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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 15 No. 5

May 2004

**Coming
Saturday,
July 17**

Celebrate Summer!

Big PSTOS

DOUBLE

**FEATURE
Event!**

- 1** RARE OPPORTUNITY! See, hear and play the terrific Wurlitzer at
Olympia's WASHINGTON CENTER
• Hear ANDY CROW in a mini-concert! • Take a turn during Open Console!
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

- 2** Then take the short drive to Yelm and ST. COLUMBAN CHURCH
where you'll be served the church ladies' famous lunch at 1:00 pm.
Hear and play Father Terence's outstanding Robert Morton
• ANDY CROW will again entertain! • Enjoy another Open Console!

• Two venues • Two mini-concerts • A great lunch! • All for just \$12!

Saturday, July 17th

Reservations are a MUST! Tickets will be available by mail in June.

Tony Fenelon

Sunday, May 16, 2 PM
Wurlitzer Manor
Gig Harbor



Program ticket availability...

We are nearly sold out. There will be no door sales.
All last minute ticket inquiries should be directed to

Barbara Graham, 206-525-7859

or via email at bxgraham@msn.com

Several folks would like a ride. If you will be
driving to this event and have room
for a passenger, please leave a message with
Clint Meadway at 1-877-843-0953. Many thanks!

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Vol. 15, No 5 – May 2004

Published monthly by

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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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 7-digit ZIP code, and your email address (optional) to:

Norman Miller, Treasurer, 2644 NW Esplanade,
Seattle, WA 98117-2527.

PRESIDENT'S Message

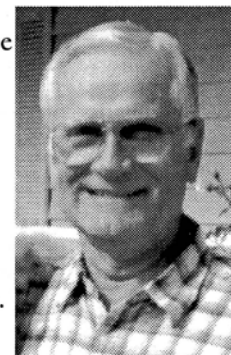
Getting teenagers involved with the pipe organ is a fun and enlightening experience. The Tacoma Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is sponsoring a Pipe Organ Encounter in August.

Our master of the keyboards, Andy Crow, will do a "tour" of the instrument and play a program for the kids at the Wurlitzer Manor in Gig Harbor. If you are interested in the possibilities you can contact David Dahl via email: dahldep@plu.edu for more information.

Our much beloved late member Les Lehne's biggest wish was that the Wurlitzer in the Washington Center for Performing Arts in Olympia would be used frequently. Andy Crow has made arrangements for us to have an open console session there in July. Andy will do a "tour" for us, give us some great music, then turn it over to us to do our best (or worst). See details elsewhere in this issue.

Bob Ralston sent me a CD of "33 Hymns We Love" recorded last year at the Dickinson High School Kimball. What a delight. If you are tired of the strum and drum, happy-clappy, 7-11 (7 words repeated 11 times) type of church music so popular now, this 74 minute album is definitely the antidote. I hope it is not sacrilege to say this, but I have not enjoyed a hymn album this much since George Wright released his "Hymns That Live" back in the 1950s. Bob can be reached at 818-366-3637 for orders or go to www.bobralston.com.

Truth in advertising? A Catholic Church in Texas wanted a pipe organ, so they purchased one locally. What they ended up with is about 500 real pipes and a bunch of electronics that resulted in an organ that "has nearly 550 pipes and digital circuitry that makes it sound like an instrument with twice as many," according to the newspaper article. Let's see, that is about 9 straight ranks for \$300,000. Pipe organs are better and cheaper! Pass it on.



...Clint Meadway

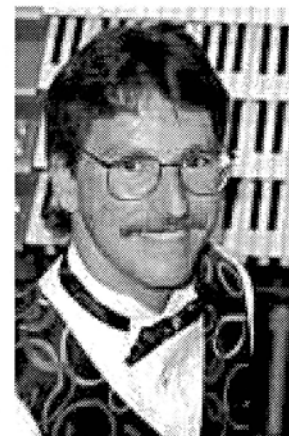
PSTOS Coming Events

Midsummer Double Feature!

Andy Crow is spearheading a great day in Olympia and Yelm. Arrive at Olympia's Wash. Center at 10:30 a.m. Hear Andy put the Wurlitzer through its paces, then give it a try yourself! Then at 12:30 it's on to Yelm to hear and play Father Terence's organ at St. Columban Church. When the famous dinner bell rings, enjoy the wonderful buffet lunch put on by the ladies of the church. A fun day for sure!

