



# COLE CONSOLE Finds New Home

by Bud Taylor

Sierra Chapter of Sacramento is very proud of its three-manual Robert-Morton console which was donated to the club by Steve Restivo of San Jose. The console has done a bit of traveling in its day. It was originally installed in the Capitol Theatre in Marshalltown, Iowa. From there it went to radio station KMTR and then to KTLA, both in Los Angeles. In 1948 it was the first console for the Buddy Cole organ in his studio, and was later replaced by another console. Later, it went to Steve Restivo and was in storage for a number of years before he donated it to Sierra Chapter. We are, indeed, grateful to have this console, now with white and gold trim, replacing our two-manual console.

The console, with its 134 stoptabs controlling our 13-rank pipe organ, is mounted on a portable platform and sits center stage for concert use. The chambers are on both sides of the stage. The console can be stored in a unique cabinet on the left of the stage when it is not in use; this cabinet was built by Don Myers.

Sierra Chapter had planned sometime in 1987 to upgrade the existing two-manual console operation. The plan called for replacing the original, increasingly unreliable pneumatic relay switchstack located in the Main chamber (an electronic capture-action had been installed several years ago so no change was needed there). The Z-Tronics "Versaplex 109" system was chosen, purchased and delivered for the job. This system is essentially a time-division multiplex system

that handles all of the keying, rank selection, coupling, etc., within the console.

In May 1987 the board became aware of a three-manual console that was free! The console, which had once been owned by Buddy Cole, was all stripped down and in unfinished condition except that the keys had been recovered. It needed refinishing, some parts were missing, and, of course, it needed complete wiring. It did, however, look pretty good, and the idea of a three-manual instrument was overwhelming, so additional equipment was purchased from Z-Tronics for the third manual as well as expansion from 11 to 13 ranks plus a piano.

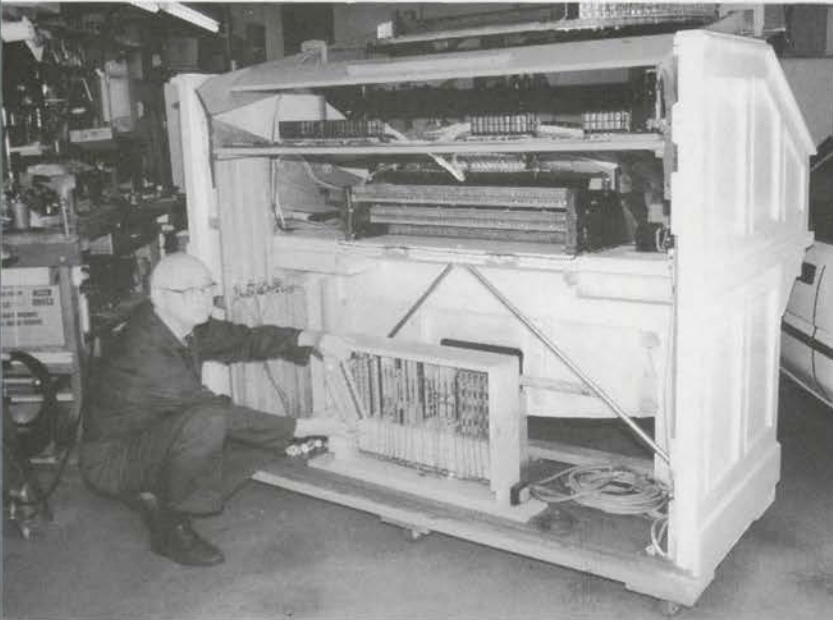
Since we had decided to keep the old console in playing condition, it was necessary to purchase a new electronic capture-action for the new console. The Devtronix C-MOS combination action series 11 was chosen, four "Division" mother boards were ordered with provision to actuate a total of 134 syndyne stoptabs. We didn't have room for any more tab actions in the stop rails, so any other tab requirements and miscellaneous switches were put in the left side drawer, the right drawer is empty and used to hold music or whatever. Each Devtronix division can handle up to 56 tab actions and up to 18 pistons, either general or divisional. Each division board also provides for General Cancel, Division Cancel, Set and Memory Select Pistons. Two independent sets of memories, each with memory lock, are provided for the tab-capture action. This

allows a guest artist to set tabs to their requirements, take out the key, and no one can mess up their settings! Each manual was equipped with 13 finger pistons and the pedals with 11 toe pistons. Z-Tronics relay system and Devtronix capture-action installation in the console was all done by Harry Cline, a retired telephone company employee.

In addition to the three-manual console, several modifications have been made to the chambers. The original installation had just one set of swell shades in each chamber speaking onto the stage which was, in effect, a mixing chamber. The first modification was to remove the doors in the chamber and install additional shades on a frame that replaced the chamber doors. This still left a shortage of bass to the critical ear, and when it was decided to go to the three manuals with the addition of two ranks of pipes, it was determined that more shades were needed. That was accomplished by installing additional shades in the wall between the chamber and the listening room in the Main chamber. Because the Solo chamber does not extend to the wall of the listening room, a tone chute was installed. With this modification, everyone agrees that the organ sounds great!

We have been having concerts once a month as an initial trial for the new console. At our December Christmas party several members had a chance to give the new console a whirl. We will dedicate our new console in April with a concert by renowned artist Rex Koury.





