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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

Volume 11 No. 3

March 2000

## FLASH!

● The March 25th event at the home of Jack and Mary Lou Becvar is completely booked. If you wish to attend, phone the Becvars after March 19th at 253-852-2011 and inquire about any cancellations. And if you've reserved but are unable to attend, please phone them to release your space for someone else. Thanks!

● Coming April 15th...

## Jonas Nordwall

at the  
Johnson  
Mansion  
Wurlitzer

Read all about it on page 4, and turn to page 6 to order your tickets NOW!

## INSIDE...

● The fascinating 1928 story of a one-of-a-kind pipe organ built locally for the Kent Theatre.

● Theatre Organ news and tidbits of interest.

PSTOS presents

# An afternoon at Hokum Hall



Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:00–5:00 pm

7904 35th Ave. SW in West Seattle

- Bring your music and take your turn on the "new" Wurlitzer. (Ten minutes or three songs. You may put your name on the list a second time.)
- Enjoy hearing our members play! • "Preview" a bit of Hokum Hall Vaudeville.
- Tour the hall and enjoy the snack bar.

**No charge for this event • Drive directions on Page 6**

This is your chance to try out the newly-installed 2-manual WurliTzer theater pipe organ at Hokum Hall in West Seattle. March 12th will be Open Console in the traditional theater organ format, and Open House at Hokum Hall—a chance to "peek behind the scenes."

Sharp-eyed theater organ buffs may notice that we said "2-manual" without listing the number of ranks. Well, it's more than nine, and we're not certain how many will be added by the 12th. We'll count then!

The Hokum Hall WurliTzer is already receiving notice as a "polished-sounding" installation, yet the majority of the organ has only been playing for a matter of weeks. The organ is featured weekly in the Hokum Hall performance series, where it is used for organ solos, to accompany films, and to provide incidental music for the all-important Hokum Hall door prize drawings. To many who attend the regular Hokum Hall shows, this is the first exposure to a "live" theater organ.

Members of the organ crew will be on hand to help you navigate the console, and answer questions. Even if they don't know the correct answer, they'll make up something convincing. Every hour or so we'll take a break from playing, and open the shutters so you can peek into the chamber from stage level. (Due to space restrictions in the chamber, chamber tours are not

possible.) The door to the back room will also be opened periodically so that the mighty Spencer turbine can be seen in all its glory.

There are also some rumors of vagrant vaudevillians wandering through, and mayhaps performing a vaudeville turn or two, with or without the WurliTzer. Depends upon who's in town (or has been run out of town, or is in jail—vaudeville never changes.)

Hokum Hall is handicap-accessible via an entrance ramp at the rear of the building. The rear alley is paved and it is possible to pull up to the entrance ramp with an automobile. The rear door is normally locked; please notify staff at the front door for rear access.

If you wish to dine in the area before or after the event, some favorite spots in West Seattle are Salty's on Alki, the Charleston Street Cafe at the intersection of Charleston and California, Luna Park Cafe at Avalon and Spokane (good food, indifferent service) and most any restaurant around the West Seattle Junction.

The Hokum Hall concession stand will be open so you can purchase refreshments (soda-coffee-juice- popcorn-cookies-candy). For further information on Hokum Hall visit the Hall website at [www.hokumhall.org](http://www.hokumhall.org) or phone 206-937-3613. If you have specific questions regarding the open console event, call RANDY ROCK at 206-937-7912.

## PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society  
6521 N.E. 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.

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# President's Message



Over 80 members and friends attended our PSTOS Valentine Party on February 13th. What a party! Almost like *Pizza & Pipes*. Don Wallin did an excellent job playing both background music uring the pizza- eating and accompanying the silent movie. Russ Evans took us on a sentimental journey as he narrated movie clips of organists, events and venues. Many thanks to the organizers, the organ and audio/visual folks, the clean up crew, and to YOU for making it all a success.

