

Pipes & Personalities



Joel Kremer and Lew Williams at Paramount Theatre after Twin Console Concert.

MILE HIGH WEEKEND: A GREAT PARTY

by David Love

Rocky Mountain Chapter is known for its good parties. The Mile-High Weekend September 13-15, was no exception. The opening event of the weekend was at the Riser Music Hall, home of a 3/22 Wurlitzer. Everyone was treated to the Ragtime fun of The Dick Kroeckel Show. Dick Kroeckel's mastery of Ragtime piano and the singing of Janette Sherwood started things off with a fun light-hearted zing. The jam session that followed was what jam sessions are made of, lots of spontaneous theatre organ sound.

This truly theatre organ weekend continued with an outstanding program by John Lauter at the Porter residence. With John's mastery of the full "East Coast" theatre sound, he made the Porter's 2/11 Robert-Morton sound like its larger cousins.

A short drive south brought everyone to the Mt. St. Francis Convent, Colorado Springs, the home of a 3/21 Wurlitzer. Our guests were treated to what was to be Patti Simon and Dick Kroeckel's new recording release. The artistry of Patti at the organ and the power of Dick at the piano, made this concert the high point of the weekend. With the blend of today's and yesterday's music, these two artists left everyone on their feet wanting more.

Lew Williams treated all to a truly one-of-a-kind concert on a truly one-of-a-kind theatre organ, 4/28 mostly Wurlitzer, at the Kremer residence. Lew's wonderful blend of theatre styling, from the Big Band sound to the classics was a grand experience. The day's events were topped off by the Meet the Artist Reception, held on the Kremer's deck overlooking the moonlit Colorado country side.

The Historic Paramount Foundation hosted the group to a rare concert on their



From top to bottom: Patti Simon at St. Francis. Lew Williams at Kremer residence. John Lauter at Bob Porter residence.

twin console, 4/20 Wurlitzer. The console was turned over to Joel Kremer who was house organist at the theatre in the 50s. This concert was an opportunity to hear theatre organ at its best, a theatre organ in its original setting played by the organist who played it when it was new. Everyone thrilled to a duet when Lew Williams brought the slave console to stage level.

The weekend's final concert was at the home of Pricila Arthur. Pricila's 2/10 Wurlitzer was masterfully shown off by Bob Castle. Bob's smooth, full, theatre styling was a great end to a truly theatre organ weekend. The chapter provided a "goodby" lunch, to say thank you to their new friends.

The Mile-High Weekend was arranged by the FRIENDS OF THE WICKS, a subgroup of the Rocky Mountain Chapter. The funds that were raised went to the Wicks Fund for the Wicks Theatre Organ that is now being installed into Denver's East High.



Bob Castle at Arthur residence.



Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church; Seoul, Korea.

The Allen Organ Company announces the installation of a large four-manual Allen Organ of 107 stops at Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church in Seoul, South Korea. Choong Hyun is among the largest churches in Korea. With a membership of almost 24,000, it is also one of the largest Presbyterian churches in the world.

The decision to purchase an Allen Organ followed a thorough international search. Dr. Shiwohn Chay, the Director of Music at the church and Chairman of the Music Department at Yonsei University in Seoul, traveled to the United States with several other delegates from the church to research various pipe and pipeless organs. Ultimately, church officials decided that only the Allen Organ Company could guarantee a satisfactory installation in their particular acoustical environment, a sanctuary that seats more than 5,000. Allan has installations in approximately 60 countries worldwide.

This is the second Allen Organ purchased by the church, which was founded in 1953 and moved to its present location in south-eastern Seoul 10 years later. In the early 1980s, the congregation broke ground on the current edifice. In the fall of 1983, Choong Hyun installed a large two-manual Allen Organ in the 2,000-seat chapel in the new building. The sanctuary housing the four-manual instrument was completed in 1986. Choong Hyun Presbyterian offers four main services on Sundays with simultaneous language translations. A special English-language service is one of the three additional weekly services. Among the facilities at the large complex of which the church is the focal point are guest rooms for missionaries and overseas visitors, a large practice room for the church's seven choirs, numerous conference centers, and underground parking facilities for more than 1,000 vehicles.

The organs at Choong Hyun are among more than 200 Allen Organs in Korea.

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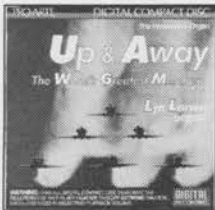
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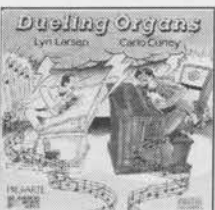
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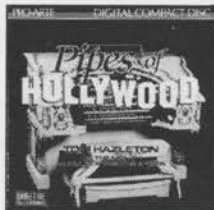
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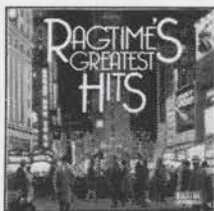
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