

Theatre Organ Workshop: Colorado State University Fort Collins, Colorado

by Patti Simon

Lyn Larsen conducted a five-day workshop at Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, June 15-19, for 22 registrants. The workshop began with a public concert by Lyn on the 3/19 Wurlitzer in the auditorium. The next day everyone journeyed to Estes Park, a beautiful mountain community just a few miles southwest of Fort Collins, for a concert at the home of Richard and Virginia Webb. Robert Cavarra, organ professor at CSU, performed on the Yamaha HX1, and Kevin Utter, graduate of CSU in Organ Performance, performed on the Allen MDS III. This event, which started with a barbecue supper, allowed all of the registrants to get acquainted, discuss ideas, and ask questions regarding stylings and registrations and playing ideas on the instruments available there. It was an enthusiastic group and much discussion was held regarding these two diverse instruments.

Monday morning began the three days of classes and Lyn arrived well prepared with his new book of arrangements, examples of stylings and rhythms, and a head full of knowledge to share with the students.

The students were a mix of beginner, hobbyist, teacher, technician, and performer. Some had played theatre organs extensively and some had never played a theatre organ. Lyn's willingness to discuss any and all questions made the class sessions interesting for everyone. Registration and stylings were covered extensively as



was the importance of technique. Lyn's advice on perfecting the gorgeous Crawford rolls sent everyone home with hope of improving their own.

The beginner students received important details on beginning their hobby, before they develop difficult-to-break bad habits. The hobbyists learned more about registration and stylings to improve their hobby. The organ teachers received help not only in improving their own playing but also ways to improve their teaching of theatre organ with their students. Those interested in the technical aspect of the theatre organ learned facts about respecifying an existing instrument which can be used when instruments are restored or re-installed. The professional performer had the opportunity to learn from one of the finest organists who shared so willingly his tremendous knowledge and experience gained from hard work.



CSU workshop organist Lyn Larsen, and Bruce Moss (from New Zealand).

This 3/19 Wurlitzer a few years ago had a troublesome relay which unfortunately gained it a reputation of being unreliable. However, over a year ago a new Devtronix Computer Relay was installed and the instrument now performs reliably and beautifully. The next theatre organ workshop at CSU is June 12-17, 1992. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the instruments ATOS supports and, for the beginner, hobbyist, teacher, technician, and performer, it is an opportunity to improve in their chosen endeavor.



CSU Workshop. Patti Simon, Robert Cavarra, Kevin Utter, Valerie Utter.



CSU Workshop. Lyn Larsen signing autographs.



Rodgers Windsor Model will be Voiced as a Concert/Theatre Organ in Harborside Center

Gaylord Carter celebrated his 86th birthday August 3. The octogenarian captivated the audience at the Oakland, California, Paramount Theatre, Saturday July 13, when he accompanied the 1927 Academy Award winning silent epic *Wings* at the 4/27 Wurlitzer. He opened with an overture of his own score, lowered the lift and we were off with this exciting air adventure. His scoring did not intrude into the drama but heightened the visual effects, especially the air battles. *Ed Mullins*

Early this year, the William Smith family of Fort Myers, Florida, gave the gift of a large Rodgers theatre organ to Harborside Center in that city. This is the new civic complex facing the river in the center of the downtown area. The organ has been installed in the 3500-seat convention hall by Central Music of Clearwater, with sound and electrical work having been supervised by Paul Williams of Disney World.

In mid-April, Don Buttorff, Senior Director of the Center, signed Billy Nalle to play the instrument's official debut concert.



The date is set for Saturday evening, February 29, 1992, curtain time 8:15 p.m.

During the initial concert season at Harborside Center, in addition to Nalle, there will appear other headliners, including the Boston Pops Orchestra, George Burns, Gregory Hines, Carole Lawrence, Roger Williams and George Shearing with the BBC Big Band.

Two other halls, the exhibition hall and the hall of fifty states, are included in the complex, and the Center's official opening was celebrated on July 24.



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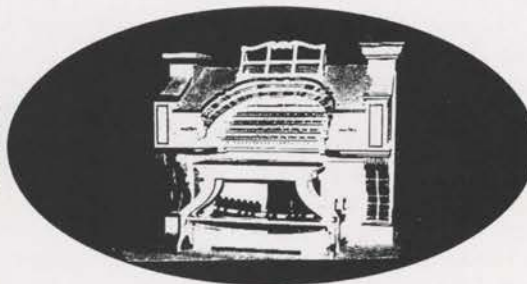
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Paramount Studios, Compton

Plus the UNPRECEDENTED visit to The Granada Studios for a late night walk down the world famous "Coronation Street" followed by a midnight concert on the trusts newly installed ex. Gaumont Manchester 4/14 Wurlitzer in the Projections Complex featuring Len Rawle.

From the Friday evening "Welcome Banquet" to Sundays "Farewell Buffet" you will be assured of the warmest welcome at the heart of British Theatre Organ Entertainment. All for the budget price of \$375.

Cost on the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Weekend 92, includes - All transportation, All meals, All accommodation, All admission prices. Transportation from Manchester Airport, and main line local rail stations can be arranged.

Full details from:- David Alldred 13, Gibb Lane, Mellor, Stockport. SK6 5LZ. U.K.Tel. 61. 427 2180