Saturday, July 17. Mark your calendar!

Dave Wickerham Program!



We're excited to announce Dave is booked for a terrific organ pops program at Gig Harbor's Wurlitzer Manor. A midwest U. organist, Dave has just

completed a tour of Australia and N.Z. to rave reviews.

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004

Pipe Organ Factory Tour

Visit two local pipe organ shops and observe first hand what goes into creating a truly classic pipe organ! A fun day, visiting Pasi Organ Builders in Roy for a 2-hour tour, a lunch stop, and an afternoon visit to Paul Fritts & Co., in Tacoma.

Saturday, October 9, begins at 10AM

Fall Festival

A big Autumn event at Haller Lake Community Club in North Seattle with the Chapter pipe organ. Theme ideas from the membership are welcome! In the past we've done Halloween, Oktoberfest, Fall Festival, White Elephant Auction, and others. Let us hear from you! See Page 6 for who to contact!

Sun., Oct. 24

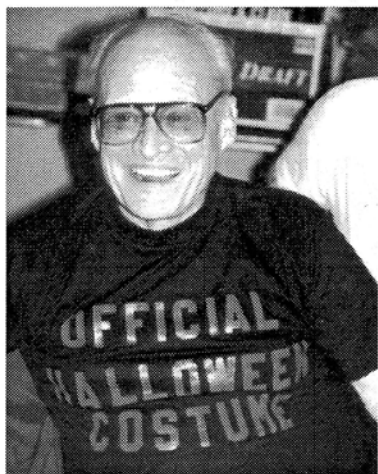
Holiday Party/Annual Meeting

Haller Lake Community Club, No. Seattle
Sun., Dec. 5

CLOSING CHORD

Frank Myers

1924 – 2004



A long time PSTOS member, Frank died of cardiac arrest at his home in Olalla. Frank worked as a theater projectionist for 24 years. An accomplished organist, he often entertained at PSTOS open console sessions, and was organist for his church in Olalla. Since moving here fifteen years ago, he has been active in the Seattle pipe organ scene, helping his brother Don prepare various theatre and home instruments to be featured at theatre organ events. He is survived by his three brothers, David and Gene at the home, and Don and wife Loretta at Lakebay. Sincere sympathy goes to all of Frank's family and friends.

Carl Kehret

1933 – 2004



With sadness we report the death of Carl Kehret following heart surgery. Carl was President of the local chapter of AMICA (Automated Musical Instrument Collectors Assoc.) Those who attended the 2002 Oktoberfest at Haller Lake will remember Carl and his music as shown in photo above. Following retirement, Carl was active in the restoration of player pianos, nickelodeons, calliopes, crank organs, and other old musical instruments. Carl lived with his wife Peg in Wilkeson.

WANTED! Photos from past Gig Harbor events for the Wurlitzer Manor "History Project"

HELP, please, all PSTOS members and friends! Barbara and Raymond are putting together a History Scrapbook about their beautiful home, the Wurlitzer, and the people who have played it over the years. They're eager to have photos taken by all of you at events in the past.

They are in the beginning phase of this project and are asking you to bring a favorite photo or two which you may have taken there over the years at the various events.

This is a unique musical form, and Wurlitzer Manor is in a special position of helping to preserve it. Your help will be much appreciated!

If you will be attending the Tony Fenelon event on May 16, you may take them with you then.

If you have photos to share but will not be at this event, could you please mail them to:

Barbara and Raymond
PMB 276

5114 Pt. Fosdick Dr. NW #E
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Many many thanks from Barbara!

Other Northwest Theatre Organ Events

Hear ANDY CROW in concert at Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre Sunday, May 23rd, 2 pm. For Mt. Baker Theatre Organ Society. Admission by donation.

ANDY CROW and DON WALLIN accompany a silent film series on our PSTOS Chapter pipe organ as Haller Lake Community Club mobilizes to raise needed funds.

On May 29, 7PM...Double feature

TUMBLEWEEDS — William S. Hart, one of America's favorite cowboys, stars in this 1925 classic western.

METROPOLIS — Fritz Lang's 1927 futuristic masterpiece, of a world subdivided into rigid social classes.

June 26, 7PM

INTOLERANCE — D.W. Griffith masterfully weaves four stories of intolerance in this 1916 epic.