Rex Koury to dedicate Sierra's new console in April.



Clockwise from top: Bare refinished console; Console showing parts manufactured by Don Myers; Happy crew at the finished console - L to R: Dale Mendenhall, Errol White, Harry Cline, Rod Daggett, Chuck Schumate; Harry Cline making some final touches. At left: Errol White wiring driver boards in chamber.

Credit for this superb job goes to a group of gentlemen who are always reliable and donate their services whenever called upon for work on the organ. They have devoted many hours to refurbish this console. They are: Dave Moreno, Errol White, Harry Cline, Don Myers, Dale Mendenhall, Chuck Schumate, Charlie Robinson, Rod Daggett, Harvey Whitney, Ray Anderson, Art Phelan and John Carlton. Thanks to all of these who have made this beautiful console look like it just came from the factory. My personal thanks for help with this article go to Harry Cline, Tom DeLay, Dave Junchen and Dale Mendenhall.



# CONSOLE STOP LIST



## PEDAL

16' Tuba  
 16' Diaphone  
 16' Tibia  
 16' Bourdon  
 8' Post Horn  
 8' Tuba  
 8' Diapason  
 8' Tibia  
 8' Clarinet  
 8' Cello  
 (Made of two ranks:  
 Solo String & Salicional)  
 8' Flute  
 16' Piano  
 8' Piano  
 8' Accom to Pedal  
 8' Great to Pedal  
 8' Solo to Pedal  
 Base Drum, Kettle Drum Roll  
 Cymbal (2)  
 Pedal Trap Selection

## ACCOMPANIMENT

8' Trumpet  
 8' Tuba  
 8' Diapason  
 8' Tibia  
 8' Clarinet  
 8' Solo String  
 8' Viol Celest (2 RKS)  
 8' Flute Celeste (2 RKS)  
 8' Vox Humana  
 4' Octave  
 4' Piccolo (Tibia)  
 4' Solo String  
 4' Viol Celeste (2 RKS)  
 4' Flute Celeste (2 RKS)  
 4' Vox Humana  
 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>' Twelfth (Flute)  
 2' Piccolo (Flute)  
 8' Piano  
 4' Piano  
 8' Sub Harp  
 4' Harp  
 Chrysoglott  
 Snare Drum (Roll)  
 Tambourine  
 Castanets  
 Chinese Block  
 Cymbal (2)  
 Acc. Trap Elect  
 4' Acc. Octave Coupler  
 8' Solo to Acc. Coupler

## ACCOMPANIMENT SECOND

8' Post Horn  
 8' Trumpet  
 8' Tuba  
 8' Diapason  
 8' Clarinet  
 4' Piccolo (Tibia)  
 Chimes  
 Glockenspiel  
 8' Solo to Acc.  
 Xylophone  
 Glockenspiel  
 16' Grt. Sub Coupler  
 Unison Off  
 4' Grt. Octave Coupler  
 16' Solo Sub to Grt. Coupler  
 16' Solo Sub to Grt. Coupler  
 with Pizzicato  
 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>' Grt. Quint Coupler

## GREAT

16' Post Horn (TC)  
 16' Trumpet (TC)  
 16' Tuba  
 16' Tibia  
 16' Kinura (TC)  
 16' String Celeste TC (all 3 RKS)  
 16' Vox Humana (TC)  
 8' Trumpet  
 8' Tuba  
 8' Diapason  
 8' Tibia  
 8' Kinura  
 8' Clarinet  
 8' Solo String  
 8' Viol Celeste (2 RKS)  
 8' Flute Celeste (2 RKS)  
 8' Vox Humana  
 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>' Tibia Quint  
 4' Octave  
 4' Piccolo (Tibia)  
 4' Solo String  
 4' Viol Celeste (2 RKS)  
 4' Flute Celeste (2 RKS)  
 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>' Twelfth (Tibia)  
 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>' Twelfth (Flute)  
 2' Piccolo (Tibia)  
 2' Piccolo (Flute)  
 1 3/5' Tibia Tierce  
 1' Fife (Flute)  
 16' Piano  
 8' Piano  
 4' Piano  
 4' Harp  
 Chrysoglott

## SOLO

8' Post Horn  
 8' Trumpet  
 8' Tuba  
 8' Diapason  
 8' Tibia  
 8' Kinura  
 8' Clarinet  
 8' String-Celeste (all 3 RKS)  
 8' Vox Humana  
 4' Piccolo (Tibia)  
 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>' Twelfth (Tibia)  
 2' Piccolo (Tibia)  
 1 3/5' Tibia Tierce  
 8' Piano  
 8' Harp  
 Chrysoglott  
 Xylophone  
 Glockenspiel  
 Chimes  
 16' Solo Sub Coupler  
 4' Solo Octave Coupler

## TREMULANT TABS

Main  
 Vox  
 Solo  
 Tibia

## GENERAL TABS

Viol Celeste — Off  
 Flute Celeste — Off  
 Chrysoglott Reiteration — On  
 Glockenspiel Reiteration — On  
 Xylophone Reiteration — On



## PHOENIX FESTIVAL II

Clockwise from left: Helen and Bill Hale, Margaret Hill, Beth Adkison, Emerald and George McNeil, Adeline Hook from Puget Sound. RR