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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 16 No. 8

August 2005

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

**PSTOS, MT. BAKER THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY and COLUMBIA RIVER ORGAN CLUB have joined together to organize this outstanding event! Don't miss it!**

**Sign up NOW for this luxury "bus cruise" to MT. VERNON and BELLINGHAM to enjoy the highly entertaining**

## **KEN DOUBLE** and a musical afternoon of **WURLITZER ORGAN POPS**

**Ken is known internationally for his rhythmic toe-tapping music and entertaining rapport with his audience!**

With the exclamation "I get paid to have fun in TWO different professions," organist and sports-aster Ken Double has spent more than 25 years on radio and television, and at the console of the great theatre pipe organs, providing entertainment for his audience. During his concert career, he has performed all over the U.S., at the famous Casa Loma in Toronto, and three six-week tours throughout Australia. In addition to his hundreds of concerts, he has recorded six CDs. Ken has been the Master of Ceremonies of choice for no fewer than 14 American Theatre Organ Society annual and regional conventions. Don't miss this exciting performer!



**Board the bus early Sunday, August 28**

**Destination: Bellingham's MT. BAKER THEATRE to enjoy KEN DOUBLE at the fabulous Mt. Baker original 1927 WURLITZER, with intermediate stops at**

**Mt. Vernon's LINCOLN THEATRE for Open Console on another original, a 1926 Style "D" Special Wurlitzer, and the Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant for lunch**

**A special full-day event, all for just \$45!**

**Includes round trip luxury coach transportation, a visit to Mt. Vernon's Lincoln Theatre, all-you-can-eat buffet lunch, and KEN DOUBLE concert. A real entertainment bargain!**

Your PSTOS Program Committee has been working long and hard to organize this very special summer event at which you will see and hear two of only five theatre organs still in their original theatres in all of Washington State! Many have asked for bus transportation to events. This has been arranged, with two locations at which you may park your car and board the bus, one in Tacoma, the other in N. Seattle. Many thanks to Prosser's, and to member Ray Harris in particular, for making it possible to park at their N. Seattle store location at 185th & Aurora.

**Advance reservations and payment are necessary to enable bus arrangements to be finalized.**

### **SCHEDULE:**

7:00 AM Bus departs Park & Ride at I-5 and Hwy 512 in Tacoma for N. Seattle.  
8:30 AM Bus departs Prosser's 185th & Aurora store for Mt. Vernon.  
10:00 Arrive Mt. Vernon and the historic LINCOLN THEATRE. Open console on the original 2/7 Wurlitzer.

11:15 Board bus for Royal Fork Buffet in Mt. Vernon for included lunch.  
12:15 Board bus for Bellingham  
1:15 Arrive Bellingham's MT. BAKER THEATRE in time to stretch a bit, relax, and inspect this beautifully restored facility.  
2:00 KEN DOUBLE CONCERT  
4:30— Board bus for return to Seattle.  
6:30 Arrive N. Seattle  
8:00— Arrive Tacoma Park & Ride

Questions— 425-485-5465, [russ@pstos.org](mailto:russ@pstos.org)

## PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Vol. 16, No 8 – August 2005

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society

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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.

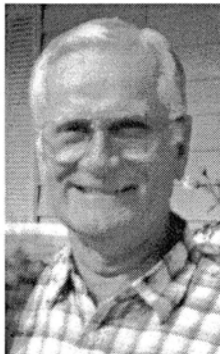
#### **Joining Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is quick and easy!**

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

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

## PRESIDENT'S Message

A good program committee and newsletter editor will make any organization's President look good. Our top flight program folks and super talented Pipeline editors really make this President's job fun and fulfilling. With



the PSTOS program lineup for the rest of the year, movies with theatre organ accompaniment at the Seattle Paramount, Washington Center for Performing Arts and the New Everett, request nights at Kenyon Hall and our scholarship student at St. Mark's Cathedral, you shouldn't have any reason to be bored for the rest of the year!

