

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Published monthly by Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society, a non-profit organization
furthering the appreciation, preservation and use of the Theatre Pipe Organs of yesteryear

Volume 12 No. 10

October 2001

Great news! Coming Sat., Nov. 10...

Another exciting concert at the beautiful Johnson Mansion in Gig Harbor!



Internationally recognized

Jonas Nordwall

Plays Theatre Organ Pops

on the fantastic Leif & Bonnie Johnson
4/48 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ

Johnson Mansion, Gig Harbor, WA

Saturday, Nov. 10, 2:00 PM

JONAS NORDWALL, a native of Portland, possesses unique talents as a concert organist. He's at home playing either classical or popular music, rarely needs printed scores, improvises freely without losing the identity of the music, and is truly a master organist. Receiving a Bachelor of Music degree in 1970 from the University of Portland, he has served as organist at First United Methodist Church in Portland for thirty years. He is also organist for the Oregon Symphony Orchestra.

A contributor to the renaissance in the popularity of the theatre organ as a recital instrument, he has recorded over 15 albums. For 10 years he was the senior staff organist for the Organ Grinder Restaurant in Portland. He has been a featured artist for numerous national ATOS conventions and in 1987 was chosen ATOS organist of the year. Regarded as one of the nation's top theatre organists, Jonas' creative arrangements and clever stylings always entertain and impress!

It's been a year and a half since the lovely Johnson home has been available to PSTOS for a concert. Leif and Bonnie Johnson have graciously agreed to a benefit event for the PSTOS Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to the Johnsons, as well as to caretakers DeWaine and Dovie Hodge, for making this very special day possible.

Important!
This event is a
BENEFIT for the
PSTOS
Scholarship Fund

Paid PSTOS & CROC Members \$12 • All others \$15

Seating is limited at this home. To avoid overbooking, all ticket sales will be handled by mail, with no door sales. PSTOS & CROC members have first opportunity to purchase tickets, and on October 15 unsold seating will be made available to non-members. For last minute ticket inquiries, please contact Russ or Jo Ann Evans at rj.evans@verizon.net or 425-485-5465

DON'T DELAY—ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Please use the ticket order form on page 6.

Drive directions will be mailed with your tickets.

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a non-profit organization furthering the appreciation, restoration, and use of the historic Theatre Pipe Organs of the 1920s, through education.

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Listing of non-PSTOS events in the Pipeline

PSTOS, upon request, will list non-conflicting non-PSTOS theatre organ events in the "Other Events" column of the two Pipelines immediately preceding the event, providing Pipeline editors receive sufficient prior written notification. Venue, artist, type of event, date, and contact information will comprise the included information.

Advertising in the Pipeline

Classified-type ads for member-owned electronic, electric, or pipe organs, and/or pipe organ parts, will be published at no charge. Please limit copy to include brief description, contact name and phone number. Prices will not be listed. Ads may be edited for content and length. Mail ad copy to address above. Other advertising is not accepted.

President's Message

What a devastating time we're going through. It doesn't seem possible that such horrible things could be happening to us here in the United States of America. I

know you, too, hold our fellow Americans and those around the world affected by this disaster in your thoughts and prayers.

Fifty-five PSTOS members and friends met at the St. Columban Church Hall in Yelm on Saturday, September 16, to hear a concert played on Father Terence's absolutely fabulous 3/16 Robert Morton Theatre Pipe Organ. Tedde Gibson played a wonderful program. He was joined for two numbers by Edmonia Jarrett who sang "In The Garden" and "Someone to Watch Over Me." Edmonia's beautiful voice was enhanced by Tedde's accompaniment. Tedde's finale was a medley of American patriotic songs that left tears in the eyes of most of us. It was fantastic! Thanks to you, Tedde and Edmonia. Prior to Tedde's program we feasted on a delicious luncheon served by the church ladies. As usual we were called to lunch by the 'dinner bell'—can't miss THAT call!

Good news! PSTOS, through Russ Evans, has arranged for a concert at the Johnson home in Gig Harbor. Jonas Nordwall will play for us. You'll want to sign up soon for this event, as tickets will go fast. See you on Saturday, November 10th!

We hear the improvements at Haller Lake have begun. I don't know if they will be completed by our Christmas Party but we will be able to see where the elevator will be and notice changes to the parking area and restrooms.

Your Board is looking ahead to 2002 planning more exciting events for you. Should be a great year...stay tuned.