Haller Lake Community Club, 12579 Densmore Ave. N., Seattle

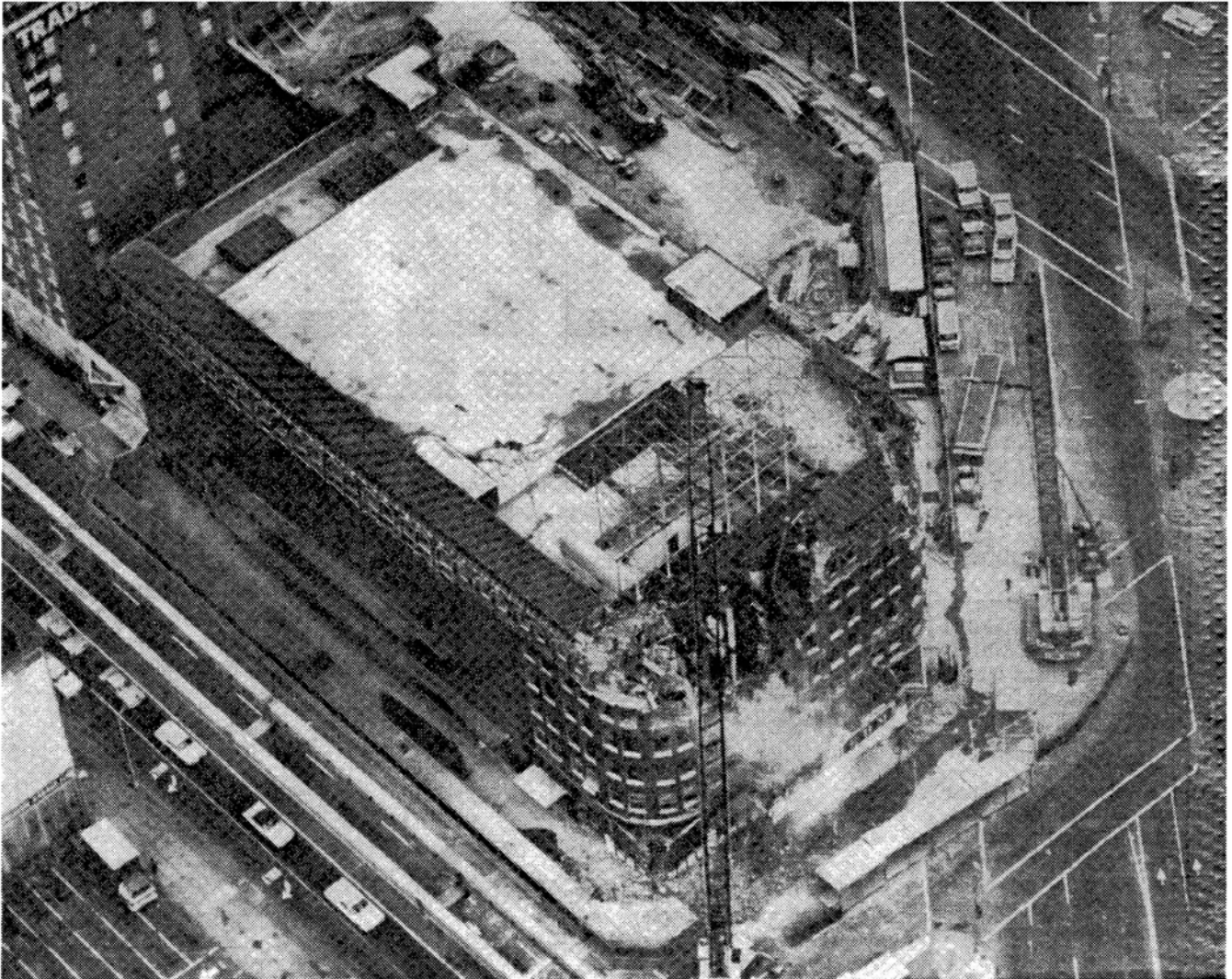
Tony Fenelon to perform in Spokane Friday, May 14

Tony will play the historic 1914 Seattle Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer now located in First Church of the Nazarene in Spokane on Friday, May 14th at 7PM. A first for Spokane, Tony will put the instrument through its paces with a full theatre organ program including a short silent movie. Pizza and home-made soups will be available for \$2 per slice or bowl starting at 5:30 in the church's large family center. The program will begin at 7:00. Adult admission, \$7, ages 7-18 \$5, 6 and under free. The church is located at 9004 Country Homes Blvd., a block west of N. Division. For more information phone 509-467-8986.

