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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 21 No. 6

June 2010

A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

American Theatre Organ Society 2010 Annual Convention

REGISTER TODAY

[www.atos.org/
conventions](http://www.atos.org/conventions)



ROW 1

- Wurlitzer Manor
- Jim Riggs
- Paramount Theatre
- Richard Hills
- Spokane First Nazarene
- Dave Wickerham

ROW 2:

- Scott Foppiano
- Cleveland High School
- Jonas Nordwall
- Lew Williams
- St. Columban
- Donna Parker
- Nathan Avakian

ROW 3:

- Washington Center
- Jelani Eddington
- Everett Theatre
- Clark Wilson
- First United Methodist
- Chris Gorsuch

ROW 4:

- John Atwell
- Mark Andersen
- Oaks Park
- Tony Fenelon
- Simon Gledhill
- Walt Strony
- Tahoma Studio



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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 NE 191st ST
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

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.

OFFICERS

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Vice President—Tom Roughton, 253-946-4400
Secretary—Joani Roughton, 253-946-4400
Acting Treasurer—Russ Evans, 425-485-5465

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Jon Beveridge, 425-337-6840 • Don Wallin, 253-318-2724

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Organ Restoration & Maintenance—Bob Zat
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Promotions & Media Relations—Dave Luttinen
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Pipeline Online Website—Tom Blackwell, 206-784-9203
Nat'l Magazine Reporter—Jo Ann Evans

LIAISONS

AMICA & POF—Carl Dodrill • Haller Lake Comm. Club—Bob Zat
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 \$20 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:

Russ Evans, Acting Treasurer, PSTOS,
9594 1st Ave. NE #453,
Seattle WA 98115-2012

2010 Convention Countdown



By the time you read this, there will be just
32 days until the Convention!



**Special Convention Pricing
for PSTOS Members!**

For details, send an email to
tom@pstos.org

ATOS has approved a special extension of the Super Early Bird prices for Convention registration for PSTOS members only! This means that you can still get the special \$295 price for the convention (that's \$70 less than the standard pricing in effect as of May 1).

A special "no-bus/no-meal" package at \$195 is also available for PSTOS members who would like to drive themselves.

If you would like to register for one of these special packages, send an email to convention@pstos.org for instructions for online or mail-in ordering.

PSTOS Coming Events

◆ Wichita's BRETT VALLIANT at Calvary Christian Church

Second annual CCA Concert and Outdoor Cinema Event with Wichita's BRETT VALLIANT at the Wurlitzer-Kimball theatre pipe organ. Then at dusk, the movie, "Singin' in the Rain," will be shown in the CCA parking lot. Movie is free! Concert proceeds will benefit the CCA organ maintenance fund.

Saturday evening, Aug. 21

FOR SALE Organ Stuff

Leslie organ speaker model 110. Measures 25" x 18" x 29-1/2" high. The Leslie 110 series is a compact, non-powered, single rotor system primarily for spinet organs with built-in power amps. For information please phone, 425-486-5273. Speaker located in Kenmore.

Earn Concert Tickets! Get Reserved Seating!

Be a Convention Volunteer!

* BUS CAPTAINS - 8 to 10 needed each day Sign up for all days or any days!

 **What you'll do** – Work with the convention transportation coordinator, Dave Luttinen, to load and unload buses. Ride the bus, wear identifying convention hat or shirt, assist with disabled boarding, assist bus driver with directions, distribute snacks, read prepared historical/geographical interest comments from script (prepared by Tom & Joani Roughton, our expert National Park Service Amtrak Guides). Cell phone required.

 **Your reward!** –Your event admission with reserved seating is included for the journey(s) you work, *along with your transportation to/from the headquarters hotel.*

BUS JOURNEYS NEEDING BUS CAPTAINS –

- **Monday, June 28, to Spokane and Wenatchee**
Early morning departure, evening return
Dave Wickerham, Spokane, **Mark Andersen**, Wenatchee
- **Wed. June 30, to Everett and Bellingham**
Afternoon and evening
Nathan Avakian – Everett, **Lew Williams** – Bellingham
- **Thurs. July 1, to Portland**
Early morning departure, evening return
Oaks Park Rink demo, **Donna Parker**, **Jonas Nordwall**

- **Fri, July 2, to Yelm, then Olympia**
Afternoon and evening
Chris Gorsuch, Yelm, **Simon Gledhill**, Olympia
Second itinerary to Olympia, only
Evening
Simon Gledhill – Olympia
- **Saturday, July 3, Seattle and Kenmore**
Morning and afternoon
Scott Foppiano, Calvary Church, **Jelani Eddington**, Bastyr
- **Sunday, July 4, Gig Harbor and Maple Valley**
Richard Hills, Gig Harbor, **Walt Strony**, Maple Valley

* HELP WITH ARTIST TRANSPORTATION

 **What you'll do** – Help transport artists from the headquarters hotel to the venues for their rehearsal and performance. You'll need to have a car in good/reliable shape with functioning air conditioning, and a cell phone. Mileage is reimbursed.