—Barbara Graham

PSTOS Coming Events**Halloween Party**

Plan now to...
Com...
detail...
Sorry...Canceled!
...event. More
Sunday, Oct. 21, 2 pm

Jonas Nordwall at the Johnson Mansion

Once again PSTOS will sponsor a concert at this beautiful venue! Tickets are for sale now....don't delay! Order TODAY!
Johnson home, Gig Harbor, WA.
Saturday, Nov. 10th, 2PM

Annual PSTOS Christmas Party

Another happy holiday event with great entertainment and marvelous food.
Haller Lake Community Club.
Sun., Dec. 2, 2 pm

Valentine's Party

A fun February event. Special entertainment with "The Gadabouts," tap-dancing seniors! Plus organ music.
Date and venue TBA.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Jointly sponsored by PSTOS and HLCC.
Haller Lake Community Club
Tentatively set for March 17th

Summer Social

Another summer music event at the home of Russ and Jo Ann Evans.
Saturday, July 20, 2PM

England's Chris Powell

The only U.S. concert for Chris' 2002 world tour! A great young organist. More details forthcoming.
Venue and time TBA.
September 8

For Sale Organ stuff

Thomas Theater Organ, 3 keyboard, full pedals, tape recorder, earphone jack. Organ is in excellent condition. Phone Joyce Kaaland at 360-871-3002 in Port Orchard, or Ron Hemmi at 253-474-8041 in Tacoma.

OTHER Events of Interest

Paramount Theatre To Feature International Silent Movie Series

Wurlitzer accompaniment by Dennis James

Nosferatu

Celebrating Halloween with a symphony of terror. Germany, 1922. An AGO chapter event, open to all.
October 29, 7PM

Blackmail

Great Britain, 1929.
November 5, 7PM

Man With A Camera

USSR, 1929
November 12, 7PM

Madame DuBarry

Germany, 1919
November 19, 7PM

Metropolis

Germany, 1927
November 26, 7PM

Hokum Hall features the Wurlitzer throughout October

Details & reservations: www.hokumhall.org

Laurel & Hardy Laughathon

With Andy Crow at the Wurlitzer. Also, "Sons of the Desert."
October 5-6, 8PM

Cornucopia Concert Band

Music of the Gay 90s
October 12-13, 8PM

Chases, Chases, Chases!

Classic film craziness with Eric Shoemaker accompanying.
October 19-20, 8PM

Piano Mania Eleven

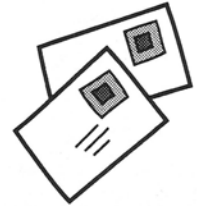
Great piano fun with Keith Terhune, Dan Grinstead, Hokum W. Jeebs, Louis Magor.
October 26-27, 8PM

Phantom of the Opera

Celebrate Halloween with Andy Crow at the Wurlitzer.
Tues/Wed., Oct. 30-31, 7:30PM



From the Mailbox



Owen Cannon, our PSTOS Scholarship recipient, sends news of his studies and accomplishments, and asks for permission to apply for continuing scholarship funding. The Board has recently passed a motion to continue funding his studies through this school year, and will plan additional events to benefit our scholarship fund. We are indeed fortunate to have such a worthy student to take under our wing!

Dear PSTOS Board,

Thank you for your continued support of my organ lessons with Dr. Scott. This school year we have worked hard on learning new music for competitions and recitals, but mostly for general repertory. I had the opportunity to play for a large church in Buffalo, NY, and an international radio program. I recently participated in the Spokane Music Festival and won silver and gold medals. Last month I also played two recitals, one in Corvallis, OR, and one here in Pendleton.

During the summer I participated in the Regional Competition for Young Organists, put on by the American Guild of Organists during a regional convention in Eugene, OR. I played

Mendelssohn's Sonata #3, Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C major, and Jubilo by Dan Locklair. I have also started on a Bach Trio Sonata (number II), the famous Widor Toccata, and some more Orgelbüchlein Chorales. My goal is to have twenty to thirty of them learned before I graduate from High School to prepare for college. In August I played a recital in Lynnwood, WA, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, on a two manual tracker built by Martin Pasi.

I hope I am able to learn much before my senior year ends, and ask that the PSTOS give me the opportunity to apply for continued financial support. I appreciate your covering the expenses of my organ studies over the past year.

