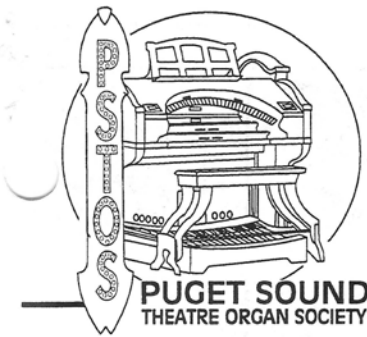


PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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. 4

April 2000



PUGET SOUND
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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.

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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.

Regarded as one of the nation's top theatre organists, Jonas' creative arrangements and clever stylings always entertain and impress!

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

Seating is limited to 325. To avoid overbooking, all ticket sales will be handled by mail, with no door sales. PSTOS members have first opportunity to purchase tickets, and on March 27 unsold seating will be made available to non-members.

For last minute ticket inquiries, please contact Norman Miller at normanm51@aol.com or 206-784-7154.

DON'T DELAY—ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Please use the ticket order form printed on page 6

Drive directions will be mailed with your tickets. • Questions? 425-485-5465

INSIDE...

- ★ Looking back at Seattle (Paramount) Theatre opening news from 1928
- ★ Rare Wurlitzer Band Organ restored by PSTOS member for Puyallup Fair
- ★ News of coming Theatre Organ events
- ★ Review of PSTOS March event at Hokum Hall
- ★ ...and more!

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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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Pipeline Online Website

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Bob Zat, regular users.

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Listing of non-PSTOS events in the Pipeline

PSTOS, upon request, will list non-conflicting theatre organ events in the "Other Events" column of the two *Pipeline* newsletters immediately preceding the event, providing Pipeline editors receive sufficient prior written notification. Information included will be: venue, artist, type of event, date, and contact 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. Ad copy should include a 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 types of advertising cannot be accepted.

President's Message

We are WAY cool! A wonderful afternoon at Hokum Hall, Sunday, March 12th was spent by our members, and friends, listening to, and playing

the wonderful Wurlitzer. Even had some duets (pipe organ and piano)! By the time this Pipeline goes to press, the March 25th Welcome to Spring Social at the Becvars will have been a resounding success, too. Next, Jonas Nordwall Plays a Theatre Organ Pops Concert at the home of Leif & Bonnie Johnson on April 15th. Hope you have your tickets – it will be another grand event!

It is thanks to your support (and a great deal of work by your Board) that we can present events such as these. Keep watching the Pipeline for more exciting pipe organ events.

Behind the Scenes – When we attend PSTOS events at the Haller Lake Community Club we expect our Chapter pipe organ will be playing and at its very best. Hours and hours (and hours) of work go into keeping the instrument tuned, tweaked, and playing for us. Before a performance the console is unboxed, positioned on the floor, and dusted (?) to make a grand sight as we enter the hall. Audio (PA system), visual (movies), lighting and setting up tables and chairs are also integral parts of an event. We don't give much thought to how this all happens because everything is 'there' and working when we arrive. Bob White, Bob Zat, Randy Rock and Russ Evans, four of our unsung heroes, take primary responsibility for the care and feeding of our instrument and setting the stage for our events at Haller Lake. We should recognize them with a sincere 'thumbs up' at the next event.

- Barbara Graham

**April Board Meeting
Monday, April 10th
Excalibur's Restaurant in
University Plaza Hotel,
I-5 and NE 45th St.
Dinner & meeting, 6:00**

**PSTOS
Coming Events****Jonas Nordwall at the
Johnson Mansion**

Once again PSTOSers and their friends can enjoy a world-class performer on a world-class Wurlitzer! Performances at this venue are always booked out, and are limited in seating. Use ticket order form on page 6 NOW!

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're working on 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 for both theatre and classical music. Artist to be announced. Stay tuned!

Saturday, August 12th

One Big Weekend—Opus VII

CROC is busy with big plans to make this a grand event. Jelani Eddington will be the featured performer. Block out this weekend on your calendar now! In and around Portland. We'll do our best to arrange bus transportation.

