

# THE MARR & COLTON SYMPHONIC REGISTRATOR

by ALLAN R. MILLER, Granby, Conn.

One of the most unusual gadgets to be found on a theatre organ is the Marr & Colton Symphonic Registrator, such as is installed in the Colonial Theatre, Hartford, Connecticut. The Symphonic Registrator is an extra row of stop tablets labeled with moods instead of the conventional stop names. These tablets operate like pistons, actuating the stops which would create the desired effect. A typical example of the use of this Symphonic Registrator would be during a church scene. The organist would press the tab marked CATHEDRAL and a relay would automatically select these stops:

<b>PEDAL:</b>	
Violone . . . . .	16'
Flute (Tib) . . . . .	8'
Open Diapason . . . . .	8'
<b>ACCOMPANIMENT:</b>	
Tibia Clausa . . . . .	8'
Open Diapason . . . . .	8'
Octave . . . . .	4'
<b>SOLO:</b>	
Contra Viol . . . . .	16'
Tibia Clausa . . . . .	8'
Open Diapason . . . . .	8'
Viol d' Orchestra . . . . .	8'
Viol Celeste . . . . .	8'
Octave . . . . .	4'
Flute (Tib) . . . . .	4'

The tablets controlling the Symphonic Registrator on the Colonial Marr & Colton are:

LOVE, <i>Mother</i>	SUSPENSE
LOVE, <i>Romantic</i>	GARDEN
LOVE, <i>Passion</i>	WATER
LULLABY	RURAL
QUIETUDE	CHILDREN
JEALOUSY	HAPPINESS
HATRED	FESTIVAL
ANGER	FOX TROT, <i>Verse</i>
EXCITEMENT	FOX TROT, <i>Chorus</i>
AGITATION	WALTZ, <i>Verse</i>
WALTZ, <i>Chorus</i>	STORM
MARCH	CHASE
ROYALTY	CHINESE
MYSTERIOUS	ORIENTAL
GRUESOME	SPANISH
NEUTRAL	FUNERAL
NEUTRAL	SORROW
NEUTRAL	PATHETIC
RIOT	CATHEDRAL
FIRE	FULL ORGAN

As the Registrator relays were wired at the factory, it is almost impossible to trace connections to find out the stops used for each mood.

The stoplist of the Colonial Marr & Colton is as follows:

<b>PEDAL:</b>	
Violone . . . . .	16'
Contra Tibia Clausa . . . . .	16'
Tuba . . . . .	8'

Flute (Tib) . . . . .	8'
Open Diapason . . . . .	8'
Cello (Viol & Celeste) . . . . .	8'
Acc. to Ped. . . . .	8'
Solo to Ped. . . . .	8'
Cymbal . . . . .	.
Bass Drum . . . . .	.
Kettle Drum . . . . .	.
<b>ACCOMPANIMENT:</b>	
Contra Viol . . . . .	16'
Tibia Clausa . . . . .	8'
Open Diapason . . . . .	8'
Viol d' Orchestra . . . . .	8'
Viol Celeste . . . . .	8'
Tuba . . . . .	8'
Vox Humana . . . . .	8'
Clarion . . . . .	4'
Octave . . . . .	4'
Flute (Tib) . . . . .	4'
Violin . . . . .	4'
Violin Celeste . . . . .	4'
Harp . . . . .	.
Orchestra Bells . . . . .	.
Solo to Acc. . . . .	16'
Solo to Acc. . . . .	8'
Solo to Acc. . . . .	4'
Wood Block . . . . .	.
Castanets . . . . .	.
Tom - Tom . . . . .	.
Tambourine . . . . .	.
Triangle . . . . .	.
Snare Drum, <i>Loud</i> . . . . .	.
Snare Drum, <i>Soft</i> . . . . .	.
Tremulant . . . . .	o

<b>SOLO:</b>	
Contra Tibia Clausa . . . . .	16'
Contra Viol . . . . .	16'
Vox Humana, <i>TC</i> . . . . .	16'
Tibia Clausa . . . . .	8'
Open Diapason . . . . .	8'
Viol d' Orchestra . . . . .	8'
Viol Celeste . . . . .	8'
Tuba . . . . .	8'
Vox Humana . . . . .	8'
Kinura . . . . .	8'
French Horn . . . . .	8'
Oboe, <i>Syn.</i> . . . . .	8'
Saxophone, <i>Syn.</i> . . . . .	8'
Quint (Tib) . . . . .	.5-1/3'
Octave . . . . .	4'
Flute (Tib) . . . . .	4'
Violin . . . . .	4'
Violin Celeste . . . . .	4'
Vox Humana . . . . .	4'
Twelfth (Tib) . . . . .	.2-2/3'
Piccolo (Tib) . . . . .	2'
Xylophone . . . . .	.
Glockenspiel . . . . .	.
Chimes . . . . .	.
Tremulant . . . . .	.

- o Accompaniment Chamber (Right Side)
- o Solo Chamber (Left Side)

The organ is intact, but the console is in very bad condition. Organ is not for sale, and due to type of installation, cannot be removed from the chambers. There are 101 stop tablets, 8 ranks, 5 pistons per manual.

## CIGAR BOX ORGAN

By E. J. Quinby

Hastening down Vesey Street in New York, toward the ferry, my eye caught the sign in a cut-rate hardware store window: SPECIAL SALE ON ELECTRONIC ORGANS, \$7.50, WERE \$19.50. I dashed in and asked for a demonstration. "We couldn't play it here, you have to take it home and play it through your radio," I was informed.

"What kind of tone has it got," I inquired, "Is it a flute tone, a reed tone, or a string tone?" (The sign mentioned that it was suitable for churches!)

"I wouldn't know about that," the salesman dodged, "but it sounds just like STATIC."

With this reassuring guarantee, I grabbed the package and resumed my dash for the ferry. Once aboard the connecting commuter train, I opened the carton, and unscrewed the lid of my musical cigar box. Inside I discovered a miniature two

octave plastic keyboard, a chain of little resistors, a single vacuum tube and a set of batteries. There was also a little pilot light and a switch, to indicate when the "blower" was running.

Reaching home, I unlimbered this strange little device, stretched its antenna wire over the radio cabinet, and tuned the radio in to the required frequency to pick up the oscillations from the cigar box "transmitter". Like the Solovox, it produces one note at a time, the highest key depressed taking command. I could play solo melodies on it without too much difficulty, in spite of the condensed dimensions of the keyboard. Its weird tone could be slightly altered by manipulating the tone-controls on the radio set. And the volume is limited only by the power capacity of one's radio.

P.S. It lived up to the man's guarantee.