Sincerely, Owen Cannon

Jonas Nordwall Concert at the Johnson Mansion replaces canceled Halloween Party

The Halloween Party originally advertised for October 21st has been canceled due to a scheduling conflict for the planned entertainment. *The Gadabouts*, a superb tap dancing group, has been booked for the Valentine's Party instead.

HOWEVER...the good news is that for the first time in a year and a half, a concert at the wonderful Johnson Mansion in Gig Harbor is on the list of upcoming events! We know many of our members will not miss this opportunity. Two other groups have been asked to be included in the mailing list, but PSTOS members will have first chance to purchase tickets. You are strongly urged to order your tickets immediately!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Washington Center Wurlitzer earthquake repairs are completed

Restoration of the Wurlitzer in Olympia's Washington Center For The Performing Arts, which sustained extensive damage in the recent earthquake, has been completed by Zollman Pipe Organ Service of Wichita. It is playable once again with the only remaining work to be done being the finish voicing. Plans for a "reopening event" are being formulated.

5th Ave. Theatre Organ headed for Boise

Seattle's Fifth Avenue Theatre Wurlitzer, which has been in a pizza parlor in Redwood City, CA, for approximately thirty years, has been sold. The restaurant is apparently coming to an end. The winning bidder was Larry Embry who has plans to install it in an undefined food establishment in Boise, ID.

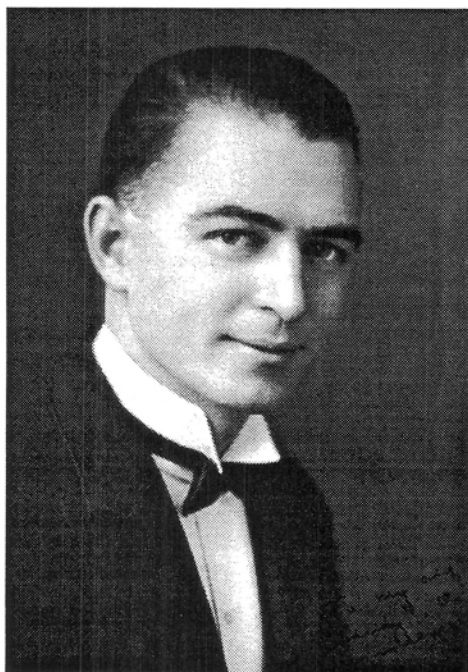
A letter from the past... part 2



The September 1965 issue of Console magazine carried a lengthy article entitled, "Seattle, Cradle of the American Theatre Pipe Organ." Former Seattleite Dick Simonton, [shown left holding a 16' Vox Humana pipe, 1960's] one of the founders of ATOE [now ATOS], immediately upon reading the article, wrote a fascinating 12-page letter to the Console editor in which he shared numerous recollections of and interesting trivia about Seattle theatres and organs during the early years.

Segments from his letter will be reproduced over the next few months for your enjoyment. Last month we printed the segment about the Seattle Liberty Theatre and Wurlitzer. Following is a continuation of Dick's captivating memories. [Thanks to the Wm. Bunch archives.]

... "Harry Reed is a fine gentleman and I have the highest respect and regard for him. I knew him quite well during my Seattle days as we lived only a few blocks apart and frequently rode the streetcar together. In those days few of



Harry Reed, 1923

us could support automobiles and public transportation was the only way. It was always a pleasure to find Harry Reed on the same car either going or coming from town and of course we indulged ourselves in our favorite topic of conversation, something pertaining to organs. At one time Harry Reed was the Seattle representative for Estey Organs and he sold a number of them around there. There were then in Seattle several Estey Minuettes. These were a 3 rank, 2 manual organ built in the form of a grand piano. The pipes were mitered 90 degrees and while the mouth and chest

was upright, the pipes themselves were horizontal as the strings in a grand piano. It is surprising how much music could be obtained from such a small organ.

The photograph of the Rhodes Department Store organ and its description does indeed bring back a flood of memories. I well remember when the organ was installed as it was all written up in the Seattle newspapers and while I was a grade school kid I did manage to get down there to hear it on Saturday afternoons. It was played every alternate half hour by Fred Feringer whom I later got to know quite well. Fred was also organist of the First Presbyterian Church and quite active in the Seattle musical activities not only as an organist but as a choir conductor.