Sat., Sun., September 23—24

**Annual PSTOS
Christmas Party**

Mark this date NOW.. one of our big events of the year! Haller Lake C.C.
Sun., Dec. 3

**For Sale
Organ stuff**

Conn Serenade console organ. Top-of-the-line when purchased. About 30 years old. Very good condition with \$600 of new roof 3 years ago. Twenty-five pedals, two manuals, small "toy-box," self-contained two-speed Leslie. Wonderful practice instrument. You haul, easy access, North Seattle. Phil Konkel, 206-284-6205.

From the Mailbox

From Dick Daubert, a poignant letter by Tacoma area resident, Alison Sonntag, to "Letters" at the Tacoma News Tribune.

Pizza & Pipes is gone. And I don't mean closed. I mean gone.

On Mildred Street, in between Wendy's and the strip mall on the corner, there is a hole in the landscape. The parking lot still slopes up from the street, its neatly painted spaces poised and waiting for minivans and station wagons to disgorge the laughing children who would run down to the entry sidewalk.

That sidewalk goes nowhere now. Let me tell you where it used to go.

The Pizza & Pipes building, like the parking lot, was constructed on an incline. The double-entry doors were at the bottom. To the right, just inside those doors, was the glass-enclosed, two-story room that held the giant brass pipes for the Wurlitzer organ that was the centerpiece and *raison d'être* of the establishment.

The pipes were visible from the street outside. Standing in front of the pipes when the organ was playing, the opening and closing valves, the accordion pumps and the vibrating pieces made a symphony of their own to accompany the music.

From the pipes a ramp led up to the order desk where, depending on the month, you could get pepperoni or Canadian bacon pizza for a special price (\$5.99 the last time I was there). You ordered pizza and salad at this first station. Another station a few feet to the left offered beverages.

After you had ordered and had your drinks in hand or on a tray, you found a place to sit your brood at one of the picnic-like tables arranged on tiers around the Wurlitzer.

The best place to sit was under one of the two bubble machines, a little back so you didn't get trampled by the giggling throng when the bubbles began to descend.

The bubbles were only one of the various magical effects the organ master could bring to life at the touch of a key. Ringing three sides of the dining room, high up on the wall, was an array of devices that produced sounds such as chimes and train whistles or revealed

dancing dolls who high-kicked and gyrated to the rhythm of whatever tune had awakened them.

My children spent many birthdays here eating pizza and chasing bubbles. My whole family, from my aged father, before his death, to my youngest grandchild, thought of Pizza & Pipes as almost a friend.

It was a place to bring the whole family for celebrations or to sit alone drinking a beer, listening to the Wurlitzer play familiar songs and watching children be happy.

I know the building burned last year. I understand that the greatest damage was to the most integral parts of the organ. The owners did not have the energy to start again. I understand. But I want to make sure they appreciate how many good times they helped make in the years they were open. I want them to know their creation will be missed.

There will be a new building on the site. That's the way of the world. But it will not have a steeped, two-story glass window revealing majestic brass pipes to passers-by. And I'll bet it won't have even one bubble machine.

There will always be a hole in the landscape. Good-bye, Pizza & Pipes. Thanks for the memories.

OTHER Events of Interest

Donna Parker & Jonas Nordwall at Cleveland High School

For Oregon Chapter ATOS. Donna and Jonas will present a full concert on the Cleveland High School Theatre Pipe Organ. Info: 503-848-0677 or www.theatreorgans.com/oregon/ocatos Fri., April 7, 7:00 pm.

Andy Crow at Everett Theatre

Gateway Middle School jazz band benefit. Jazz concert, short organ concert, silent movie. Charlie Chaplin's *Gold Rush*.