Pages From The Past..

One of Seattle's grand old theatres was demolished in 1967 to make way for the Washington Plaza Hotel

As reported in *The Seattle Times*, June 13, 1967



The Iversen Construction Co. used a 3,500-pound wrecking ball swinging from the top of a crane's 105-foot boom to knock down tons of brick, concrete and roofing. ...Times staff aerial photo by Larry Dion.

The fixtures, equipment and art objects of the Orpheum Theater will be auctioned June 26 and 27. [1967]

Greenfield's Auction Galleries will sell the goods for the Clise Agency, which retained title to the equipment and fixtures when the Orpheum Building was sold to Western International Hotels as site for the Washington Plaza Hotel.

The auction will be held in the theater, beginning at 10 a.m. June 26 and 1 p.m. June 27.

Jim Greenfield of the auction firm said everything will be sold that can be "unscrewed, chiseled or blasted loose or otherwise detached from the theater building, up to and including the marquee and the wrought-iron fencing along Fifth Avenue."

One of the major items will be the massive pipe organ, some of the pipes of which, Greenfield said, are "larger than the average living room."

Up for auction the first day will be the equipment and fixtures, including

screen, projectors, theater seats, motors, lights and even the plumbing and wiring.

The second day's sale in general will feature art objects including paintings, special furniture, sculpture and vases.

Greenfield said even the marble wall paneling will be sawed free to go on the block. Demolition of part of the Orpheum Building already has begun. The theater itself will be knocked down as soon as the goods are auctioned and removed.