A few words about our *Pipeline* Editors, JoAnn and Russ Evans. This has to be a labor of love for them because they work tirelessly (and unpaid!) compiling interesting tidbits of information to keep us up-to- date on pipe organ events. We all enjoy the archival information too. I think you all agree that the Pipeline is one of the better, if not the best, newsletters we receive. If you have information you feel might be of interest to PSTOS members, please contact JoAnn or Russ. And...next time you see them give them a well-deserved "THANKS" for their efforts on our behalf.

We have some exciting events coming up. You won't want to miss the Hokum Hall Open House/Open Console, and the 'Welcome to Spring' Social at the Becvar home - both in March. Then in April another concert at the beautiful Johnson Mansion. Watch your *Pipeline* for details.

— Barbara Graham

## Organist, Bill Irwin, to play and teach on Alaska organ cruise

BILL IRWIN, organist, teacher and clinician, will conduct two workshops plus play for nightly social hours on a 7-day cruise. For more information contact Bill at 480-380-5250. Cruise departs May 28th from Seattle.

# PSTOS Coming Events

**Hokum Hall****Open Console-PLUS...**

Here's your opportunity to Be The Star! Hokum Hall is opening its doors to PSTOS members for a special Open Console-PLUS..... What is the PLUS? Well, if you know Professor Hokum W. Jeebs, you know you'll have to just wait and see, but it will be a surprise, for certain! If you haven't been to Hokum Hall, be there! If you HAVE been there, we know you'll want to attend. This is a no-charge event courtesy of Hokum.

**Sunday, March 12th, 2:00**

**7904 35th Ave. SW, West Seattle**

**"Welcome to Spring" Social**

This event at the home of Jack & Mary Lou Becvar is now totally booked. For the lucky 60 members who called early, driving directions can be found on the back page.

**Saturday, March 25th, 5:00 p.m.**

**Jonas Nordwall at the Johnson Mansion**

Once again PSTOSers and their friends can enjoy a world-class performer on a world-class Wurlitzer! Leif and Bonnie Johnson are making their spectacular home available for another special Saturday afternoon concert. These performances are always booked out, and are limited in seating. See information on page 4.

**Saturday, April 15, 2:30 p.m.**

**Summer Picnic and an Inaugural Concert**

Put this date on your calendar for a very special summer day. We'll do our best to arrange bus transportation to Port Ludlow for a picnic and inaugural concert presenting the newly installed Bob Schladetzky pipe organ. This unique instrument has two consoles and is designed to handle both theatre and classical music. Artist to be announced. Stay tuned for more information.

**Saturday, August 12th**

**March Board Meeting**

**Monday, March 6th  
Excalibur's Restaurant in  
University Plaza Hotel,  
I-5 and NE 45th St.  
Dinner & meeting, 6:00**

**“New” Wurlitzer to be added  
regular Hokum Hall  
programming in March**

A new dimension has been added to the musical entertainment offered at Hokum Hall with the Wurlitzer coming on line. Not only can you enjoy genuine old-fashioned Vaudeville and an impressive group of outstanding musicians performing on a variety of instruments, you may now experience the added thrill of the newly installed 2/9-plus Wurlitzer as well.

During March you may enjoy a return of last season’s runaway hit, “*They All Played Ragtime*” on March 3, 4 and March 31, April 1 with organ and lots of ragtime piano.

For an even greater taste of the Wurlitzer, put “*Vaudeville & Flickers*” on your calendar. This classy family fare with music, magic, movies and the Mighty Wurlitzer runs March 10, 11 and March 24, 25.

And for one weekend only, March 17, 18, a return of “*Around a California Piano*” will play. This event features some Hokum Hall regulars plus outstanding jazz and New Age musicians.

For information about these very affordable and entertaining events, phone the hall at 206-937-3613, check the website at [www.hokumhall.org](http://www.hokumhall.org) or send an email inquiry to [hokum@home.com](mailto:hokum@home.com).

**Valentine’s Day Party was a festive event!**

Well over 80 folks turned out for pizza, movies and organ music.



DON WALLIN did a fine job providing organ music and movie accompaniment.



ADELINE & CLYDE HOOK with ROSE & CLARY VIRKELYST.



Past President, MARILYN SCHRUM and friend MARV FLAHERTY.



