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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. PSTOS is a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Volume 17 No. 6

June 2006

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society



Special Summer Event!

PICNIC at the home of Jack & Mary Lou Becvar

Featuring

MARK ANDERSEN

at the 3/19 WURLITZER



PSTOS is happy to welcome MARK ANDERSEN to the Northwest, and especially as our featured organist for this special summer event!

Mark recently relocated here from the East Coast to serve as Vice President of Tonal Design for Artisan Instruments. Equally adept at classical and theatre styles, he has several theatre organ albums to his credit, and an impressive list of accomplishments including an ATOS convention performance at Radio City Music Hall. He recently recorded a video for the Capitol Theatre in York, PA, and the New Everett Theatre here in our state.

Mark is the host for the weekly television show, *Crescendo* which features classical and theater organ music. *Crescendo* airs over Time Warner Cable in New York and SCAN in Seattle channel 29 Sundays at 2:30. The program is also available as a weekly podcast at www.iTunes.com

Mark specializes in the styles of Jesse Crawford and George Wright. We are so happy to welcome him to the area. This will be an outstanding event, hopefully the first of many such programs.

Please join your PSTOS friends in welcoming Mark Andersen!

ADMISSION—adults \$10, age 12 and under \$5

Includes food and entertainment. Open console after Mark's program.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1:00 PM

11617 SE 258th, Kent

To help us plan for food, PLEASE let us know how many will be in your party.

Phone 425-485-5465 or email rj.evans@verizon.net no later than Thurs., June 22

For drive directions see page 6

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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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Paramount Theatre—Tom Blackwell • Wash. Center—Andy Crow

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.

Joining Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is quick and easy! For a one year membership, send a \$15 check payable to PSTOS together with your name(s) as you would like them to appear on your name badges, your address with complete 9-digit ZIP code, and your email address (optional) to:
Norman Miller, Treasurer, 2644 NW Esplanade,
Seattle, WA 98117-2527.

PRESIDENT'S Message

Hi folks:

Over the past few months, we've had several questions about PSTOS dues and tickets prices. "Where do my PSTOS dues go?" "Where does the money from ticket sales go?"



Your PSTOS dues of \$15 per year cover the Pipeline newsletter printing & mailing, the PSTOS web site, liability insurance, postage and supplies for member renewals and other correspondence. Also the maintenance of the chapter-owned 3/11 Wurlitzer pipe organ at Haller Lake and the Annual Meeting/Holiday Party in December which has traditionally been free to all PSTOS members.

Where does the money from ticket sales go? Unless the event is specifically advertised as a "benefit," the goal is to simply break even. We pay our local artists a modest \$200 fee and some of them generously donate that fee back to our Scholarship or Pipe Organ Maintenance fund. Haller Lake events incur a \$150 hall rental fee. If a meal is served at the event (as it has been at Haller Lake, Kenyon Hall and at St. Columban's in Yelm), that usually adds \$6-9 per person. If we have 60-70 people in attendance (the recent average at Haller Lake), we need to charge at least \$10 just to break even. For events with added entertainers, such as our recent Big Band with Organ event in May, there are additional artist fees and ticket prices will be higher.

For events that are advertised as a "benefit" for our Scholarship or Pipe Organ Maintenance funds, all proceeds, after base expenses are paid, go to these funds. For example, proceeds of \$2,200 from the recent Jelani Eddington concert at Wurlitzer Manor (made possible through the generous hospitality of Barbara and Raymond) go directly to helping our young Scholarship students such as Owen Cannon, Daniel Goltz and Nathan Avakian. Last year's fundraiser at the Paramount with Jonas Nordwall generously donating his fee, netted over \$4,000 in voluntary contributions for the Paramount's Wurlitzer and Ampico lobby piano maintenance fund. This amount was matched by the theatre so we now have over \$8,000 in the fund.