Few things are as rare as an original Wurlitzer installation, unchanged. At the Lincoln Theatre in Mr. Vernon, you'll find one of these genuine treasures. Gene Peden and Bob Martin have been taking care of this instrument for years and recently invited the PSTOS maintenance team to help them out. My guess is that you are going to be very impressed with this gem. Bring a piece of music and wear your organ playing shoes for the open console. Gene and others play before the show on Friday and Saturday at 5:00PM.

Merlyn Johnson's Robert Morton was a joy to hear. Don Wallin entertained us with song after song. Some members were playing "What's The Name of That Tune?" while Don played his mostly unannounced selections. We certainly got our money's worth of music—and the cookies were good, too. Thanks Don. The organ is equipped with the latest Uniflex 2000 relay system, and Dick Wilcox was in attendance to make sure it did everything it was supposed to do. Merlyn's home makes a great setting for our kind of musical enjoyment and we hope to have a repeat visit soon.

Looking forward to seeing you as we share musical moments at the Lincoln and Mt. Baker theatres.

—Clint Meadway, President

## OPEN CONSOLE – OPEN HOUSE at Haller Lake

Join your friends for a casual evening with your club pipe organ to welcome our visitors from Oregon, in town ready to board the "Bus Cruise To Bellingham" the next morning! Celebrate the upgrades to the pipe organ recently accomplished by the PSTOS organ team—Bob Zat, Mark Baratta, Dan Warner and Russ Evans. Check out the newly added Clarinet. Enjoy the music.

*Bring your tunes. Or just listen.  
Light refreshments.*

**Haller Lake Community Club**

12579 Densmore Ave. N. Seattle

**Saturday evening, August 27th  
7:00 — 9:00**

**Drive directions on page 6**

## PSTOS Coming Events

### **Ken Double in concert for PSTOS, CROC & MBTOS!**

Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre boasts one of only five remaining original theatre pipe organs in the entire state, and it's a beauty! An original Wurlitzer, lovingly maintained all these years and in pristine condition. PLUS, visit another original Wurlitzer, the 1926 Style "D" Special in Mt. Vernon's Lincoln Theatre. This will be a big event! The time to reserve is NOW. See cover page.

**Sunday, August 28th**

### **Daniel Goltz (our scholarship recipient) in concert at Seattle's St. Mark's Cathedral**

What a feather in a young person's cap! This will be a classical concert of the highest quality, and worth your effort to attend. Let's all show our support to Daniel by attending this event!

**Sunday, September 18**

### **Annual Holiday Celebration**

Haller Lake Community Club

Sunday, December 4

## Our PSTOS Scholarship recipient sends greetings and a current report of his progress and activities, including news of his upcoming September concert in Seattle

Dear PSTOS Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Society for their ongoing support of my organ studies and give an update on my progress and some exciting upcoming events. You have helped make it possible for me to continue developing my musical talents and your assistance is much appreciated.

First of all, I would personally like to invite the PSTOS members to a full concert that I am presenting at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral at 3pm on September 18th. This large parish is located at 1245 Tenth Avenue East in Seattle.

The organ at St. Mark's is an instrument of international reputation that was installed in 1965 by the Dutch builder Dirk Flentrop. This beautiful instrument, at four manuals and 58 stops, is one of the largest mechanical action organs in all of the United States. It was extremely influential during the organ reform movement of the 1960s and 1970s and helped establish guidelines for many well-known contemporary builders. The organ is blessed with a wonderfully reverberant large room and is a breathtaking instrument both visually and aurally.

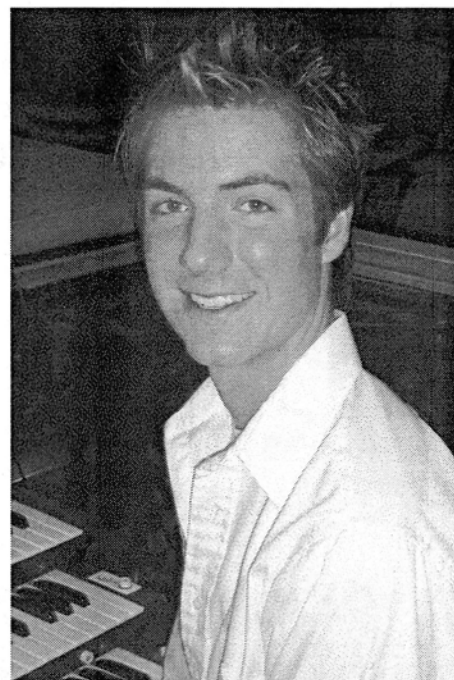
I will be playing a very diverse program, with music from the Dutch composer Sweelinck to Seattle native William Bolcom,