Thurs., Apr. 27, 7:00 pm

Kurt von Schakel at Portland's Hollywood Theatre

Concert for Columbia River Organ Club, Info: 503-665-6633 Sun., May 21, 1:00 pm

Andy Crow at Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre

Concert at the outstanding Mt. Baker, on one of only five Washington original theatre pipe organ installations. For Mt. Baker Theatre Organ Society. Sun., May 21, 2:00 pm

Neil Jensen at the Everett Theatre

On tour from Australia, Neil will present his pop organ stylings on the newly installed Everett pipes. Sun., May 28, 7:00 pm

From Jackie Cedarholm, an excerpt from the Queen Anne High School Alumni newsletter by graduate Dolores Vinikow.

Whatever happened to Ed Ottum? Former student Dolores Vinikow Schwartz now lives in New York City. She went to the Manhattan School of Music on scholarship (French horn) and stayed there. Dolores wanted the Kuay to remind people that it was Ottum, Music Dept. Chair, who was the driver of the campaign to get the pipe organ into Queen Anne and who played it for all of the assemblies. Dolores commented that, "...it was because of him that I went into the music profession. I would write to him often and always tell him how grateful I was for his encouragement and I know that made him proud." Alas, Mr. Ottum passed away Dec. 30, 1996. The organ is now installed at Franklin High School.

Those who attended One Big Weekend last fall will recall visiting the Masterman home in Tacoma. The first thing to greet them as they walked up the drive was the music of the Puyallup Fair Band Wagon on display in the Masterman garage. It had been totally restored by Bill Masterman. Thanks to members Doug Owen and Margaret Sabo, both of whom forwarded this interesting article.

Puyallup Fair carousel now has its very own band organ

Rare Wurlitzer was overlooked and in need of expert's touch

By Bart Ripp

The Tacoma News Tribune
Reprinted with permission

The Puyallup Fairgrounds, asleep much of the winter, greeted March 1 with marches galore.

A rare Wurlitzer band organ, lost but never misplaced, tolled a tremendous tremolo from paper music rolls of Scott Joplin rags and the regal pomp of John Philip Sousa's mighty marches.

The fair's priceless carousel, crafted by the Philadelphia Toboggan Co. in 1917, now has a peerless accompanist in the Model 145 band organ made in about 1929 by the Rudolph Wurlitzer Co. of North Tonawanda, N.Y.

Ron Bopp of Jay, Okla., author of "The American Carousel Organ" and editor of a quarterly journal on these very American forms of entertainment, said this 145 may be the only one left in the world. Wurlitzer made a 145B model, adding a frill called a bell bar for chiming tones. A few 145B models survive at amusement places such as Buck Lake Ranch in Angola, Ind., and Old Town in Kissimmee, Fla.

"I can't think of another 145," Bopp said. "It's a rare organ, no matter what. Wurlitzer didn't make very many of them."

The 900-pound organ sat, unappreciated and undetected, in the carousel pavilion at the heart of the fairgrounds.

"Nobody even noticed it," said Bill Lauer, who has cared for the carousel and the wonderful wooden Roller Coaster for 29 years. While tapes and CDs pumped carousel music through the pavilion, the organ sat in a corner, rotting inside, sun-soaked in the afternoon and splashed by rain, soft drinks and perhaps a few tears.

Bill Masterman, a mechanical music enthusiast from University Place, took his family to the carousel every year but never noticed the organ. Masterman has



Puyallup Fair Manager Bob Carlson, left, listens as mechanical music enthusiast Bill Masterman of University Place describes the process he went through to restore the fair's rare Wurlitzer Model 145 band organ. Saved from years of neglect, the organ is now a fit companion for the fair's priceless carousel. Photo by Bruce Kellman/ News Tribune.

been enraptured by orchestrions, a mechanical one-man band, since age 7 at the old Steve's Gay '90s in South Tacoma. An orchestrion entertained guests in the Gay '90s lobby.

During the 1998 fair, Masterman's daughter was riding the carousel when his wife spotted something in the corner.

"Look, honey," she said, "there's a band organ."

"Yeah, right," Masterman said.

It was the Wurlitzer 145 band organ that serenaded fairgoers until about 1970, when an older, less ornate carousel was located in the fairgrounds' northwest corner.

