



PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Volume 32, Nos. 7 – 8 • July – August, 2021

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ATOS

AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

2021 Convention

The Unconventional Convention



If you've never attended an ATOS National Convention, here's your opportunity, and from the comfort of your own living room. Best of all, it's FREE! You'll hear internationally famous theatre organists including Justin LaVoie, Justin Stahl, Jonas Nordwall, Zach Frame, Dave Wickerham, Jelani Eddington, Simon Gledhill, and Richard Hills.

See page 3 for details and how to register

News Flash! Live Events Resuming!

Cameo Concert at HLCC

Sunday, August 8, 2:00 pm

Haller Lake Community Club

12579 Densmore Ave N, Seattle 98133



It's been nearly two years since PSTOS members were last together for a concert event. How excited we are to receive an OK for an event at HLCC! Your Program Team is already busy planning a fun event and you'll soon receive a special Pipeline supplement with all the details. We hope to join many of our good friends for organ music, refreshments, and a good time!

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a 501(c)(3) 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—Phil Hargiss
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**Joining Puget Sound
 Theatre Organ Society is
 FAST and easy!**

Simply click on the link below and select your preferred level of membership.

- Secure!
- No checks!
- No stamps!
- A few clicks and it's done!

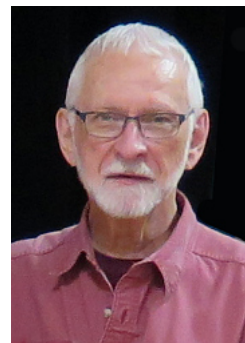


<http://www.pstos.org/membership/new-member.htm>

PRESIDENT'S Message

Greetings PSTOS Members, families, and friends,

What strange times we have all been through over these past many months. 2020 was certainly painful and difficult to endure and now we are more than halfway through 2021 and restrictions for masks, social distancing, and group gatherings are slowly being lifted. That being said, your PSTOS programming committee has been talking about events for the remainder of this year and into 2022 when we hope the PSTOS Concert Series can get back into full swing so we can all enjoy some new and some favorite artists entertaining us once again, and in person.



PSTOS needs to have the O.K. from both Calvary Christian Assembly and Haller Lake administrations before we can start booking artists and events for this year, so stay tuned. The situation is very fluid so anything can happen at anytime. I remain optimistic and am encouraged by the support shown by our members who have continually renewed their membership plus the new people who have joined to help support our organization, knowing these times shall pass.

The ATOS 2021 convention has been billed as the 2021 Unconventional Convention and the schedule is available on the atos.org website. Also, the Summer Youth Adventure will be held in July from the 11th through the 16th. PSTOS is proud to have three young participants who will represent us at this virtual event. They are Estelle McMaster, Mason Jones, and Sawyer Best. As you can see from the article in this issue, all three young artists had a wonderful opportunity at an impromptu open console to play real pipes on an original installation at the Paramount Theatre on June 24th. A great big thank you to Phil Hargiss, who heads the organ maintenance crew at the Paramount Theatre, and to Jamie Snell for helping organize the last minute event. Needless to say the three of them were thrilled to have the opportunity.

As I indicated above, with COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, the Program Planning Committee is ramping up with possible program ideas, venues and dates, so keep an eye on your email or snail-mail for notification of these events.

All the best to everyone for the remainder of 2021!
 Bob Zat, President

Links to enjoyable theatre organ videos, just a click away

- WAGNER - RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES - PIPE ORGAN SOLO – JONATHAN SCOTT
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bP-fFxAMOI>
- 1926 Kimball Organ - Scottish Rite Auditorium, Guthrie, OK, Organ Media Foundation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmbMkm9e-10>
- Pierre Palla Concertorgel - Simon Gledhill: I'm in the Mood for Love
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39WBwvrTiO4>
- An Evening with Mark Herman: A Benefit for the Embassy Theatre
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWYczSoM_ec
- The Nethercutt's Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ plays "Hooray for Hollywood"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2k7luYBwl5s>
- Mark Herman Live at Carma Labs II - The World's Largest Theatre Pipe Organ
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Gg1uJnzalU&t=4182s>
- Dickinson Theatre Organ Society - Jelani Eddington & Donnie Rankin 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhbnTXkNfyo&t=4221s>

FREE ORGAN

Free MIDI-ized Rodgers Trio Organ. Contains live orchestra bells. Original Rodgers electronics still intact. Self-contained speakers. Excellent condition. 54" wide, 46" high, 30" deep. Located in Bellingham, WA. 360-676-7441 harveyrossiter@gmail.com



