

Oregon chapter members at Cleveland assembly: (L to R) Terry Robson, Karen Minear, Loren Minear, Jonas Nordwall, Dennis Hedberg, Paul Quarino and Don James.

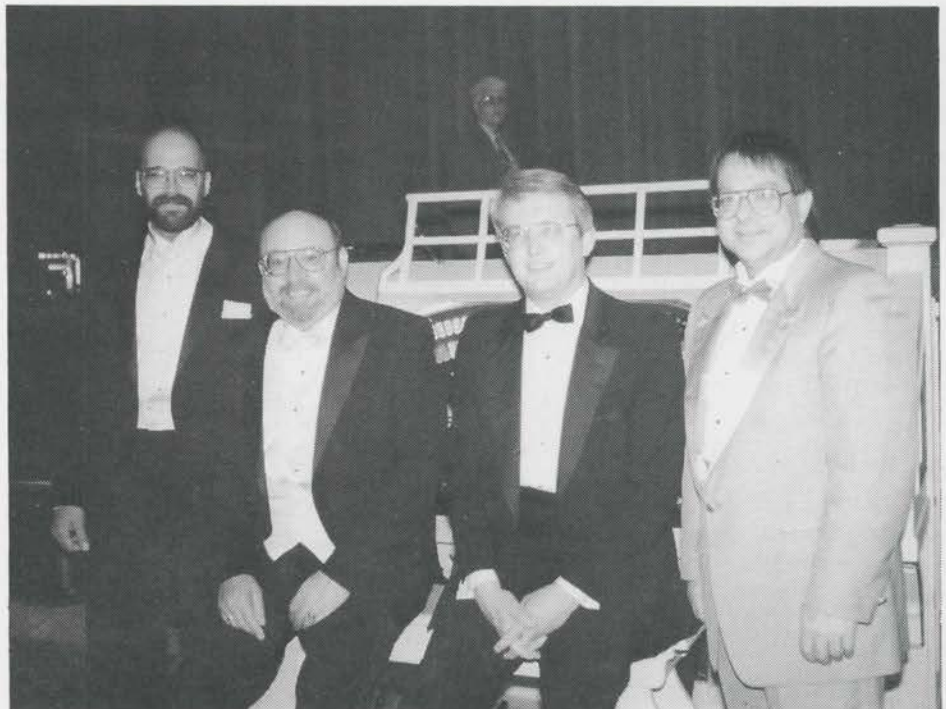
Blood, Sweat, and Cheers!

by Grace E. McGinnis

"A pop music star of the twenties will perform in Portland tonight. Computer surgery has given this entertainer a new voice, making it a hit in the nineties."

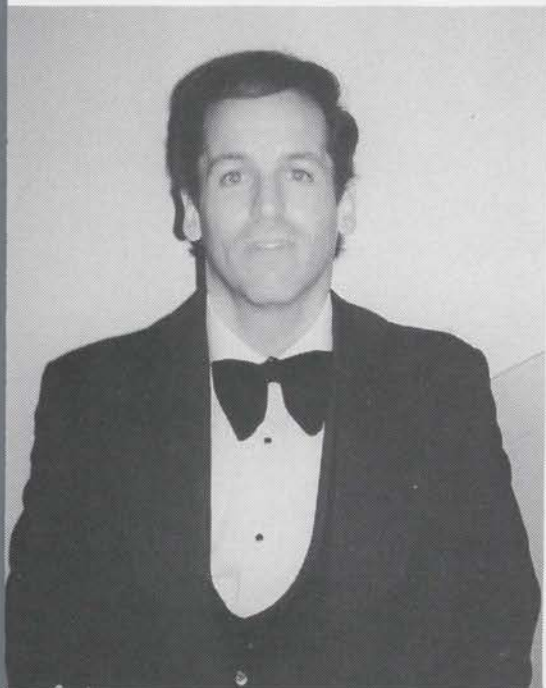
MIKE DONAHUE, KOIN-TV

That statement on the evening news, April 26, let Portland, Oregon, know that the Kimball theatre pipe organ which once resided at Benson High School was to be presented that night to the public in its new home, Cleveland High School. (For the full story of how this came about, see the March/April 1990 THEATRE ORGAN.)



L to R: Kurt von Schakel, Gerry Gregorius, Jonas Nordwall, Paul Quarino

Iru Ewen photo



Emcee Steve Adams.

Iru Ewen photo

The Cleveland student body, however, was first to see and hear their "new" organ in a morning assembly. Organist Jonas Nordwall, drummer Beth Hamon, and the Cleveland choir let them know that this organ can be used in a number of ways ranging from classical music to the most modern sounds. Jonas opened with the Cleveland Fight Song, which set the students off in the best of moods. The remainder of the program included a classical number by the choir, a range from classical to traditional theatre organ solos by Jonas and a rousing drum/organ jazz duet that had the students screaming for more. Cleveland High School was obviously happy with its new "addition."