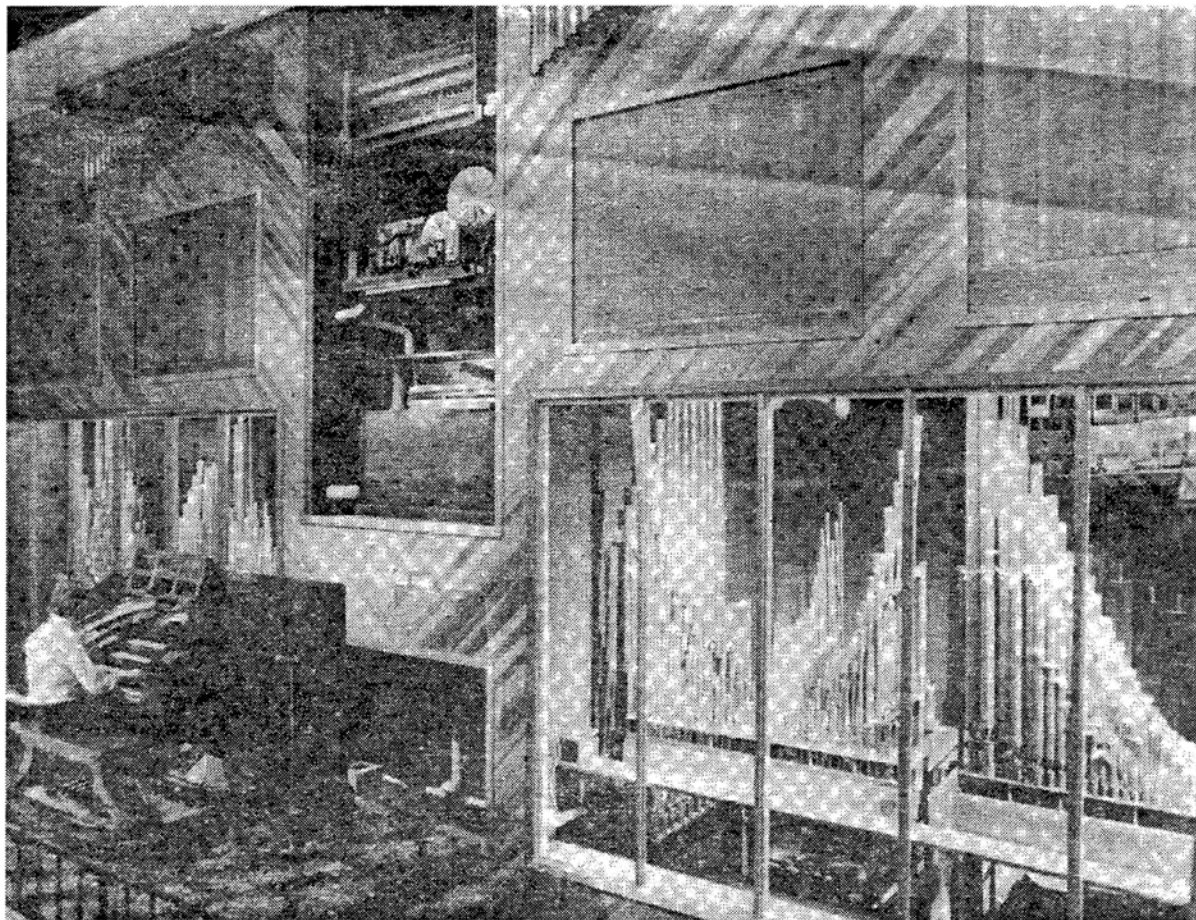
Pages From The Past...continued

his pipe dream needed lots of room—and found it

From a *Seattle Times* article, c. 1975. By Jerry E. Carson

Brian Ingoldsby,
Seattle-area organ
technician, played
Bob Koons'
Wurlitzer.
[Brian now resides
in Yakima.]

Staff photo by
Bruce McKim



Bob Koons' pipe dream has become Big Bob's Pipe Dream Restaurant, finally.

Koons has transplanted the Wurlitzer pipe organ, once played in Seattle's Coliseum Theatre, to his new pizza restaurant at 630 S.W. 153rd St. He has owned the instrument more than 20 years.

The organ, with 32 sets of pipes, filled seven rooms above the Coliseum stage after it was installed in 1918 at a cost of \$72,000.

Originally it was used 12 hours a day, seven days a week, providing music for silent films and vaudeville acts. But when talkies came along, theatre organs generally fell into neglect and disrepair. The Coliseum organ was no exception.

The console and some of the pipes eventually were removed and placed in storage. The Coliseum Theatre building became the property of the Bullitt family,

which for some time attempted to sell the organ to someone who would rebuild it. But theatre organs hardly could be given away. Many of them fell under the wrecking ball when theatres were torn down.

Mrs. Dorothy Bullitt gave title to the organ to Koons in 1953. He had to look for a larger house to find space for the organ parts and it wasn't until 1967 that he had all of the organ in his possession.

Koons said he first got the idea for the organ-pizza combination during a trip to California several years ago. He obtained a small organ from a theatre in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and installed it in an earlier restaurant in Federal Way.

With the rebirth of pipe organ popularity in pizza restaurants, Koons began to search for a new home for the old organ, now valued at about \$80,000.

He found the old Burien Theatre with

10,000 square feet of space nearly made to order.

Chambers to house the pipes were built across the 60-foot front of the theatre. A 27-foot ceiling allows room for even the tallest of pipes, and the room is large enough so the organ does not sound confined, Koons said.

After more than five months of rebuilding, the organ's 15-horsepower blower was turned on and the instrument came to life after 35 years of silence.

The organ is played daily at 6 p.m. and Koons plans to add silent movies to return the old organ to its original role.

Now that the restaurant is open, there will be a little more room around the Koons home.

"I have lived around this organ for nearly 23 years. You could hardly walk through the basement because I had parts stacked everywhere," Koons said.

For much more information about Big Bob's, go to www.pstos.org/instruments/wa/burien/big-bobs.htm

***PLEASE... wear your
name badge to the Tony
Fenelon concert!
Why not put it in the
glove box of your car
where it's always
handy! Right now!
Your Board thanks you.***

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors
6521 N.E. 191st
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PSTOS Program Committee wants YOUR suggestions for 2005 programs and social events...

Our Program Committee has routinely met in August or September of each year to plan programs for the succeeding year. At the last Board meeting it was decided to meet more frequently, with the aim of keeping programs scheduled as much as a year in advance.

The next meeting will be coming up soon. The committee would like input from the membership about specific types of programs and social events you would enjoy. No idea is too silly, unworkable, or "far out" to be considered—it might not make the cut, but it will be given consideration, we promise!