ATOS 2021 Unconventional Convention

SCHEDULE

ALL listed times are Eastern Time Zone - West Coast is three hours earlier

July 8

3pm – **Justin LaVoie** at the Mole Hole in Marshall, Michigan. 2/6 Barton
 8pm – **Justin Stahl** at the Bronson Wurlitzer in SE Michigan. 3/10 Wurlitzer

July 9

3pm – **Jonas Nordwall** presenting a seminar on theatre organ playing techniques
 4pm – No-Host Cocktail Party (using the Zoom platform)
 8pm – **Zach Frame** at Organ Piper Pizza. 3/30 Wurlitzer

July 10

12pm – Members Forum – (On Zoom)
 3pm – Awards Ceremony – (On Zoom)
 4:30pm – Chapter / Membership Seminar (On Zoom)
 8pm – **Dave Wickerham** at the Blackwood Performing Arts Center in Harrisville, Pennsylvania. 3/20 Wurlitzer

July 11

3pm – **Jelani Eddington** at the Carmex Warehouse in Franklin, Wisconsin. 4/90 Mostly Wurlitzer
 7:45pm – Preview for 2022 San Diego Convention
 8pm – **Simon Gledhill and Richard Hills** at the Holbeach Studio Organ in Lincolnshire, England. 4/22 Compton

For complete information and to register,
<https://www.atos.org/unconventional/welcome>

Theatre Organ Magazines

Complete collections available

FREE

Contact bob@pstos.org
 for information



Valuable source of theatre organ history, information about organists, past conventions and events, organ maintenance and upkeep, and more.

Estelle McMaster, up-and-coming young theatre organist, gets a grand surprise

Estelle McMaster was taken out by her mother to practice driving on the day set up for surprise delivery of a renovated 1970s Rodgers Trio three-manual organ. Several PSTOS members who had helped put together acquisition of the organ were on hand to witness the surprise when Estelle and her mother returned to find her teacher Jo Ann

Evans (and Russ), and Terry and Marie Perdue. Then she turned and saw the organ! Her expressions tell it all!

Estelle studies classical organ, has studied classical piano, and Jo Ann is helping her learn chords, rhythms, intros, endings, and arranging for theatre organ. The two-manual instrument

with defunct pistons she was practicing on was hampering her progress.

Several PSTOS members expressed a desire to support the effort through the Scholarship Fund to help make this happen. Many thanks to all those who helped!



Estelle's mother Grahame looks on as Estelle grapples with the unbelievable – three manuals and pistons!



Oh, my goodness!



Estelle seated at her new organ



Impromptu Open Console at the Seattle Paramount Wurlitzer Welcomes Three Aspiring Young Theatre Organists

Phil Hargiss, who heads the PSTOS organ maintenance crew at the Paramount Theatre, let us know the Wurlitzer would be on the stage for a few days, with no programming because of Covid. With the theatre's permission, he and Jamie Snell organized a small impromptu open console on June 24th to give our three young organists a chance to experience playing a big organ in a real theatre.

Estelle McMaster, Mason Jones, Sawyer Best, parents Grahame McMaster and Claire Jones, Tyler Pattison, who plays regularly at the theatre, and three PSTOS board members arrived at the back door promptly at 6:00 pm. Entering like stage hands rather than like patrons was a brand new experience — descending several partial sets of metal stairs and onto the dark stage behind the curtain!

Mason, Sawyer, and Estelle all plan to attend the ATOS virtual *Summer Youth Adventure* beginning July 11, and were excited to “have a go” at the Wurlitzer. Thanks to Phil's efforts, the organ sounded wonderful. It was a great evening for everyone!



Mason Jones, Sawyer Best, and Estelle McMaster at the Paramount Wurlitzer console



Estelle McMaster plays her first song as Phil Hargiss adjusts the music lamp



Mason Jones reads from his phone, steadied by Tyler Pattison



Sawyer Best has been helping Phil at the Paramount, and had his own pistons set

FREE!