Fair management allowed Masterman to lug the band organ home. He cleaned the innards of "spiders, a mouse nest, and every insect known to man." Aided by a Tacoma pipe organ specialist named Michael Gardner, Masterman replaced

all the rubber and leather tubes, unplugged a clogged valve system, rebuilt the music roll mechanism, repainted the exterior's scenes of Cascades-like peaks and lakes, and hired a Columbia City, Indiana, band organ music maestro named Mike Grant to recut the paper music rolls from steel master discs.

Masterman renovated the organ with his own time and money. He hauled the resuscitated organ to the fairgrounds recently, installed a roll of marches and stood with Lauer, enthralled by the magic.

The organ will debut at the Spring Fair April 14-16.

"I want this organ to play," Masterman said, "so some 7-year-old can stand in the crowd, drooling, and carry on this tradition of music. This is about tradition."



Pages From The Past...1928

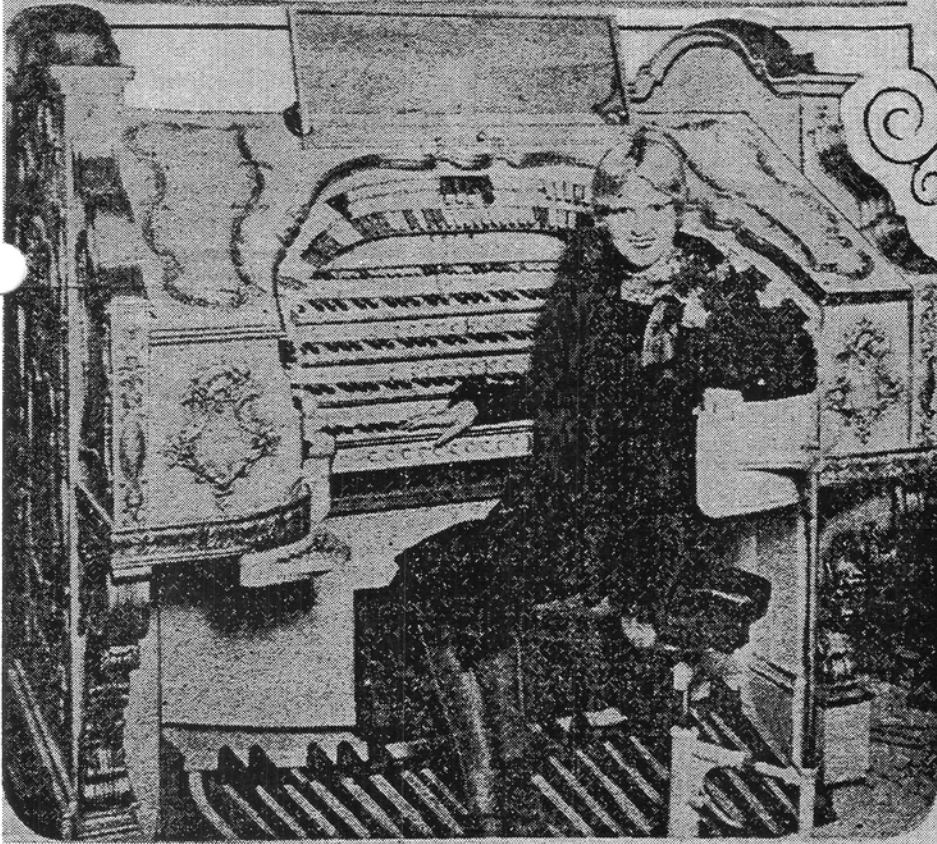
Just as the heyday of silent films drew to an end, the Seattle Theatre opened its doors. The magnificent four manual Wurlitzer reportedly installed at a 1928 cost of \$100,000 is one of only five original theatre pipe organ installations remaining in the entire state of Washington, a state in which several hundred theatres boasted pipe organs during the '20s. The following article ran in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on Sunday, February 19, 1928. From the William Bunch archives.