It should be mentioned that PSTOS has not raised dues in over 15 years! Many other arts groups and organ clubs have

PSTOS Coming Events

◆ **MARK ANDERSEN to be featured at a WURLITZER HOME PARTY at Jack & Mary Lou Becvar's Kent residence**



The Becvars welcome PSTOS members to hear MARK ANDERSEN perform on their 3/19 Wurlitzer, and to enjoy a fun summer picnic.

Saturday, June 24

◆ **SUMMER SIZZLER at YELM!**

Once again we'll hear Festival of the Excited! **SORRY...This event has been canceled** Buffet Lunch. Artist TBA.

Sat., Aug. 12

Look to the internet for theatre organ info, history, items for sale

www.theatreorgans.com

Lots of interesting theatre organ information, items for sale, current and original organ installation lists.

www.atos.org

The official site of the American Theatre Organ Society. Online Journal, Theatre Organ magazine articles, local chapter information and more!

www.pstos.org

The most complete ATOS chapter website with over 800 pages of Northwest theatre organ information and photos.

Internet radio station
features theatre organ music 24 hours a day

Theatre Organ Replay

www.live365.com/stations/tremmedtibia

raised their annual dues to \$20 or more.

I hope you'll agree PSTOS membership dues and ticket prices are a great value. By aiming to just cover expenses for many events throughout the year, we are able to keep the prices low so that all members can attend.

Other NW Theatre Organ Events

◆ Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

Latest news can be found at:
kenyonhall@earthlink.net or on the
web at www.kenyonhall.org

◆ Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon

Hear the Wurlitzer every Mon/Tue at
7 PM & Fri/Sun at 5 PM.

◆ Columbia River Organ Club

Latest news can be found at
www.croconline.org

◆ Paramount Silent Movie Monday Summer Series

—August 7

Don Juan, starring John Barrymore, 1926

—August 14

Prisoner of Zenda, starring Ramon
Navarro, 1922

—August 21

Sparrows, starring Mary Pickford, 1926

—August 28

The Iron Mask, starring Douglas
Fairbanks Sr., 1929

Accompanied on the Wurlitzer by
Dennis James.

All begin at 7:00 pm.

www.theparamount.com

PSTOS supporter Don Myers, would love to hear from old friends

Long time member, Don Myers, has for some time suffered with failing health. Sadly, he has recently been moved to the Washington Soldiers Home where adequate care is available.

Don is a 'natural' musician whose renditions of favorite tunes have always been enjoyed by folks at home parties and open console sessions.

Over a period of many years, Don has been an eager participant in numerous local organ renovations.

Most certainly Don would enjoy hearing from his friends, and can receive cards or visits at Washington Soldiers Home, 18395 Pioneer Way, Orting WA 98360, or well-wishes by phone at 360-893-4535.

At graduation time, scholarship recipient Daniel Goltz expresses his appreciation to PSTOS

Dear PSTOS friends,

As I near the end of my high school years, I cannot help but think of the invaluable assistance that you have given me during the past four years. Without the help of PSTOS, my organ study might never have been possible. During these years I have been privileged to be a part of many exciting events and I have always done my best to make PSTOS proud of my progress and my accomplishments.

But more importantly, I would like to thank you for introducing me to an instrument that never fails to entertain and inspire. Before I began my relationship with PSTOS, I had no appreciation for the theatre organ, simply because I had never really heard one. Being able to come into close contact with one through concerts

and workshops (Colorado trip) has led me to appreciate them for their musical potential. Through your scholarships to young musicians such as myself, PSTOS is performing a vital work, namely, educating future young organists about the theatre organ. We are the future of the organ world. Because the theatre organ is such an amazing instrument, simply bringing today's young organists into contact with the theatre organ cannot fail to interest them in a major way. Your scholarships are a wonderfully effective way to inspire the next generation of both classical and theatre organists.

While my thanks for your support of my classical organ study goes without saying, I am most thankful for the opportunities you have given me to appreciate the theatre organ. As a true supporter of the theatre organ, I will do my best to make your investment in myself pay dividends well into the future.