If you have suggestions, ideas, or names of artists you'd like to hear, please notify any of the committee members, whose names and contact information are listed below:

Tom Blackwell, 206-784-9203, tom@pstos.org

Barbara Graham, 206-525-7859, bxgraham@msn.com

Bob Zat, 206-329-1826, bobzat@earthlink.net

Dan Warner, 206-632-3723, thewarners@seanet.com

Marilyn Schrum, 206-364-5543, Marsch07@aol.com

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, 425-485-5465, rj.evans@verizon.net

Don't delay! Be in touch within the next couple of weeks with your suggestions. This is YOUR organization and your Board listens!

Let us hear from YOU!

From The MAILBOX



News of Desert Winds November extravaganza planned in Phoenix, Arizona

Our Chapter of ATOS, Valley of the Sun, is sponsoring a very special weekend event beginning Friday, November 26, 2004 here in Phoenix, Arizona. It is called "Desert Winds featuring the Magnificent Seven"—Walt Strony, Lyn Larsen, Rob Richards, Lew Williams, Ron Rhode, Charlie Balogh, and Jelani Eddington.

On Friday, Walt will do an early afternoon program and Lyn will do an evening program at the Orpheum Theatre on our Chapter's 3/30 Wurlitzer. Rob will do another show Saturday morning at the Orpheum Theatre. Lew will have an afternoon program at Historic First Presbyterian Church on their 4/58 Kimball, and Ron will be at the Orpheum Wurlitzer that evening. Charlie will do a Sunday morning program at Organ Stop Pizza on the 4/75 Wurlitzer, and Jelani will do an afternoon program there to conclude the weekend.

Headquarters for hotel arrangements will be the Wyndham Hotel which is just a very short walking distance from the Orpheum Theatre and Historic First Presbyterian Church.

The complete event package price of \$149 will include admission to all seven concerts, barbecue lunch with local entertainment at the Rock'n'R Ranch on Sunday, coach transportation between the Wyndham Hotel, Organ Stop Pizza, and Rock'n'R Ranch, and back to the Wyndham Hotel.

There will be special event rates at the Phoenix Wyndham Hotel.

For complete information visit our great website at www.desertwinds.info or contact Don and Leota Reasor at 623-877-0635, aaretiree@cox.net

Coming...An exciting theatre organ concert at a unique venue!

Sponsored by Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society

From Melbourne,
Australia...

Tony Fenelon

*Plays a fantastic
program of
Pipe Organ Pops*

Sunday, May 16, 2PM

*At the very unique
Wurlitzer Manor
Gig Harbor, Washington*



About Tony Fenelon...

It was inevitable from an early age that music would play a significantly major role in Tony Fenelon's life. As a child, he showed astounding talent, but faced an enviable dilemma—with a talent for music and a passion for electronics, he had to decide between the two. So he enrolled in a Science degree at Melbourne University while also studying part time at the Conservatorium of Music.

Completing a Bachelor of Science degree, he commenced full time work as a medical electronics engineer at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, a career that culminated in his appointment as head of the Department of Bio-medical Engineering in October 1991.

Tony's insatiable interest in music and a love of the majestic sound of the theatre pipe organ led to his "other" career, leading to his appointment in 1965 as the resident organist at Melbourne's then prestigious Regent Theatre. He held this post until the organ was removed, prior to the closure of the theatre in the early seventies. It seemed that the Regent was doomed and, in spite of many proposals for the development of the site, the theatre lay dark and neglected until its magnificent restoration and the gala reopening on Saturday August 17th, 1996.

With increasing overseas and local requests for Tony's performances, he reached the milestone decision in June 1998 to relinquish his biomedical career in favor of a full time involvement with music. Now an internationally acclaimed artist, Tony has completed over twenty major concert tours overseas, performing on piano and pipe organ.

In 1999, Tony returned to his old stamping ground to be featured in the Inaugural Concert of the Regent Theatre's "new" Wurlitzer Pipe Organ. This concert was an overwhelming success, drawing an unprecedented record attendance since the civic reopening of the Regent. In February 2002 Tony was invited back to do a repeat concert with American organist Jonas Nordwall, and in February 2003, Tony was again featured in his own solo concert at the Regent Theatre.

Tony has to his credit 22 recordings and 4 gold records. In his concerts, he strives to provide a tasteful balance between popular tunes, light classics and music from the films, stage, jazz, and great standards.



*Puget Sound Theatre
Organ Society invites
MBTOS members to enjoy
this outstanding event
at the reduced ticket
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to PSTOS members only!*

General admission \$20 • PSTOS and MBTOS members \$15

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