ALTHEA and WENDELL GRAHAM enjoyed the entertainment and pizza.

**Deadline is near for ATOS  
competitions & scholarships**

American Theatre Organ Society funds a number of educational programs through scholarships and competitions. Deadlines for the year 2000 awards are fast approaching. Note the list that follows and put on your collective thinking caps! If you would like to participate in the Hobbyist Division, if you know a young organist whose name you’d like to present for the Young Theatre Organist Competition, or if you know a young person who would benefit from financial aid offered by a scholarship, please let the Board know. So many of these awards have gone overseas the past few years. It would be wonderful to have a Pacific Northwest winner!

- ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition - Deadline March 20, 2000
- ATOS Scholarship Program - Deadline April 15, 2000
- Hobbyist Division of Competition - Deadline April 15, 2000
- Inner-City School Program - Grants awarded upon Committee approval.

**Our PSTOS Website is  
a Very Special Place!**

If you have not yet visited the PSTOS website, you really MUST set aside an evening to check it out. TOM BLACKWELL, our illustrious webmaster, has created what has come to be known all around the world—yes! that’s right! ALL AROUND THE WORLD—as the most complete, interesting, and well-done organ-related website ANYwhere. Tom is absolutely meticulous in assuring accuracy of his data. The site contains well over 600 encyclopedic pages of absolutely fascinating pictures and historic data about organs and theatres in Washington, Oregon, Idaho Montana, and British Columbia. While you’re there, be sure to visit the Guestbook and leave your comments, just so Tom will know you’ve checked it out.

**Paramount Silent Movie  
Mondays coming again**

The Paramount Theatre has announced its summer Silent Movie Series with Dennis James is scheduled for July, 2000.

**From the  
Mailbox**

To the Pipeline Editors...

We wish to thank the club members who worked to convert Haller Lake Community Club into a fun Valentine’s Pizza & Pipes party. The varied program was enjoyed by all and there was something offered for everyone.

Thanks to members who worked on the festive decorations, to Don Wallin for his great organ music and accompaniment to the Laurel and Hardy silent, to Russ Evans for his presentation of the nostalgic movie featuring famous organs and organists of bygone days and highlights of our local club and national conventions, to our own M.C. Randy Rock who was in top form, to members who put together the delicious pizza buffet, and to all the others who assisted with the party.

Thanks to all of you,  
Clary and Rose Virkelyst



*Coming April 15th*



# Jonas Nordwall

**Plays a Theatre Organ Pops Concert**  
 on the Leif & Bonnie Johnson  
 4/48 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ  
 Johnson Mansion, Gig Harbor, WA  
**Saturday, April 15th, 2:30 p.m.**

Jonas Nordwall, a native of Portland, possesses unique talents as a concert organist. His ability to perform both popular and classical organ music is rare.

He received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1970 from the University of Portland. The next year he began serving as organist for the First United Methodist Church, a position he still holds today. He is also organist for the Oregon Symphony Orchestra.

Jonas is a contributor to the renaissance in the popularity of

the theatre organ as a recital instrument and 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.

Jonas is regarded as one of the nation's top theatre organists. His creative arrangements and clever stylings always entertain and impress! This is an event you won't want to miss.

***Leif & Bonnie Johnson will once more open their beautiful home to PSTOS members and their friends. Don't miss this opportunity to again enjoy their fabulous 4/48 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ in concert.***

**Paid PSTOS & CROC Members \$10 • All others \$15**

**There are TWO WAYS to get your tickets:**

**1—ORDER DIRECTLY, USING THE TICKET ORDER FORM ON PAGE 6.**

**OR...**

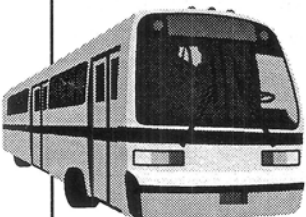
**2—TAKE THE BUS and LEAVE THE DRIVING AND PARKING TO US!**