Sincerely, Daniel Goltz

Reproduction of original Paramount Wurlitzer glass music rack to be completed and installed later this year

One of the items damaged during the Seattle Paramount's "heavy rock" years of the 1970-'80s was the console's original glass music rack and light. Your PSTOS Paramount crew has located reproduction metal castings for the rack brackets and an exact Wurlitzer-copy music rack light. They are currently working to fabricate the heavy quarter-inch glass rack and music shelf and the special mounting required for the light, and hope to have it installed on the console later this year. Having the original top-mounted music rack light was of particular interest to organist Dennis James who often places his film scores four-wide across the rack.



Seven PSTOSers attend National ATOS Convention in Tampa

About 450 theatre organ aficionados from around the world assembled in Tampa for the 51st ATOS Convention May 24–31, and what a spectacular event it was! So much talent in one place at one time—Walt Strony, Lew Williams, Richard Hills, Jelani Eddington, Donna Parker, Bill Vlasak, Clark Wilson, England's Richard Hills and Russell Holmes, Jonas Nordwall, Dave Wickerham, and the grand dame of theatre

organ herself, Rosa Rio! Two exciting young organists played cameo concerts and both were outstanding.

Eight theatre organs were featured, each with its own special sound.

What an experience for the seven PSTOS members who made the trip!

The 2007 event will be headquartered in N.Y.C.—a great opportunity to visit the Big Apple. Stay tuned as this event unfolds!

New Dennis James CD available

PSTOS member and organist for the Paramount Silent Movie Series, Dennis James, has a new CD available. Recorded at the Atlanta Fox, it is reviewed in the current issue of *ATOS Theatre Organ Journal*. We're told it's a good recording, one worth considering for your collection. Check your *Theatre Organ Journal* for ordering information.

Pages From The Past... 1969

WURLITZER OF TOMORROW!

Reproduced from THE CONSOLE magazine, November, 1969. Seattle's Lee Bauscher was a man ahead of his time. The technology described in this article was cutting edge at the time, and preceded today's computerized organ control systems.

Hold it! Don't get excited. The Wurlitzer firm of North Tonawanda isn't going back into producing theatre pipe organs, but Lee Bauscher of Seattle, Washington, an electronics genius, is redesigning the electrical system of his Style 235 Wurlitzer which will make it an outstanding instrument, capable of performing musical feats not yet imagined by the normal organist. The electronics scheme employed in the organ will be more costly than what Lee paid for the Wurlitzer and its installation.



Lee Bauscher at the console of his 3/11 Wurlitzer now undergoing modifications that will make it the Wurlitzer of Tomorrow. When finished, the console will have 250 tabs and will be connected to the instrument by a cable with just 16 wires.

A Wurlitzer Style H Special, Bauscher's instrument came from the World Theatre in Omaha, Nebraska. He believes this particular organ was not an original installation in the theatre. This belief is based on the facts that there were no stop tablets on the backboard, and when he re-veneered the console shell, he found a production schedule number X-640 which was dated 1924. "It indicates," he said, "that the organ might have been repossessed, perhaps from a church, rebuilt and then sold to the theatre." It also has a 14-note tibia offset chest, which he considers unusual for this

style instrument.

When he installed the organ in his residence basement, he designed the shutters within a movable frame to effect easy access to the chamber areas. "I also used another innovation," he noted. "This was the use of black plastic sewer pipe which is sealed with RTU, a rubber caulking compound. It is very easy to install. The interior of the pipe is perfectly smooth and offers no resistance to the wind from the blower."

Bauscher also used wood wind trunking between the two chambers and reservoirs and declared this also serves as a secondary reservoir system.