CCA invites PSTOS members and friends to a Hymn Sing with Pipe Organ Accompaniment



CCA's **LEILANI MONTAGNE**
at the Kimball-Wurlitzer

Sunday, August 8, 6–7 pm

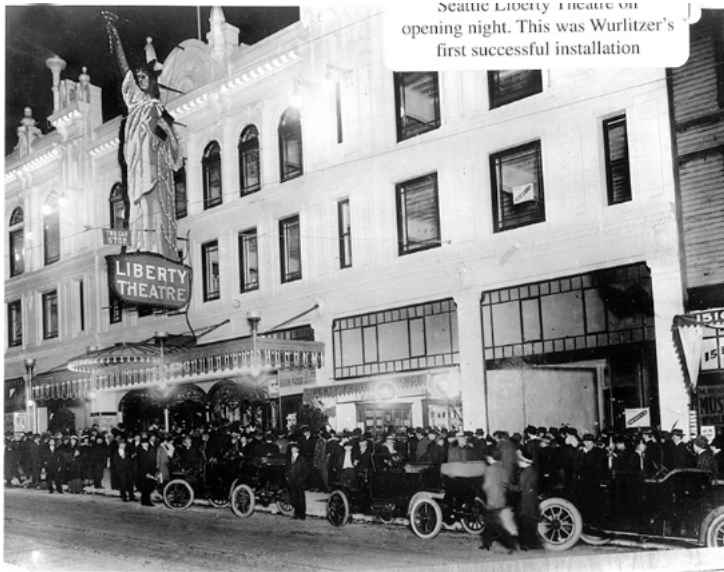
Calvary Christian Assembly Church
6801 Roosevelt Way NE

Everyone welcome!
Refreshments
Free parking

PAGES FROM THE PAST . . .

The Liberty Theatre Organ in Seattle, Washington

By E. M. (Gene) Nye



Seattle Liberty Theatre on opening night. This was Wurlitzer's first successful installation

Liberty Theatre opening night, 1914

The Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer in Seattle was one of the best known on the West Coast. It was installed in 1914 at the time of the building's completion. Part of the prominence came from its organists. It was first opened by Henry Murtagh, who was followed by Oliver Wallace. Wallace left to go to the New Broadway Theatre in Portland, and was followed by Frank A. Leon, Albert Hay Malotte, and others. Eddie Clifford also played here at times.

The official cost was supposed to have been \$27,000. Rather uniquely, the instrument was powered by a Kinetic blower, #C146 of 20 hp, at 850 rpm. This blower was run from a 550 V d.c. motor, powered off of the street-car lines. Power was available except during the late night and early morning hours when the street-car current was shut down.

The instrument was never played publicly after 1929, at the time of the closing of the silent movies and talkies began.

The house was opened by J. von Herberg and C.S. Jensen, early-day theatre pioneers. There were 17 ranks of pipework in the front organ and an echo division of four ranks, although various specifications show from 15 to 16 ranks in the front organ.

The need for a larger screen caused removal of the small proscenium arch and extension of the stage to meet the second arch, although this did not affect the pipe chambers. The 32' diaphones were placed horizontally on sawhorses in the chamber area over the stage. The theatre had no stage area for presentation of vaudeville or other live shows.

Even after the instrument ceased being used publicly, it was maintained until 1935 by Dick Simonton and Gordon Blanchard. The writer personally visited the organ on August 26th, 1950, and from Jun 23-25th, 1955, during the time of its removal. The instrument was placed on the market for sale prior to the building being razed for a parking lot.

The organ was sold for \$1500 to Pacific Lutheran University at Parkland,

Washington. It was then erected in the gymnasium by R. Byard Fritts, who, with some students and fellow faculty members, worked around the clock for six days to dismantle it. It was hauled to Parkland in 15 truckloads. Holes had to be chopped in the roof and pulleys installed to lower some of the materials, since the proscenium arch was four stories above the stage. At this time the Seattle P.I. (issue of Thursday, July 14, 1955) published an article on it.

The organ, after its original installation, became nationally famous when the Hope Jones Wurlitzer Company used it frequently for demonstration purposes and in their national advertising. The instrument was given factory number 3164, although this was an early number and not in strict order.

It is not known what became of the Echo organ, since this division and the blower were left in the building at the time of its removal to Parkland, and another blower was attached to the organ.

The highest wind pressure for the Tuba Mirabilis and the 32' pedal Diaphone was 25" of wind w.g.



Liberty Wurlitzer console prior to its removal in 1955

Liberty console as it appears today



EDITOR'S NOTE – The instrument remained at Pacific Lutheran University until 1973 when it was moved to its current home at First Church of the Nazarene in Spokane, WA, where it is used regularly for services and concerts.

In 2014, the original console was replaced with one that is newer and larger. PSTOS purchased the original console from the church with the intent to install it in Haller Lake Community Club, replacing the Marr & Colton console. However, a more up-to-date Wurlitzer console was left to PSTOS from the Ray Whelpley estate, and the Liberty Theatre console has been in storage for the past seven years. It is currently for sale by PSTOS.