and the program will end with a complete Vierne Symphony. This will be a great opportunity to see the progress that I have made and be able to hear some wonderful music. Tickets are available for advance purchase at (206)-325-6500, [www.ticketwindowonline.com](http://www.ticketwindowonline.com), or in person at The Cathedral Shop.

This August I will be traveling to Colorado State University to attend a theatre organ workshop taught by Jonas Nordwall. Being primarily a classically trained musician, this will be a great opportunity for me to get "outside the box" and learn more about theatre organ music!

For what promises to be a busy summer, I will also be attending the Mount Royal College Conservatory International Organ Summer Academy in Calgary, BC. During this intensive summer school, I will be studying with several well-known performers and teachers and also performing in several concerts.

For the past year, I have been head organist at First Presbyterian Church in Walla Walla where I play on a historic three-manual E.M. Skinner from 1915. This valuable instrument is the fifth oldest entirely unaltered Skinner in existence. The organ (and its organist!) was featured in the July/August issue of the internationally



respected English journal "Choir and Organ" in an article by Jonathan Ambrosino about idealism in organ-building.

I am finding more time to practice now that school is out and my junior year in high school is finally completed!

Thanking you again for your support,  
Daniel Goltz

### Other Northwest Theatre Organ Events

Hear the Wurlitzer at WEST SEATTLE'S KENYON HALL (formerly Hokum Hall) every week. For program information and reservations phone (206) 937-3613. On the web at [www.kenyonhall.org](http://www.kenyonhall.org)

The Wurlitzer at MT. VERNON'S LINCOLN THEATRE is played prior to the movie on Monday & Tuesday at 7 PM, and on Friday & Sunday at 5 PM.