Primarily an electronics expert and organ buff, he became something of a pipe organ technician and builder through necessity. He purchased the World Wurlitzer sight unseen from an organ broker who represented it as being in first class condition. Upon arrival in Seattle, the organ could hardly be classified as "in first class" shape. It was noted almost immediately that water had caused some damage, which proved to be considerable. It was necessary to reglue the bourdons, make pipes to replace those that were missing, and clean up the entire organ before it could be erected. He recommends to anyone purchasing a pipe organ under similar conditions to have an attorney draw up a contract that can be enforced should representation by the seller not meet the actual condition of the organ as it is described.

The New Wurlitzer

To reduce the number of wires in the single cable to 16, he uses a multiplexer, designed for the Boeing Super Sonic transport. The innovation utilizes a scanner that looks at every note, both first and second touch on every manual and pedal, plus the swell shoes and all other effects, 100 times per second!

This is the feature that permits using only 16 wires between the console and the solid state relay that is to be installed. The cable will go first to the scanner, then to a

tape deck. The same 16 wires continue to the chambers. The system, Bauscher explained, is all digital. Whenever the organ is played, it will be recorded on one inch tape. This can be played back immediately the selection is completed by the artist at the console and the organ will reproduce everything exactly as it was performed, complete with registration and expression.

The tape deck, on the order of the pipe organ paper roll player of several decades ago, is a player, but much more sophisticated because of the additional number of things it can do.

It not only offers absolute true reproduction of an organist's efforts, but complete orchestration of an organ is possible by overlay method.

What's more, it is possible to construct music through the digital computer and do things not even George Wright could do. The almost limitless combinations offered through this process staggers the imagination!

Bauscher is building a new stop rail assembly for his present console. All the



Lee Bauscher holds the new three-tiered stop rail assembly to show fellow organ buff, Ed Zollman, how it will replace the present stop rails on the Wurlitzer console.

electronic gear for the "new" organ will be placed within the keydesk; it will have a four-memory combination action which will be set from the front of the console without the organist having to leave the bench and walk to a set-terboard.

Cost of the system, exclusive of

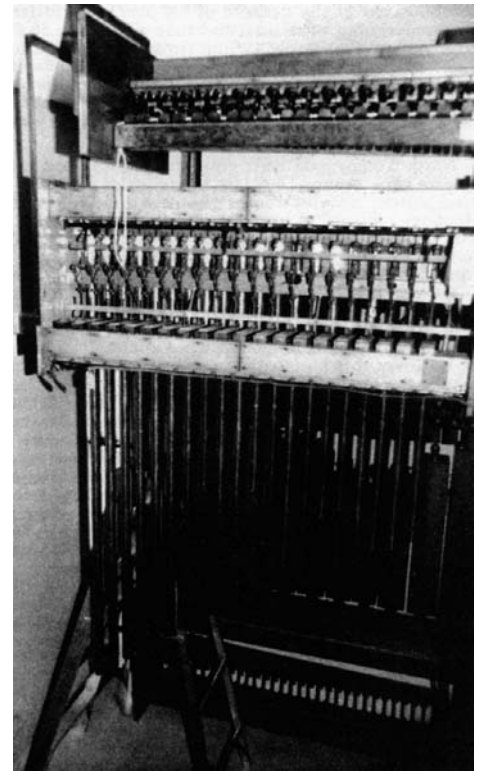
Pages From The Past...continued



Excellent view of the Bauscher chamber areas is possible by means of employing the swing-out swell shade frame that rolls out into the studio. Chamber floor is several feet below studio floor level.

the tape deck, is within the means of the average organ owner. The tape deck, however, is expensive. It represents an investment at the present time [1969] of over \$7,000. While this may be a desirable feature most organ owners will want, Bauscher is optimistic about the possible drop in cost so that those who wish to employ the tape section will be able to do it more economically in the coming years. "Electronics will drop in the future," he said. "The fact that we have electronic components today is due in no small part to the aerospace programs. As experimentation continues and the production of new items is undertaken by industry, prices do go down to the point where they can be afforded by the average person. All of the experimenting now in progress will be of great benefit to the pipe organ. It means greater compactness, especially with regard to solid state relay systems. It can also apply to other parts of pipe organs. There is no way to predict what will be invented next."