*Just \$27.50 includes your concert ticket, roundtrip bus fare, and a snack.*

*Several pickup locations!*

*Phone Roy or Peggy Williams directly by March 18th at*

**1-800-760-2700 or at 253-833-5570**



**Drive directions will be mailed with your tickets. • Information: 425-485-5465**

## Pages From The Past...

### The Kent Theatre and its very unique organ

As reported in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, September 25, 1928 • From the Bill Bunch Archives

## MAN BUILDS PIPE ORGAN IN HOME HERE

### Earl D. Pavette Reveals New Mechanical Principles for Instrument Constructed By Self

What may be the beginning of a factory for the construction of pipe organs in Seattle, and fame for a local man, is seen today in the little back yard shop of Earl D. Pavette, 1022 East Ninety-second St. With years of experience in this work in America's biggest pipe organ plants, Pavette has built a \$12,000 instrument, said to be the first of its kind wholly constructed in the state, which will soon be installed in the Kent Theatre at Kent.

But though he has been successful in this venture and is in all probability the pioneer in this work here, that is the smallest feather in Pavette's cap. He prides himself in having achieved success with new mechanical principles of his own.

The console he built entirely himself. The hundreds of pipes, the harp and various tone projectors he had specially built after his own design in the East. Then he did his own assembling after his own new system.

The chief new departure in Pavette's instrument is a single valve action system on the pipes, which, he said, produces superior results in speed, touch and reproduction in addition to cutting the cost of construction almost in half. And in his four distinct basic tones Pavette has achieved such unification as to give virtually an unlimited variety of tones perfectly blended.

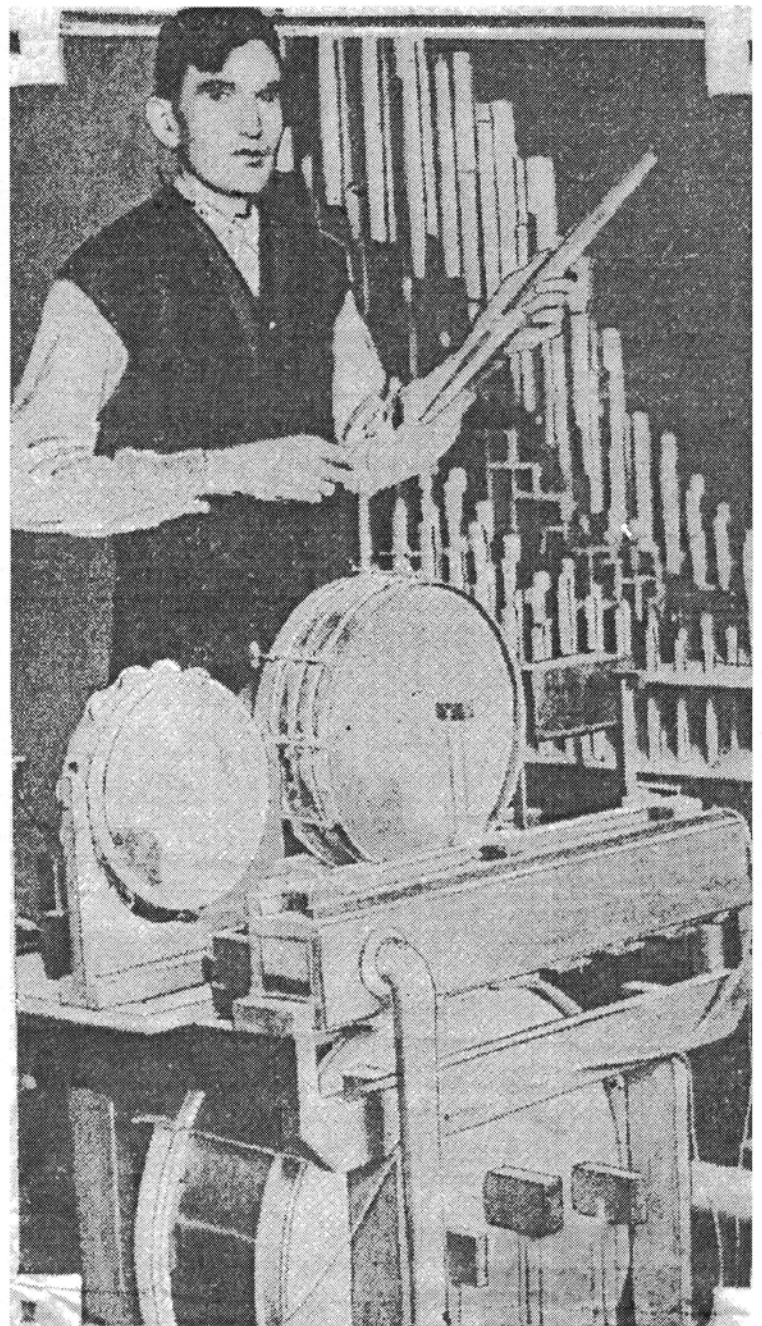
Another innovation of Pavette's incorporation is high wind pressure, giving instantaneous reproduction of tone as the player strikes the keys. This, with direct magnet connection to the pipes, gives action faster than in the piano.

