

The Marr & Colton in the Roosevelt Theatre, Buffalo, New York

By
Charles W. Stein

One of the most outstanding theatre organs in the Buffalo area is the 4m/18r Marr and Colton at the Roosevelt Theatre. Built in 1927, at a cost of \$37,500, this organ is a true example of fine craftsmanship. Its tibias are among the richest ever heard, its Guatemalan marimba speaks out far more clearly than in similar instruments and the great organ peals forth with a fullness and depth rarely heard in theatre organs.

Several prominent organists played this Marr and Colton in its early years. When the 1800-seat theatre was opened in April of 1927, Tim Crawford was the featured artist. He was followed by Sylvester Stambaugh and a number of other well-known artists.

When talking pictures sounded the death-knell of theatre organs around 1930, the owners of the Roosevelt locked up the organ chambers and very carefully boarded up the fine Marr and Colton console. As was typical all over the land, the organ sat for twenty-five years. Fortunately, little or no water damage took place. But the organ was all but forgotten until 1956 when two enterprising young men, Harry Radloff and Heino Olandt (of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of ATOE), persuaded the Roosevelt's owners to let them re-build the organ.

Then followed three years of painstaking effort—effort that frequently resulted only in frustration! Gradually, the pattern emerged; gradually, the "new" Marr and Colton took shape. The entire organ was re-leathered, reservoirs and chests repaired, blower and generator refurbished, wiring checked and the console completely overhauled. Parts from other Marr and Coltons and WurliTzlers in the area were obtained, three more ranks were added to the organ and by late 1957, the old Marr and Colton had a decidedly new look. All this had taken place with the full co-operation and help of the owners, George and Morris Rosing.

In the Fall of 1957, the organ was placed in use every Sunday—to be played briefly between films. Harold Jolles, a well-known theatre organist of silent picture days, was engaged as feature artist. For the past three years he has played the organ regularly on Sundays to the delight of the theatre's patrons.

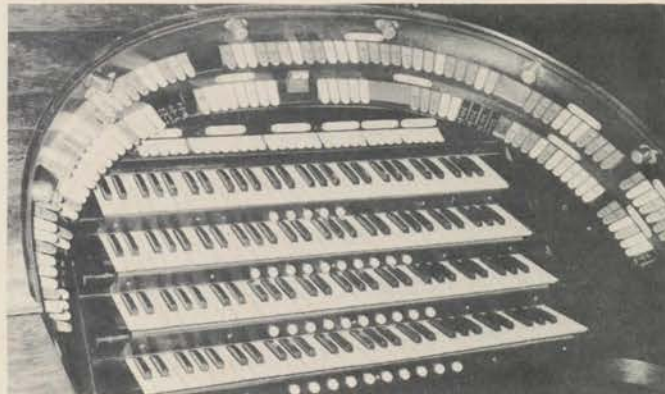
Recently, the Niagara Frontier Chapter of ATOE presented a full-length concert at the theatre one Sunday morning. Harold Jolles played, together with Dr. Edward Bebko of Olean, New York, former associate organist at Radio City Music Hall. Though the concert was held on a Sunday morning, over 400 persons attended and all of them thrilled to the sound of the magnificent Marr and Colton theatre organ.



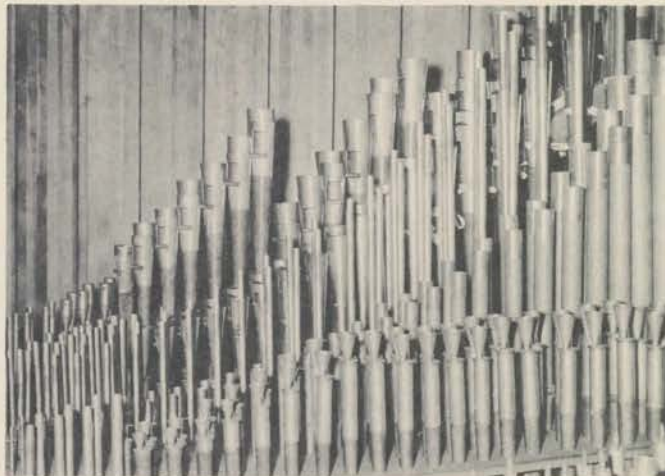
Harold Jolles at the Roosevelt Marr & Colton.



Percussion in solo chamber. Sleigh Bells, Glockenspiel, Chrysoglott, Chimes (in background)



Marr & Colton 4/18 Console, Roosevelt Theatre



View of Main Chamber. Right to left -- Kinura, Horn Diapason, Solo String, French Horn, Trumpet, Vox Humana.