The electronics expert expects to have his Wurlitzer ready for inspection by organ buffs who attend the ATOE National Convention in Seattle during the summer of 1971.



View of tuned percussions in the organ chambers.

Pacific Northwest organist was one of well-known artists in silent era

From CONSOLE MAGAZINE, October 1970

Winifred Rhoades Emmanuel, better known to theatre goers in the Pacific Northwest region during the silent



Winifred Rhoades playing on the huge four-manual Kimball organ in the Audian Theatre, Spokane.

film era as Winifred Rhoades, returned to the public entertainment field playing a series of concerts on the Wurlitzer pipe organ installed in the Food Circus building in the Seattle Center. The organ, which was originally installed in the Capitol Theatre, Salem, Oregon, was removed and placed in the food bazaar on the Seattle fair grounds in the old armory building. It was dismantled at the time of the World's Fair in Seattle and put in storage until its re-erection in the Food Circus building by Balcom & Vaughan Pipe Organs, Inc., as a city-sponsored project. The instrument, and possibly the artist may be part of the featured plans for the coming ATOS convention in Seattle next July. [1971]

Well versed in piano playing by the age of seven, Winifred could attend a concert, come home and play the entire score by memory. Her mother, noting her tendency to play by ear, insisted she learn to read music. She was taught by her mother and a noted European organ instructor. Her repertoire consists of everything from popular numbers of yesteryear to rock and roll of today, plus semiclassical and long hair music of the opera.

When she was 13, she played her first big pipe organ, and after taking nine lessons was told there was nothing more the professor could show or teach her. At the age of 15 she got her first theatre job and for six years played the Pantages and RKO Theatres in Spokane. During her years with RKO she was one of the highest paid organists on the circuit.

In addition to her regular theatre positions, she also broadcast from the Orpheum Theatre in Spokane over Radio Stations KHQ and from the Fox Theatre over FHIO.

After sound movies silenced theatre organs she switched to electronics and has appeared in numerous private clubs and restaurants in Washington, Idaho and California.

In her home she has a three-manual, all-white Rodgers electronic organ.

Drive directions to the Becvar home, for the June 24th picnic and program

FROM THE NORTH: Use I-405 (from I-5, exit to I-405 at Southcenter) and take Exit #2 off I-405 to Hwy 167/Auburn southbound. From Hwy 167 take the 212th ST exit and drive east (212th becomes 208th) to 116th AVE SE. Turn south on 116th SE and continue to SE 258th ST. Turn left into the culdesac, or park on 116th.

FROM THE SOUTH: From I-5 take Exit 142A onto Hiway 18, drive approximately 3 miles to Hwy 167 and turn north. Proceed north to the 277th ST exit, turn east and drive up the Hill (East Hill). 277th turns into 116th AVE SE. Turn right into the culdesac at SE 258th ST. Becvar home is in the southeast corner of the culdesac.

If lost, phone 253-852-2011.

YOU MAY PARK IN THE CULDESAC OR ON 116TH. CAR POOLING IS SUGGESTED.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors

6521 NE 191st ST

Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"Show Time," featuring Henry Reed's Good Times Band and Andy Crow at the pipe organ was well attended and a great afternoon...



Andy Crow and the Good Times Band! A great combination for a special show!



ABOVE—Henry Reed and his Good Times Band gave us a great show with music from the Big Band era.

BELOW—Jack and Mary Lou Becvar with Marv Remillard and Marilyn Schrum. Both Jack and Marilyn are past PSTOS presidents.



ABOVE—Norm Sammons and friends enjoy the day.

RIGHT—Art and Barbara Pozner with Don and Mary Moore. Art is a stand up comic who gave us some laughs during intermission. Thank you, Art!