**SILENT FILMS in the Puget Sound area, accompanied by Dennis James**

**August 9**, Everett Theatre, Buster Keaton in OUR HOSPITALITY

**August 22**, Seattle Paramount, Buster Keaton in THE NAVIGATOR

**August 25, 26, 27**, Kenyon Hall, West Seattle: Buster Keaton in THE BLACKSMITH

**August 29**, Seattle Paramount, Buster Keaton in OUR HOSPITALITY

**September 12**, Seattle Paramount, Buster Keaton in SHERLOCK JR.

**September 13**, Everett Theatre, King Vidor's THE CROWD

**WASHINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS in Olympia announces**

**silent movie series with Dennis James at the Wurlitzer:**

**Oct. 31**, *Phantom of the Opera (1925)* with Lon Chaney, Mary Philbin

**Nov. 7**, *The Cat and the Canary (1927)* with Laura LaPlante, Creighton Hale

**Nov. 14**, *The Bells (1926)*, with Lionel Barrymore, Boris Karloff

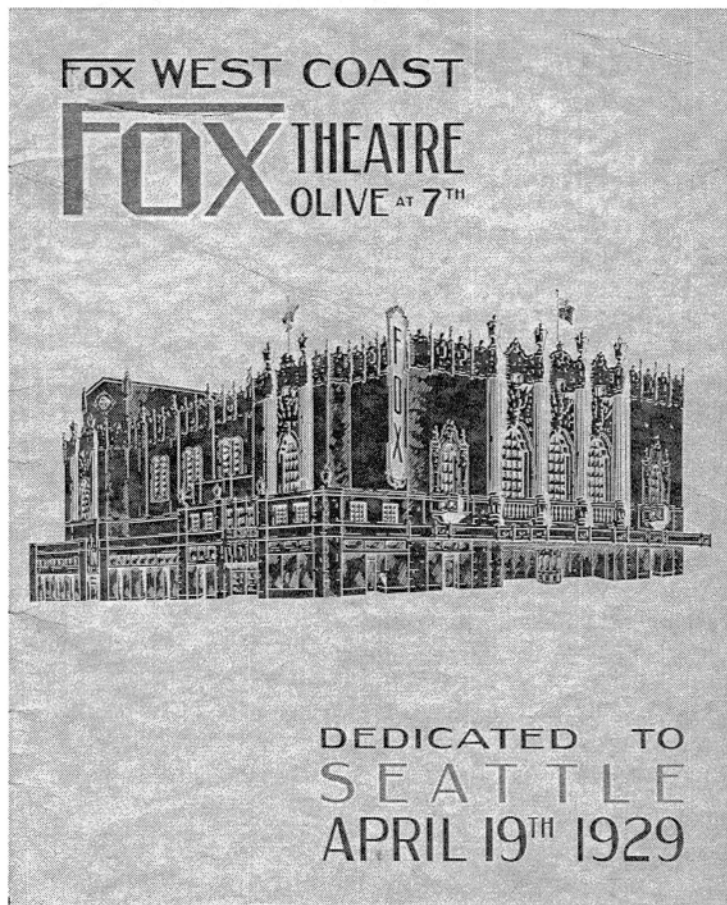
**Scholarship grant approved for young student's attendance at the Colo. St. Univ. T. O. Workshop taught by Jonas Nordwall**

My name is Nathan Avakian. I am 13 years old and very interested in the theatre organ. I can play by ear, and began lessons with Donna Parker about a year-and-a-half ago. The Columbia River Organ Club provided a scholarship to do so. Since starting lessons, I have grown very much. I've begun learning to read music, as well as compose arrangements, learn new techniques, new songs, and even new links to people in the community. Last September, I gave my first organ concert at the CROC annual business meeting. I hope to begin giving concerts more frequently in a variety of places as I am rapidly accumulating a larger repertoire of songs.



# Pages From The Past...

**Many thanks to PSTOS Charter Member Bob Jones for providing the original opening night program for Seattle's Fox Theatre, later named 7th Avenue, Music Hall, and in the 1970s, the Emerald Palace.**



Above is the cover from the original opening night program of the Seattle Fox Theatre, April 19, 1929. The theatre was originally named the Mayflower and as such, had a nautical theme. It is unknown if it ever actually operated under that name because it was called the Fox Theatre during most of the early years.

During the 1930s, the name was changed to 7th Avenue Theatre and then to Music Hall Theatre. In the 1970s and '80s, the house operated as a dinner theatre and 'mixed-use' house under the name Emerald Palace.

The four manual, 16 rank Robert Morton (opus 2375) was installed by Balcom & Vaughan in 1929, with the console mounted on a unique revolving lift. The opening organist was Jamie Erickson, who at the time was well known in the large movie palaces throughout the West and Mid-West. The last regular organist was Eddie Clifford.

The last public performance of the Music Hall Robert Morton was given on November 15, 1963 with popular

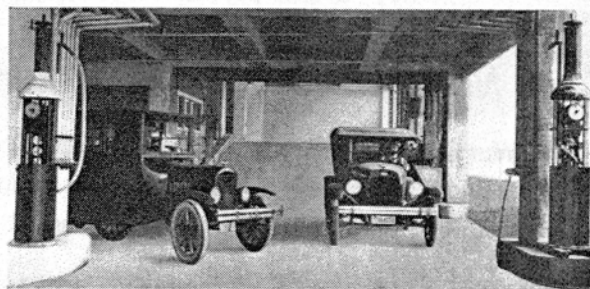
Seattle organist Dick Schrum at the console. A sound clip of Dick's music can be heard on the PSTOS website by going to <http://www.pstos.org/instruments/wa/seattle/music-hall.htm>

In June of 1964, the large instrument was sold for \$7,500 and moved by Balcom & Vaughan for a cost of \$3,500 to the Carl Greer Inn in Sacramento, California. It operated there for a number of years and then was sold to a private party in Southern California. The organ was stored for over 20 years but never installed.