\$5.00 - DUES ARE DUE FOR '62 - \$5.00

SPECIFICATIONS of 4-MANUAL ROOSEVELT THEATRE MARR & COLTON

<p>MAIN FOUNDATION CHAMBER No. Pipes Range 85 16'-4' Diaphonic Diapason 97 16'-2' Horn Diapason 97 16'-2' Tibia Clausa 73 16'-8' Trumpet 73 8'-4' Tibia Plena 61 8' String 61 8' French Horn 61 8' Vox Humana 61 8' Kinura 85 16'-4' Piano Toy Counter</p> <p>SOLO CHAMBER 85 16'-4' Tuba Horn 85 16'-4' Tibia Clausa 97 16'-2' Flute 61 8' English Post Horn 61 8' Trumpet Royal 61 8' Oboe Horn 61 8' Orch Oboe 61 8' Clarinet 61 8' Vox Humana 85 8'-2' Viol 'D Orch. 73 8'-4' Viol Celeste 61 8' Quintadena 61 8' Saxophone 20 Chimes 25 Sleigh Bells 30 Glockenspiel 49 Chrysoglott 37 Xylophone 49 Marimba-Harp Auto Horn (Pierce Arrow) Bird Effect</p> <p>GENERAL Two Expressions Levers with Indicating Keys Balanced Crescendo Pedal Thunder Pedal (Reed) Thunder Pedal (Diaphone) Tremulants Main Solo Tibia plena - Diaphonic Diapason Tibia Clausa Tibia Clausa Vox Humana Vox Humana Tuba - English Post Horn Sforzando Pedal (Wind) -Full Stops Sforzando Pedal -Full (Everything) Sforzando Pedal (Snare Drum) Sforzando Pedal (Base Drum & Cymbal) Piano Pedal (Sustain) Piano Pedal (Soft)</p> <p>Surf Effect Auto Horn Fire Gong Steamboat Whistle Horse Hoofs Two Bird Effects Chinese Gong Telephone Bell Auto Horn Ship's Bell</p> <p>10 pistons per manual except Orchestral Organ which is 5 15 hp Spencer Orgoblo 100 amp motor generator set (Variable Voltage)</p>	<p>PEDAL ORGAN 32 Resultant 16 Trombone 16 Ophicleide 16 Diaphone 16 Diaphonic Horn 16 Contra Tibia Clausa 16 Contra Tibia Clausa 16 Bourdon Tuba Horn Octave Horn Diapason Tibia Clausa Tibia Clausa Tibia Plena Clarinet String Cello Flute Octave Flute Orch to Pedal Solo to Pedal Great to Pedal Accomp to Pedal Ophicleide Pizz Piano Bass Drum Kettle Drum Snare Drum Crash Cymbal Cymbal Pedal traps first or second touch</p> <p>ACCOMPANIMENT ORGAN 1st Keyboard 16 Contra Viol (Ten C) 16 Bourdon 16 Vox Humana (Ten C) 8 Tuba Horn 8 Diaphonic Diapason 8 Horn Diapason 8 Tibia Clausa 8 Tibia Clausa 8 Clarinet 8 Saxophone 8 String 8 Viol 'd Orchestre 8 Viol Celeste 8 Oboe Horn 8 English Post Horn 8 Trumpet Royal 8 Quintadena 8 Flute 8 Vox Humana 8 Vox Humana 8 Octave 8 Viole 8 Octave Celeste 8 Flute 8 Vox Humana 2 Twelfth 2 Piccolo 16 Piano 8 Piano 4 Piano Piano Mandolin Marimba Harp Chrysoglott Accomp to Accomp Solo To Accomp Solo to Accomp 2nd T</p>	<p>ACCOMPANIMENT ORGAN 1st Keyboard (continued) Snare Drum Tambourine Castanets Chinese Block Tom Tom Sand Block Triangle 2nd T</p> <p>GREAT ORGAN 2nd Keyboard 16 Ophicleide 16 Diaphone 16 Diaphonic Horn 16 Contra Tibia Clausa 16 Contra Tibia Clausa 16 English Post Horn (Ten C) 16 Clarinet (Ten C) 16 Contra Viol (Ten C) 16 Bourdon 16 Vox Humana (Ten C) 8 Trumpet Royal 8 Trumpet 8 English Post Horn 8 Tuba Horn 8 Diaphonic Diapason 8 Tibia Clausa 8 Tibia Clausa 8 Tibia Plena 8 Orch Oboe 8 Kinura 8 Clarinet 8 Saxophone 8 String 8 Oboe Horn 8 English Post Horn 8 Quintadena 4 Clarion 4 Piccolo 4 Tibia Clausa 4 Tibia Plena 8 Saxophone 8 String 8 Viol 'd Orchestre 8 Viol Celeste 8 Flute 8 Vox Humana 8 Vox Humana 5 - 1/3 Tibia 5th 4 Clarion 4 Kinura 4 Octave 4 Diapason 4 Piccolo 4 Tibia Clausa 4 Viole 4 Octave Celeste 4 Flute 4 Tibia Plena 4 Twelfth 2 - 2/3 Nazard 2 Fifteenth 2 Piccolo 2 Piccolo 1 - 3/5 Tierce 1 - 1/3 Larigot 1 Fife 16 Mixture IV 8 Piano 4 Piano Marimba Harp</p> <p>GREAT ORGAN 2nd Keyboard (continued) Chrysoglott Xylophone Glockenspiel Orch Bells Cathedral Chimes 16 Great to Great 4 Great to Great 8 Solo to Great 8 Solo to Great 2nd T</p> <p>SOLO ORGAN 3rd Keyboard 16 Trombone 16 Ophicleide 8 Trumpet Royal 8 Trumpet 8 Tuba Horn 8 Diaphonic Diapason 8 Tibia Clausa 8 Tibia Clausa 8 Tibia Plena 8 Orch Oboe 8 Kinura 8 Clarinet 8 Saxophone 8 String 8 Oboe Horn 8 English Post Horn 8 Quintadena 4 Clarion 4 Piccolo 4 Tibia Clausa 4 Tibia Plena 8 Xylophone 8 Glockenspiel 8 Orch Bells 8 Sleigh Bells 8 Cathedral Chimes 8 Piano</p> <p>ORCHESTRAL ORGAN 4th Keyboard 16 Vox Humana (Ten C) 8 Tibia Clausa 8 Tibia Clausa 8 Concert Flute 8 Viol 'd Orchestre 8 Viol Celeste 8 Clarinet 8 French Horn 8 Kinura 8 Vox Humana 8 Vox Humana 4 Flute 4 Violin 4 Orch to Orch 8 Solo to Orch Harp Carillon Harp Cathedral Chimes Shuffle Effect</p>
--	--	--

Stop list is subject to change as further additions are hoped to be made

\$5.00 - DUES ARE DUE FOR '62 - \$5.00