 **Your reward** – Complimentary admission to the event(s), with reserved seating, commensurate with your time.

Contact Tom Blackwell at tom@pstos.org or by phone at (206) 778-2724. Don't delay!

Other NW Theatre Organ Events

◆ Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

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

◆ Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon

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

◆ Columbia River Theatre Organ Society

For info and latest news go to www.croconline.org

◆ Bellingham's Mt Baker Theatre

Mt. Baker Theatre Organ Society welcomes 2010 ATOS Conventioneers to the beautiful Mt. Baker. Thrill to LEW WILLIAMS at the original 2/14 Wurlitzer!

Wednesday, June 30th, 7:30 PM

◆ Spokane's First Nazarene Theatre Organ Society

Home of the historic and newly refurbished 1914 Seattle Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer. For up-to-the-minute news and events calendar, go to www.sfnatos.org



Tunes & Treats



Jack & Mary Lou Becvar

*Invite you to an afternoon of beautiful music
& yummy ice cream sundaes to benefit the
Greater Kent Historical Society*

Saturday, August 14, 2010 2 pm - 5pm

11617 SE 258th St., Kent, WA 98030

Premiere Northwest organist Andy Crow will delight you with an organ concert performed on a 1920 Wurlitzer Theatre pipe organ from 2 to 3, followed by an old fashioned ice cream social. Guests will be shuttled from the KSD Admin. parking lot on 256th.

\$25 per person

For advanced ticket purchase contact:

Mary Lou Becvar (253) 852-2011 tibia61@comcast.net

or

Kent Historical Museum

855 E. Smith St., Kent, WA 98030

(253) 852-4330

www.kenthistoricalmuseum.org

**Tickets limited to the first 100 sold



Pages From The Past..1933

This autographed article is reprinted from Volume I, No. 1 of *The Cinema Organ Herald*, April 1933. The publication was directed to British theatre organ aficionados. Movies with sound arrived in 1927-1928, five years prior to the launch of this magazine, making one curious about how long a life the publication enjoyed. Bill Bunch eventually became owner/manager of Balcom & Vaughan Pipe Organs, and was much respected in the Seattle area.

To Bill Bunch with kindest regards

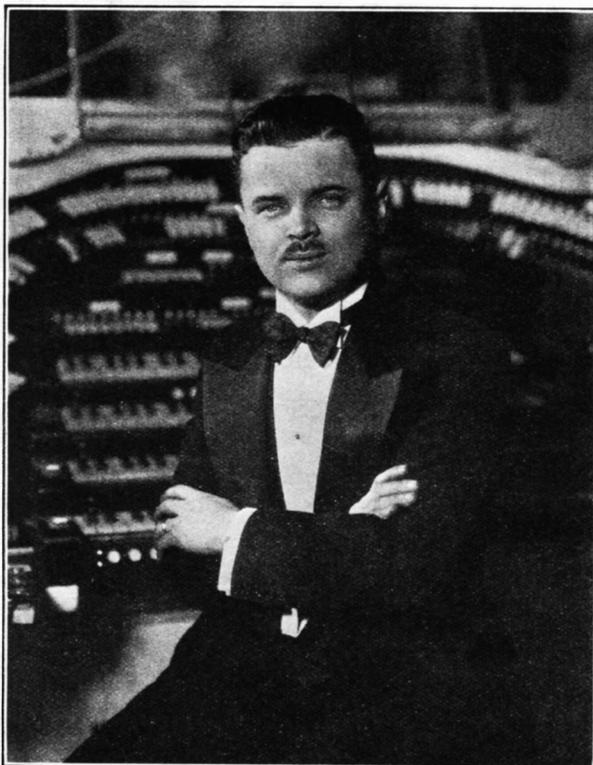
APRIL 1933

THE CINEMA ORGAN HERALD

Jesse Crawford

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH JESSE CRAWFORD

(The Poet of the Organ)



Jesse Crawford at the Paramount organ console

FOR years past Mr. Jesse Crawford's glorious playing—conveyed to us by means of his wonderful records—has represented the absolute acme of perfection of what can be done on a cinema organ, and now he is here in person, and we are all to hear him on the superb four-manual Wurlitzer at the Empire, Leicester Square, London.

No words of mine can express the admiration which all English cinema organists feel for Mr. Crawford—"the poet of the organ"—so my delight at having the opportunity of meeting him and hearing him play can be imagined.

He came over in the *Olympic* and, on arriving at Waterloo, was greeted with a hearty welcome by Major S. J. Wright and a number of Wurlitzer organists, together with representatives of the H.M.V. Co. and the leading music publishers. After Press photographs and a sound news film had been taken, we all went on to a reception at the Empire Theatre, where we had the pleasure of being introduced to him and drinking his health.