They had a railing around the organ platform which was raised above the department store floor level, and sort of a notch cut in a small balcony. I could stand close enough that I could see all of the manipulation and I memorized the stops so that I knew what each would do when it was brought on. At that time there was a radio station on the balcony of the department store and the organ was frequently broadcast. A carbon microphone was permanently installed for this purpose. From time to time rolls were played on the organ and at one time they had quite a sizable library.

Some references were made to the thought that Bill Bunch might have made the installation of the Rhodes Department Store Aeolian organ in 1927. This could hardly have been possible as Bill at that time would have been about 10 years old and besides he didn't come to Seattle until 1937. While I attended the opening festivities of

many of the Seattle theaters, bear in mind that I was a small kid at the time. The events stayed vividly in my memory because I was such an organ nut and theater buff that anything related to any of these interests made a deep impression on me.

There were only a few cities which boasted pipe organs in department stores and Seattle was one of them. It will be recalled that at one time Barker Brothers downtown store in Los Angeles had three pipe organs, a 4-manual in the lobby of the main floor, a 2-manual on the second floor in the music department and a 3-manual in the auditorium on the 9th floor. Aside from the Wanamaker stores in Philadelphia and New York, I know of no others which boasted such a luxury.



Glen Goff, 1922

A letter from the past... continued

The picture of Glen Goff also brings to mind the fact that the Kress 10¢ Store on Market in San Francisco had a 3 manual Aeolian organ installed at the rear of the store, sort of between the first and second floor and in the location of the sheet music department. I didn't know Glen Goff in Seattle but knew him slightly from passing through San Francisco and always stopping to see him, as he played the organ regularly, plugging sheet music at the time. The Kress store in San Francisco was the only dime store that I ever heard of which had a real honest to goodness pipe organ. Recently in San Francisco I stopped in the store and the chambers are still evident, but the organ was removed during the war and is now in a college at Stockton. [1965]

In the center of Page 5, you show the old console from the Colonial Theater, the old Kimball which was later replaced with a Wurlitzer. The replacement was a manual of 8 ranks and a beautiful organ which someone later gave the console a coat of whitewash. Because there were no chambers, the organ was installed in swell boxes on each side of the auditorium and up on shelves on the side wall. Regardless of this, however, it sounded excellent and was one of the favorite small organs around Seattle. Later a chap by the name of Dick Cook acquired this organ and he was the scion of a wealthy family in Seattle. Dick never married but was well along in years and rather an odd character to say the least.

Dick installed this organ in his parents' Beacon Hill Victorian style home and to make the setting authentic he installed gas lights on either side of the console. Soon after I left Seattle Dick died a suicide and I have no way of knowing whatever became of the lovely little Wurlitzer organ.

Two of the early day theater operators were the Clemmer Brothers who had a theater in Seattle and one in Spokane. They are considered to be the first users of a pipe organ to accompany motion pictures, and many years before Wurlitzer acquired the assets of the Hope-Jones Organ Company and began to manufacture the Wurlitzer Theater

THE PICTURE PLAY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

COLONIAL THEATRE


Fourth Ave. at Pike St. Fourth Ave. at Pike St.

OPENS TONIGHT

DOORS OPEN 7:45 — FIRST PERFORMANCE PROMPTLY AT 8 P. M.

COLONIAL QUARTET

We have worked for months to organize a quartet that would be just a little better than any other, going to Chicago for the tenor and Boston for the bass, and as a result we have an organization as near perfect as can be made. The solo and duet work of this quartet is without equal.



PROGRAM

—OF—

EXTRAORDINARY MERIT

—FEATURING—


The Tiger Lily

IN THREE REELS

Remember, Our North children are watching her for the week end and their own families sleep with their eyes open. The fact that she has become a picture actress is a tribute to her beauty as to a picture actress, for a week end picture that she has made "The Tiger Lily" hold the first record for a single film.

The Denver band had to be made there and unfortunately had a little accident. They were unable to see with their eyes. They's daughter, now grown, is mentioned. They're mother, and she's mother, are mentioned. They're mother, and she's mother, are mentioned. They're mother, and she's mother, are mentioned. They're mother, and she's mother, are mentioned.

1,000 SEATS
All on One Floor



This is the largest open floor house in the West. The 10 seats and floor can be plainly seen from every seat, not a pillar being used in any part of the auditorium.