WONDROUS NEW THEATRE WILL OPEN MARCH 1

\$100,000 ORGAN IN SEATTLE THEATRE

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER—*The Newspaper*

Blonde Tries Giant Wurlitzer



An amateur musician as well as an embryonic movie star, Ruth Taylor—chosen for the leading role in **"Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"**—drew dulcet strains from the giant Wurlitzer that is being installed in the Seattle theatre [Paramount] when the management invited her to inspect Seattle's vast new playhouse at Ninth Avenue and Pine Street.

And on March 8th the cost of the Wurlitzer was reported to be much less...

As one enters the huge balcony he realizes for the first time the magnitude of the playhouse as he gazes out across the seats. He sees the giant, thousand-throated console that two organists play simultaneously; an organ that is the very latest development and costing around \$46,500. He sees the huge pit with its 30-piece symphony orchestra, and then as the curtain goes up he sees the automatic stage with its peculiar meandering back and forth, up and down as the play progresses.

Seattle's newest and finest motion picture theatre, the New Seattle [now Paramount] will open its doors March 1 [1928].

Built at a cost of \$3,500,000, the beautiful film cathedral will be to Seattle what the Roxy and Paramount are to New York. It realizes the dream of L.N. Rosenbaum, prominent realtor and property owner of this city. He has spared no expense in making the Seattle house a fit place in which to show world premiers of pictures.

The new theatre is under the direction of West Coast Theatres, Inc., Harold B. Franklin, president.

The theatre is built in the Spanish-Gothic style of architecture, and incorporates many unique features not to be found elsewhere in the country. There are two enormous lobbies, occupying nearly as much space as the theatre proper. Each is decorated with gigantic gold mirrors, thirty feet high, and flanked with superb Gothic ornamental frames and interior drapes. Elaborate bronze chandeliers are suspended from the ceilings of both foyer-promenades, as they are termed. Rising above each foyer promenade are little offset balconies which afford a glorious view of the foyers from both the mezzanine and balcony heights.

The scale of the theatre is very large and no expense has been spared in attempting to obtain effective grandeur in the entire scheme of things. A glorious effect has been achieved in the done of the theatre. This dome is surrounded by a great circular sunburst of unusual splendence and decorative effect. A special elevator carries patrons from the main floor to the mezzanine and balcony levels. A cosmetic room for women, an elevator that lifts the entire orchestra pit to the stage and a diminutive and intimate mezzanine which accommodates 100 couples are other features of the new house.

Governor Hartley is planning to come to the dual premiere where he will meet Mayor Landes. More than 400 famous cinema personages already have reserved seats.

Afternoon at Hokum Hall was a fine day!

Folks from "all over" arrived at Hokum Hall for Open Console, for a tour of the facility including the pipe chamber, and for a general good time on Sunday, March 12th, and the PSTOS-sponsored "Afternoon at Hokum Hall."

A number of members took a turn at the organ, which is sounding amazingly good considering it's still in its infancy! Several folks commented on its quick response...likely due to the size of the room and proximity of the chamber to the organist.

Adeline Hook, our own all-time Good Sport, opened the Open Console session with several of her well-rehearsed numbers. Adeline is always a pleaser....who in the world has more fun than she?! A wide range of music styles were enjoyed throughout the afternoon, Lou Magor and Hokum did a Wurlitzer-and-musical-saw duet, and the grand finale for the day took place when Eric Shoemaker arrived...a great session of serious ragtime with Eric at the Wurlitzer and Hokum at the beautiful grand piano.

Many thanks to Hokum Jeebs for making the hall available to the group at no charge, and for his gracious hospitality enjoyed throughout the afternoon. The Hall is indeed a special place...there is just no other place like it!

Your new PSTOS roster is included in this mailing...take note!

Your new roster has a brand new much simpler format. There is a reason.

Several years ago the Board voted to print rosters only every other year, due to the complexity and expense of the small-booklet format. Although a convenient size, the small booklets are easily misplaced. And they are an enormous amount of work to prepare.