In 2002, the organ was purchased for installation in the Bob Hope (former Fox California) Theatre in Stockton, California. According to Randy Warwick, the installation was spearheaded by Bob Hartzell and organ tech Dave Moreno with help from Kenny Crome and numerous Sierra & Nor Cal ATOS Chapter members plus "Friends of the Fox."

## FOX GARAGE

ENTRANCE ONE BLOCK WEST OF FOX THEATRE



ONE of the unique features of the Fox Theatre, is the service offered our patrons by the Fox Garage, formerly known as the Times Square. M. C. Hickerson, well and favorably known to thousands of motorists, is in charge of the Garage.

Mr. Hickerson will place a group of uniformed attendants at the door of the theatre and patrons may drive direct to the entrance and turn the car over to them without effort or extra cost. The extra service will be included in the parking tariff.

Each attendant is carefully trained and understands the handling of all motor vehicles. To insure absolute protection for the property of all patrons, each employe has been bonded and insured.

It is the intention of the Fox Garage to render to patrons the same high class service offered by the theatre management.

PARKING THREE HOURS TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Even in 1929, parking was a factor for theatre goers. Imagine paying just 25¢ to park for three hours!



# Pages From The Past...continued

## Fox Theatre

# PROGRAMME

PREMIERE FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1929



**SAMPIETRO**  
DIRECTOR OF THE  
"FOX MELODISTS"

The nationally-famous Maestro, and the Fox Theatre Melodists will augment each photoplay program with special musical preludes, embodying the theme of the play, interpreting perfectly in music the trend of the story.

**Unit One:**  
IN DEDICATION  
"The Talking Screen," an expression by the Honorable Frank Edwards, Mayor of Seattle

**Unit Two:**  
Fox-Case Corporation presents The Marvel of the Age,  
FOX-MOVIE-TONE NEWS  
World Events in Sound and Motion

**Unit Three:**  
FOX THEATRE presents  
JAMIE ERICKSON at the Mighty Robert Morton Console

**Unit Four:**  
WILLIAM FOX presents  
CLARK and McCULLOUGH in "The Bath Between,"  
with Carmel Meyers  
The All-Talking Comedy Sensation of the Year

**Unit Five:**  
SAMPIETRO and the FOX MELODISTS playing  
Selections from "Madame Butterfly" Puccini  
(Program Continued on Next Page)



**JAMIE ERICKSON**  
ORGANIST SUPREME

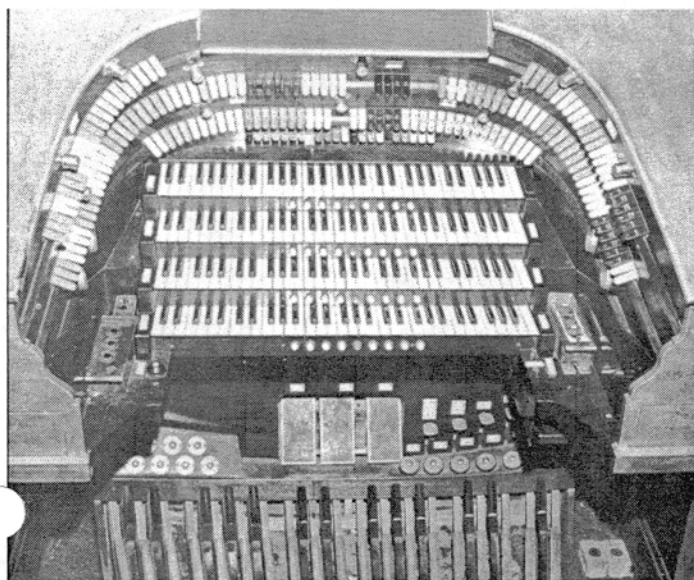
The Fox Theatre has made a master stroke in theatrical annals in engaging JAMIE ERICKSON, as feature organist. He has successfully scored in the larger cinema palaces of the country. He will offer a variety of features on each program.