The show that evening, produced by Terry Robson, was a total success. More than 800 came to share the celebration of the Kimball's new status. Steve Adams came from Neenah, Wisconsin, to serve as emcee and, in his introduction, told how complaints by Victorians in the early part of this century that movies were "provocative and unseemly," led theatre owners to add "serious" music to their programs. He then introduced Gerry Gregorius and Kurt von Schakel who showed the audience how the theatre organ and piano could be used to create a "high class" musical interlude for moviegoers of those years.

The second portion of the program was designed to demonstrate the primary function of a theatre organ, that is to accompany silent films. Paul Quarino did the honors for this task, and the reviewer from the *Oregonian* wrote: "Cleveland High School's newly refurbished Kimball theatre



TV camera catches Jonas and Beth Hamon.

Quarino photo



Dennis Hedberg demonstrates the Deutronix computer system for the TV cameraman.

Quarino photo



Above: Kurt von Schakel and Gerry Gregorius rehearsing.
Quarino photo

At Right: Loren Minear and Don James relax after the program.
Irv Ewen photo

Below: Karen and Loren Minear in chamber.
Quarino photo



pipe organ had stiff competition from a 1928 Laurel and Hardy classic silent film, *The Finishing Touch* . . . as organist Paul Quarino provided the sound effects just as a generation of organists did in the days before the talking pictures made silent films and organists obsolete. Quarino provided music to laugh by, to cry by and for chase scenes as the two comic carpenters' slapstick loused up a construction job." Enthusiastic response from the audience indicated that they truly shared the spirit of the silent film era.

It then fell to Jonas Nordwall and Beth Hamon to bring the listeners up to date on what the organ is capable of contributing to the twenty-first century. Steve Adams introduced Jonas as "Portland's own 'Pinball Wizard,'" and there was no doubt in the minds of those in the auditorium that this was an appropriate title. Jonas marched the Kimball into the Space Age with a flair and fanfare that made it clear what this celebration was all about.

If, perhaps, our readers are wondering why the title of this article, it may be that only those who have participated in an organ project such as this one can fully understand the nicked knuckles, cracked craniums, and strained muscles that often plague the installers and their helpers. Organman Loren Minear (aka Captain Kimball) with the assistance of his wife, Karen were contracted by the Portland School District to oversee and do the majority of the removal, rebuilding and reinstallation of the organ. Along with funds from the school district, several corporate and private grants as well as donations of materials and hundreds of hours of volunteer labor from members of Oregon Chapter were required to complete this ambitious undertaking.

It was necessary to replace some of the components of the organ because of wear and to make it more functional as a concert instrument. Some chests were rebuilt, others replaced. A new, larger capacity blower was installed along with many new reservoirs and tremulants. Several ranks were added. A new, standard AGO pedalboard replaced the old one. The console was completely rebuilt and fitted with electric stop action in order to accommodate a Devtronix Computer Relay system. Dennis Hedberg was responsible for the entire console conversion and the installation of the computer.

Oregon Chapter is pleased, proud and profoundly impressed with what has been accomplished at Cleveland, and anticipate that one of these days we will be able to welcome the ATOS here again to share our love of the very special music that can only be heard where there are theatre organs.

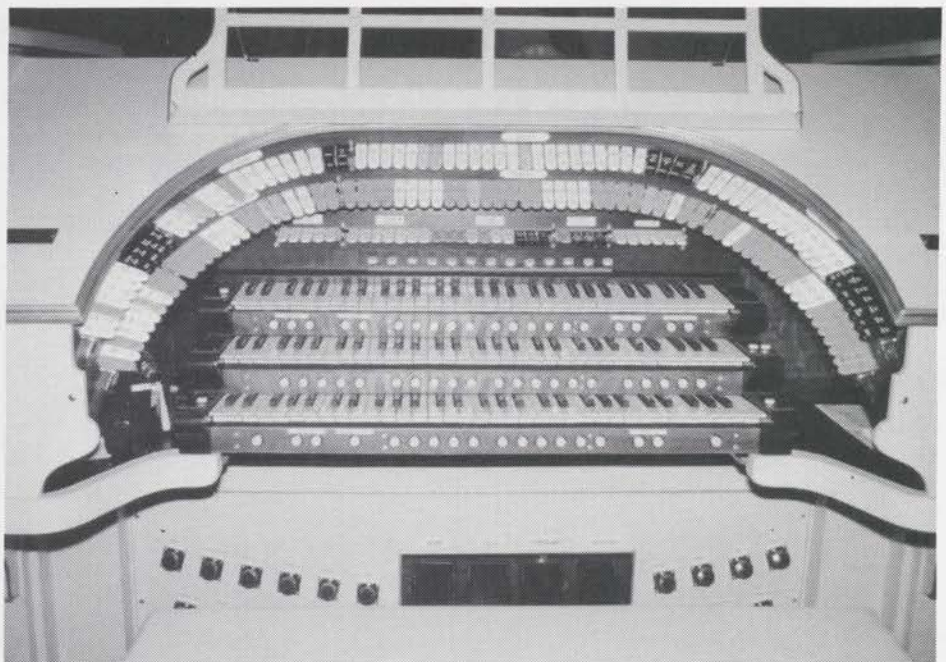
Chamber Specifications:

SOLO

16 Diaphone (metal) Diapason	Wurlitzer/Kimball
16 Tibia Clausa	Kimball
8 Tibia Clausa	Wurlitzer
8 English Post Horn	Gottfried
8 Vox Humana	Kimball
8 Harmonic Trumpet	Estey
8 French Horn	Gottfried
8 Kinura	Wurlitzer
8 Saxophone	Trivo
8 Gamba	Kilgen
8 Gamba Celeste	Kilgen
Piano	Kimball
Glockenspiel	Kimball
Xylophone	Kimball
Chimes	Kimball

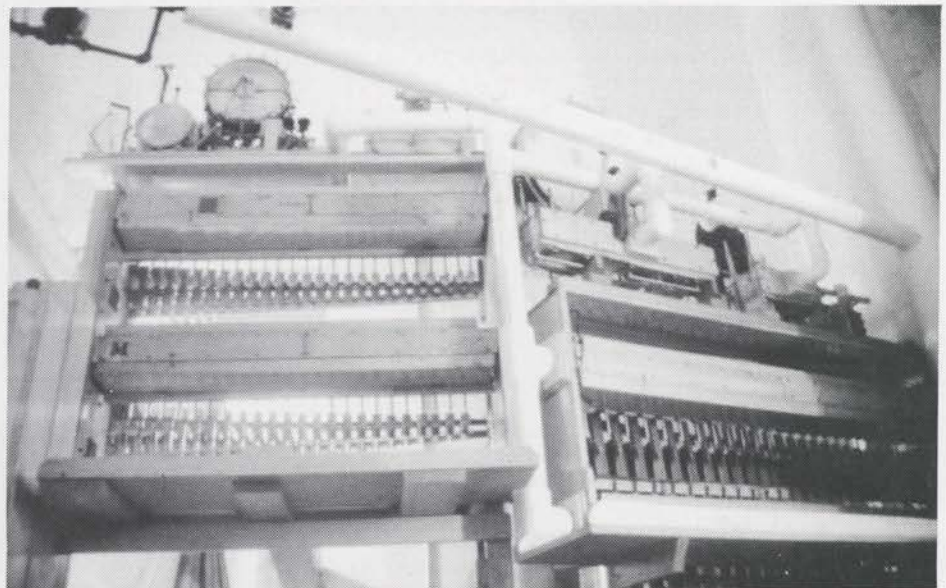
MAIN

16 Tuba (low 12 wood)	Robert-Morton/Kimball
16 Open Diapason (low 12 wood)	Kimball/Wicks
16 Bourdon/Concert Flute	Kimball
16 Violin	Kimball
8 Viol Celeste	Kimball
8 Flute Celeste	Kilgen
8 Tibia Clausa	Wurlitzer
8 Trumpet	Robert-Morton
8 Orchestral Oboe	Wurlitzer
8 Vox Humana	Wurlitzer
8 Clarinet	Kimball
4 Octave	Robert-Morton
Mixture III	Kilgen
Harp	Kimball
Chrysoglott	Kimball
Non-tuned percussions & traps	



Keydesk of Kimball console.

Irv Ewen photo



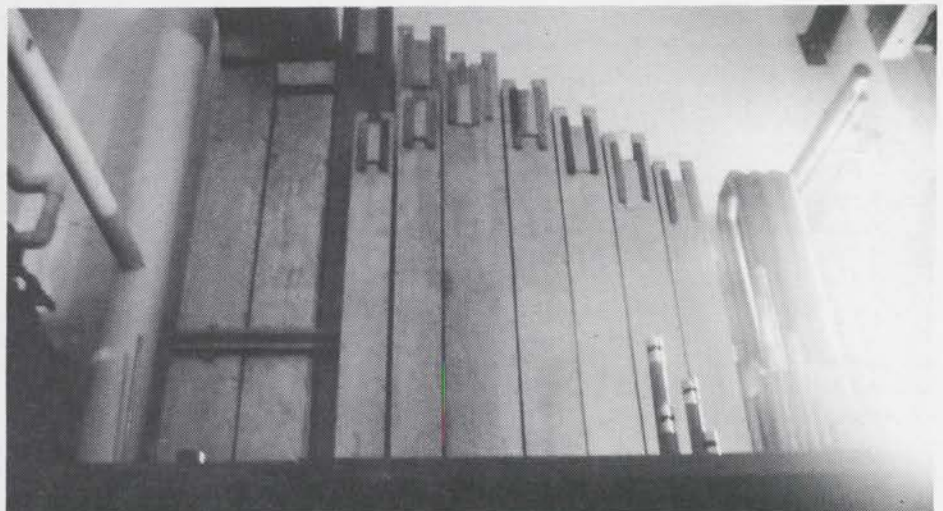
Toy counter and percussions.

Minear photo



Computer in the Kimball.

Irv Ewen photo



16' wood Diapason pipes.

Minear photo