This year the Board decided to go back to an annual roster, but in a simplified version, easy to print, easy to mail, more difficult to lose, and hopefully equally useful! Additionally, we are growing, and a two-year-old roster is badly out of date before a new one is prepared.

Please note the policy guidelines on the inside front cover...if you have a privacy issue concerning distribution of your personal information, please contact a Board member who will see that your name is flagged and not released to others wishing to use our mailing list for a non-PSTOS mailing.

HELPFUL HINT: Keep your name badge in the glove box where it's always handy!

In Memory

Warren Larson

We are saddened to learn of the death of Warren Larson, an exceptionally enthusiastic PSTOS member. Warren and his wife, Nona, attended nearly every PSTOS event since becoming members, and just couldn't get too much theatre pipe organ music!

Sincere sympathy is extended to Nona and other family members. A very generous contribution in Warren's memory has been made to the PSTOS Scholarship Fund by Larson family members. Other memorial contributions may be sent to Warren Larson Memorial, c/o Norman Miller, 2644 N.W. Esplanade, Seattle WA 98117-2527.

Ray Greene

We recently learned of the death of Dr. Ray Greene of Bellingham. An ardent theatre organ supporter for many many years, Ray was one of the movers and shakers behind the running of the Mt. Baker Organ Society in Bellingham, was a PSTOS member up until his health began declining in the past year or two, and in the early '90s was seen at concerts at the old Bellevue Pizza & Pipes. Ray's passing is a real loss to the theatre organ community. PSTOS extends sympathy to Ray's family.

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**

Mail your order to:

PSTOS Tickets
c/o Norman Miller
2644 N.W. Esplanade
Seattle, WA 98117-2527

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

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.



SUPPLEMENT TO

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General Admission \$15

Paid PSTOS members \$10

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DON'T DELAY—ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Please use the ticket order form on reverse side

Drive directions will be mailed with your tickets. • Questions? 425-485-5465

Visit us on the Internet at www.pstos.org

**Another World-Class
Theatre Pipe Organ concert
at the beautiful
Johnson mansion
in Gig Harbor**

**Hurry! Tickets are very
limited and are available
BY MAIL ONLY!**

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 NE 191st St.
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**Why YOU should
become a member
of PUGET SOUND
THEATRE ORGAN
SOCIETY. . .**

- 1 - A twelve-month family membership costs just \$15! (\$1.25 a month!)
- 2 - As members you'll enjoy special member prices for world-class Theatre Organ concerts! AND...
- 3 - You'll receive the 6-page monthly *Puget Sound Pipeline*, packed with news of upcoming events, restoration

- news, and interesting historical stories about organs, organists, and related nostalgia. AND...
- 4 - You can participate in "organ crawls", social events at members' homes and other venues, bus tours to attend special organ-related events, and various enjoyable activities.



ORDER BLANK

*YES! We want to become members of Puget Sound
Theatre Organ Society for just \$15 for twelve months!*

(Includes all family members residing
at the same address) _____ \$ _____

Please send concert tickets for the following NEW
MEMBERS @ the Member price of \$10 each:

New member name \$ _____

New member name \$ _____

NO! We don't wish to become PSTOS members.

Please send _____ tickets at the
General Admission price of \$15 each: _____ \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Phone _____

Mail your order to.
Please make check payable to PSTOS
and include a stamped self-addressed
return envelope for your tickets.

**PSTOS Concert Tickets
Norman Miller
2644 N.W. Esplanade
Seattle, WA 98117-2527**

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION:**

- ▶ Seating for this event is limited to 325. PSTOS members have had first opportunity to purchase tickets, and more than half are gone. If you wish to attend this event, you're encouraged to act quickly.
- ▶ To avoid overbooking, there will be no sales at the door--all ticket sales will be handled by mail, in advance.
- ▶ *Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of your tickets.* Drive directions will be included.
- ▶ If your order is received after April 6, your tickets will be held for you at the door.
Questions? Phone 425-485-5465