**TIME AND PRICE SCHEDULE**  
PERFORMANCES CONTINUOUS FROM 11:30 A. M. TO 11:30 P. M.  
Except SUNDAYS: DOORS OPEN AT 12 O'Clock M.

PRICES—WEEK DAYS, MATINEES		SATURDAY, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS	
GENERAL ADMISSION		GENERAL ADMISSION	
Up to 1:00 p. m.	25c	12:00 m. to 1:00 p. m.	35c
1:00 to 4:00 p. m.	35c	1:00 p. m. to 5:00 p. m.	50c
Loges	50c	After 5:00 p. m.	60c
		Loges	75c
EVENINGS		CHILDREN (except Loges)	15c
After 6:00 p. m.	60c		
Loges	75c		

Our Telephone Number is MAin 1688

A portion of the official opening night programme. Note ticket prices printed at the bottom!



The impressive console of the 4-manual 16-rank Robert Morton organ.



Dick Schrum played the farewell concert prior to removal of the organ and demolition of the theatre.

**Drive directions to  
Haller Lake Community Club for  
"Open Console-Open House"**  
**Saturday evening, August 27th, 7-9 PM.**

**12579 Densmore Ave. N. Seattle**  
**SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS**

**Northbound I-5:** Use Exit 174 onto NE 130th St., turn left over freeway one long block to 1st Ave. N.E. Turn left (south) one block to 128th. Right on N.E. 128th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore, clubhouse is on the right. Parking both front and rear. **Southbound I-5:** Use Exit 175 onto N.E. 145th, turn right one block to 1st Ave. N.E. Left (south) through N.E. 130th to N.E. 128th. Continue where underlined above.

**PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**

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



Non-Profit Org.  
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Bothell, WA  
Permit #287

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## The Home Party at Merlyn Johnson's Tacoma home was a resounding success!

About 70 PSTOS members and their friends arrived on a beautifully sunny day to help inaugurate Merlyn Johnson's newly installed Robert Morton 3/17 theatre pipe organ. And what a treat it was! Don Wallin, who over the past several years has masterminded its design and installation, played this first 'official' concert. Don's music is always very listenable, and this was no exception, as he played a variety of styles. The console, he explained, is brand new, and had been sent to a professional finisher for the eye-catching glossy black finish. It looks beautiful! The chamber is the former garage for the Johnson's motor home, and speaks into the living room.

Not only does the instrument have a full complement of theatre voices, but also has a complement of classical voices "in a box," as Don explained. As a result, the organ is supremely versatile.



Merlyn and Don Wallin bask in the warmth of a successful day in front of the beautiful new console.

Refreshments were served on the deck overlooking the Tacoma Narrows, a treat indeed!

Sincere thanks to Merlyn for inviting us into her beautiful home. We look forward to more such delightful events in the future.



Always a favorite, Clyde Hunnicutt tested the newly installed Robert Morton, much to the delight of listeners.



Tom Roughton shows off the organ as Don Wallin looks on.

## TICKET ORDER FORM

### **August 28<sup>th</sup> luxury "bus cruise" to**

- Mt. Vernon and the Lincoln Theatre for Open Console
  - Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant and lunch
- Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre to enjoy KEN DOUBLE and a Wurlitzer Organ Pops Concert

**\$45 per person all inclusive**

#### PLEASE CHECK ONE

- ☐ A stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed—  
Please mail my tickets AND driving directions to bus boarding areas.
- ☐ I will pick up my tickets at the bus.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### HERE'S MY ORDER FOR:

\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$45 ea..... \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total amt. enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **PSTOS**

Mail your order to:

**Tickets**

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

**PLEASE CHECK ONE :** I (we) will board the bus at ☐ Tacoma Park & Ride ☐ No. Seattle Prosser store

*This event sponsored jointly by PSTOS, Mt. Baker Theatre Organ Society, and Columbia River Organ Club*

**Questions: Contact Russ or Jo Ann Evans, 425-485-5465 or by email at [joann@pstos.org](mailto:joann@pstos.org)**