THE TIGER LILY IN PITTSBURGH

Writing from Pittsburgh a well-known Seattle business man has this to say: "I saw 'The Tiger Lily' tonight, and it is easily in the lead—the best production I have ever seen. You are fortunate in being able to secure it for your opening night."

A Beautiful Scenic

"MANFREDONIA, SOUTHERN ITALY"

Two Coking Good Comedies—

"BUILDING A TRUST" and **"WHEN LOVE LOSES OUT"**

LADIES' REST ROOM

In the balcony, over the front entrance, a parlor and rest room have been provided for the exclusive use and comfort of lady patrons. Splendidly furnished, it is a lovely place to spend a quiet half hour.

Permanent Engagement of Louis Dimond

Louis Dimond has but few equals on the keyboard. His versatility as a soloist includes the better class of lighter compositions and the entire range to the greater masterpieces, which he performs with faultless technique and marvellous power. His improvisations accompanying the moving pictures are the work of a genius in the realm of instrumental music.—From The Seattle Times, July 6, 1913.

ALL SEATS 10 CENTS

CHILDREN 5 CENTS

From *The Seattle Times*, July 16, 1913, and reproduced in *Marquee*, Journal of The Theatre Historical Society, 1972

Organ. In those days there was no such thing as a theater organ and enterprising theater operators bought stock model Kimball organs, intended for small churches, and used them in this method. The first organ they had was a tubular-pneumatic job, with console attached, and the whole thing sat to one side of the auditorium near the front.

Jess Crawford played this organ and often laughed about it as the only trem was on the Vox Humana. This may be the reason why there were a good many Kimball theater organs in and around the northwest as they got this early lead on the market.

Contrary to the quotation from Stuart Barrie, Jesse Crawford always spoke very highly of the Skinner organ

which he played in the Alaska Theater. He loved the organ and the tone qualities and effects which he was able to achieve and never spoke of it any way but in very endearing terms. One of Jesse's anecdotes which he loved to tell was about the day when he was playing a matinee and a man came down the aisle and spoke to him over his shoulder and asked him how the organ was doing. At the moment Jesse had a stuck coupler, and he told the man so, whereupon the man took off his coat, climbed over the railing, took the back off the console and in a few minutes repaired the coupler. Afterwards the man introduced himself as Ernest M. Skinner..."

[Continued next issue.]

Do you know where your name badge is???

Badges have been scarce at events lately! We know YOU know who you are, but does everyone else? PLEASE dig out that badge and wear it to all events! If you can't find it, please send \$2 for a replacement to

Doug Owen
P.O. Box 64043
University Pl. WA 98464-0043

Your Board says
"Thanks!"

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A hearty PSTOS thanks to Tedde Gibson for a great concert!

The weather was excellent for the drive to Yelm to hear Tedde Gibson, who is to be commended on his very nice program for PSTOS members and members of the St. Columban Church Parish. Tedde is developing into a good jazz organist, with his very own style reminiscent of no one. His selection of music was varied and excellent. Additionally, he brought with him his good friend and fantastic vocalist, Edmonia Jarrett, who sang two numbers with him. Edmonia is clearly a very experienced jazz singer...we hope for another opportunity to have her on a program!

Many thanks to both Tedde and Edmonia for giving us an outstanding day of music!

And many thanks, as well, to Fr. Terence for being such a gracious host, and to the ladies of St. Columban Church, who once again prepared and served a lovely buffet luncheon. It's always a treat to attend a lunch and concert at Yelm where we enjoy great food and hear Fr. Terence's fine Robert Morton.



Tedde Gibson and Edmonia Jarrett

TICKET ORDER FORM, Jonas Nordwall concert • Saturday, Nov. 10, 2:00 pm

Paid PSTOS & CROC members \$12 • All others \$15

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- A stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed—
Please mail my tickets AND driving directions.
- I will pick up my tickets at the door—please hold them for me there.

HERE'S MY ORDER FOR:

___ Member tickets @ \$12 \$ ___

___ Non-member tickets @ \$15 \$ ___

Total amt. enclosed: \$ ___
Make checks payable to: **PSTOS**
Mail your order to:
PSTOS Tickets
c/o Barbara Graham
2823 NE 105th
Seattle, WA 98125-7722

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

IMPORTANT Information

We're unable to process phone orders. Orders received without a self-addressed stamped envelope, or received within 6 days of the concert, will be held to be picked up immediately before the program. Ticket orders will be filled in the order received.