late-night jam session at Organ Stop featured Lyn Larsen at the console followed by Organ Stop owner Mike Everitt.

Our April meeting at Organ Stop again featured Rob Richards. Much of his program was played with individual chapter members in mind. We know that one lady in particular, "Mother Italy," was especially thrilled by a selection of Italian songs! Tenor John Giardina joined Rob for two of these, "O Sole Mio" and "Come Back to Sorrento."

See you in November!

Madeline LiVolsi



John Giardina and Rob Richards with "Mother Italy" at Organ Stop Pizza. MLV photo

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## WESTERN RESERVE

Cleveland, Ohio

216/521-7269 or 216/941-0572

April has been an active month for us as we twice met to socialize and share the music we all love. On April 16, we gathered at Cleveland Grays' Armory for a concert by Dr. Larry Kass, a surprising talent who many members feel outshines some paid performers. His selections from the console of the 3/15 Wurlitzer emphasized show tunes, including "Get Happy," "It's Only a Paper Moon," a Harry Warren medley, and the beautiful "Don't Blame Me." This was no ordinary gathering, as we presented our first membership drive. Members were encouraged to introduce friends to the charms of WRTOS, and local radio stations provided public service announcements, attracting some new faces. Formal invitations were sent to all past members who were known to still be living in the area, and several fresh members joined our "ranks" that afternoon.

Chapter member Vincent Aveni will soon be closing his doors to allow for the construction of an auditorium at his home, so on April 30, we were invited for one last tour of his collection of "mechanical musical boxes" before the renovation. The highlight of his private collection is a Wurlitzer pipe organ which had been expanded to 3/16 since our last visit. Because Vince adores instruments that play automatically, this organ is capable of recording an organist's performance for subsequent live playback, including all stop changes and dynamics. Thus, we were treated that afternoon to performances by Bill Taber and Scott Smith, both in absentia, who performed such favorites as "There's No Business Like Show Business," "La Danza," "I've Got the World on a String" and "Please." Before enjoying open console time and refreshments, we were treated to the full grand tour of the Aveni collection by Vince's son Jim. Other delights sharing the spotlight include a 1924 Mills/Double Violano Virtuoso (a player piano with two attached player violins and percussions), a 1909 Wurlitzer Orchestrion, a 1924 band organ, a 1929 Wurlitzer Calliola (the only existing original air, rather than

steam, calliope), a 1923 Steinway Reproducing Piano, an 1874 Nicole Freres Music Box, a new Arthur Bursens Street Organ (one of the last three built by this Belgian master), and numerous other mechanical instruments. The condition of these instruments is impeccable, and we look forward to enjoying them in their new setting later this year.

Wishing all readers the best for the fleeting summer months... Jim Shepherd

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## WOLVERINE

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In March we revisited David and Mrs. Brewer. Dave showed off and demonstrated his latest accomplishment, the conversion of his chrysoglott into a vibra- phone. By clever design and construction he can chose from two speeds of vibrato or reinstate the chrysoglott-mode. Again, several members were impressed by the compactness of Dave's installation, made possible by the smallness of the Marr & Colton pipe chest he has employed.

On March 25 many Wolverines attended and enjoyed tremendously a special program sponsored by the Macomb Theatre Organ Society. They had engaged nationally known organist John Muri to re-enact an old-time Silent Movie Program at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, complete with silent movie (Chaplin's *Gold Rush*), a 1915 newsreel from John's collection, a sing-along to original Muri slides, and a beautiful feature John had originally presented in the Chicago Theatre in 1925, called "The Holy City." This was composed of the composition "The Holy City" by composer Adam and slides from John's collection. A big "Thank You" to the Macomb people for this one.

On April 30 a busload of Wolverines traveled to Olmstead Falls, near Cleveland, Ohio, to hear Cleveland area's well-known organist George Krejci perform at the Plum Creek Inn. George's well-received program was supplemented by contributions from the Inn's second organist, Bill Buswell, a veteran who had lived with organs for 56 years (he sold organs in the music department of Hudson's in downtown Detroit for many, many years). Many of the participants also enjoyed the three-mile ride on the old-time trolley at the Transportation Museum of Ohio. As one enthusiastic Wolverine put it: a great trip, on the best bus we've ever had, and the best dinner ever, where all the hot food was hot.

*Charlie and Betty Baas*



Above: George Krejci at the Kimball console, Plum Creek Inn, Olmstead Falls, Ohio.

At left: Billy Buswell, DTOC Honorary member who now lives in Cleveland area.

Below: Inter-urban Trolley at Transportation Museum.

*Bo Hanley photos*



*For your 1989 season  
book theatre organist*

# BOB RALSTON

17027 Tennyson Place  
Granada Hills, California 91344  
Phone: 818/366-3637



### TOTALLY SOLD OUT

"For the past two consecutive years (Nov. '87 and Nov. '88) Bob Ralston has totally sold out our 1500-seat Patio Theatre. The audience loved every minute of his shows, and they are asking when he will return."

*Charlotte & Bill Rieger, Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts*

### DELIGHTFULLY ENTERTAINING

"Bob Ralston's performances, as always, were delightfully entertaining to the more than 1700 people who attended. As usual, they were a financial success for all concerned, but more importantly, we were able to present the one man who has consistently drawn some of our largest and most enthusiastic audiences."

*Russ Shaner, Rochester Theatre Organ Society*