I told him all about THE CINEMA ORGAN HERALD, and asked if he would be kind enough to grant me a short

interview, and I was agreeably surprised and very greatly honoured when he himself suggested that he should come down to Kingston to hear my show. That evening we had a very pleasant little dinner-party, and, after I had played my interlude, Mr. Crawford came up to my room at the Regal and gave me a number of interesting details about himself and his life in America.

"How long do you expect to be in England?" I asked him.

"Well," he replied, "I have no very definite plans at the moment beyond the fact that I shall be at the Empire for a month, possibly two; after that, I should like to play in some other theatres in England and on the Continent. This is my first visit to Europe, so I want to stay over here until the fall, when I shall probably return to the Paramount, New York, or I may go to Chicago for the World's Fair."

"Will you tell me something about the mighty Wurlitzer you play at the Paramount?"

"Well, it is certainly rather a big one. It has 36 units—three Tibias and four Voxes—and is split up into five swell boxes, three on one side of the theatre and two on the other. There are five stops on 25-inch wind, and two master Xylophones unenclosed, as well as the usual small one in the chamber. The organ has four four-manual consoles—two in the 'pit' and two on the stage—and two 50-h.p. blowers so as to have a spare one in case of breakdown. The job cost over \$100,000."

"Do you record and broadcast on your theatre organ as we all have to do over here?"

"Oh, no. I do all my broadcasting and recording on another Wurlitzer installed in a studio. This was specially designed for the job, and has 22 units and two four-manual consoles."

"How did you come to take up the cinema organ, Mr. Crawford? Did you start as a church organist, like most of us?"

"No. I drifted into it more or less by accident. In the days of silent pictures, when I was about seventeen, I used to play the piano in a 'piano and drums' combination. One day, an organist friend in another theatre was 'stuck' for a deputy, so I went over and tried my hand at playing his organ. Of course, I fell for it at once, and knew I could never be satisfied with the piano again."

After such a terribly tiring day Mr. Crawford was so worn out that I hadn't the heart to worry him any more, but, in view of the thousand-and-one details that English organists would love to know about him and his organs and his life in America, I asked him if he would be kind enough to write an article for THE CINEMA ORGAN HERALD during his visit. He replied that he would be delighted to do so.

So if you want to know more about Jesse Crawford, look out for next month's issue.

Pages From The Past..continued

By the time this publication was launched, nearly all of Wurlitzer's theatre organ production was going to England. The U.S. market had virtually come to a halt with the introduction of movies with sound. This advertisement appeared in Britain's *The Cinema Organ Herald* in April, 1933.

APRIL 1933

THE CINEMA ORGAN HERALD

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**THE MOST FAMOUS BROADCASTING
CASTING CINEMA ORGANS ARE**

**REGAL, KINGSTON
TROCADERO, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE
TOWER BALL ROOM, BLACKPOOL
GRANADA, TOOTING**

WURLITZER

**REGINALD FOORT
QUENTIN MACLEAN
REGINALD DIXON
HAROLD RAMSAY**



WURLITZER
UNIT ORGANS

**Convey your
Convention good wishes
and congratulations to all**



PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors
6521 NE 191st ST
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bothell, WA
Permit #287

**by purchasing a business card ad
in the convention souvenir program.**

A beautiful 24-page professionally designed full-color publication, the program features photos and descriptions of all convention organs, venues and artists. Even if you do not attend, your ad will express your support and assure you'll receive your complimentary copy of this beautiful keepsake publication. A business card size ad costs just \$50! Ad income will help to underwrite the cost of producing this special publication!

**DEADLINE IS JUNE 1st. We'll help with design!
Phone or email Tom Blackwell for details NOW!
tom@pstos.org 206-778-2724**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Convey your convention
good wishes and
congratulations to all by
purchasing a business
card ad in the convention
souvenir program!**

Coming Saturday, August 21

Second Annual Concert & Outdoor Cinema Event

Featuring Wichita's

Brett Valliant

At the Wurlitzer-Kimball Theatre Pipe Organ

**A great two-for-one summer event
for the entire family!**

Enjoyable theatre pipe organ pops concert by a brilliant young organist, followed at dusk with the movie, "Singin' in the Rain," shown outdoors in the church parking lot. Movie is free! Concert proceeds will benefit the CCA organ maintenance fund.

Saturday evening, Aug. 21

Calvary Christian Assembly Church
6801 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle

Mark your calendar now!



BRETT VALLIANT is an American organist in demand for his ability to perform many different genres of music on the instrument he loves. At fifteen, he played his first Wurlitzer and exhibited a natural talent for the popular music loved by fans of theatre organ. Whether at an organ in a concert hall, a majestic church organ on Sunday morning, a mighty Wurlitzer in a theatre, or a Hammond B-3, Brett is right at home. Critics internationally have defined his performances as "exciting," "refreshing," "unorthodox, and astonishing." He resides in Wichita.

Watch for more information and driving directions in the July-August Pipeline.