Pavette also has succeeded, he believes, in producing the ideal traps and drums sounds heretofore imperfectly developed in the pipe organ.

Pavette, thirty-nine, came to Seattle from Cincinnati in 1912 and since then has been employed by organ manufacturers to do their installing in this district. He started his career with a small organ manufacturing company in St. Louis at the age of fourteen. For eight years before coming West he was with the Wurlitzer Company and the John Church Company, Cincinnati.

Some day he hopes to organize a pipe organ manufacturing business in Seattle, he said. But first he's going to let Kent theatre audiences pass critical inspection on his first instrument.

*Earl D. Pavette shown putting the finishing touches on the pipes of a \$12,000 pipe organ he has built in his own back yard workshop. He has incorporated many new principles for producing perfect tone. It is believed to be the first organ built in this state.—(Post-Intelligencer Photo.)*



## **DRIVE DIRECTIONS**

### **Hokum Hall Open House & Open Console, Sun., Mar. 12 7904 35th Ave. S.W.**

**From I-5** take the Spokane Street Exit #163 to West Seattle. Stay on the arterial until you reach 35th Ave. SW. Turn left onto 35th and continue driving south to 7904. The hall is on the east side of the street. There is ample street parking in the area.

### **Becvar Home for Spring Social, Sat. Mar. 25th 11617 S.E. 258th, Kent**

**FROM I-5:** Take EXIT #152 eastbound onto Orillia Rd. It curves to the east and becomes S. 212th St. Continue across the valley on 212th. After crossing the Valley Frwy, it becomes 208th. Continue to 116th Ave. SE and turn right (south). Drive 4 miles to SE 258th St., turn left into culdesac or park along 116th.

**FROM I-405:** Take EXIT #2 southbound onto SR 167 (Valley Frwy). Take the N. Central Ave. Exit, drive south on Central to James St. (also called S.E. 240th), turn left (east). Drive east on James to 116th Ave. SE, turn right (south), continue to S.E. 258th and turn left into culdesac, or park along 116th.

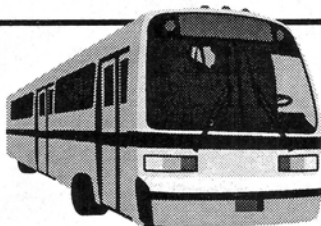
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## **IMPORTANT Bus Information For the JONAS NORDWALL Concert**



To make travel to and from the concert easier, we have arranged for a deluxe tour coach to run from North Seattle, picking up passengers at several locations. Cost is just \$27.50 which **INCLUDES YOUR CONCERT TICKET** at PSTOS Member price, plus a snack on the bus!

To arrange for bus transportation, simply phone **Roy or Peggy Williams before March 18th**  
**1-800-760-2700 or 253-833-5570**

**Please use the order form below  
ONLY if you wish to drive yourself.**

## **TICKET ORDER FORM, Jonas Nordwall concert • Sat., Apr. 15, 2:30 pm**

**Paid PSTOS & CROC members \$10 • 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 @ \$10 \$ \_\_\_

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

Total amt. enclosed: \$ \_\_\_  
Make checks payable to: **PSTOS**  
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**IMPORTANT**

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.