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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 17 No. 3

March 2006

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

Organ Maintenance Boot Camp scheduled April 23, 10AM-3PM

As Tom mentioned in his President's Message in the January Pipeline, PSTOS has formed seven new member-run committees: Scholarship, Organ Preservation & Maintenance, Grant Writing, Events & Programs, History & Archives, Volunteer Coordination, and Promotions & Media Relations. This month's featured committee is Organ Preservation & Maintenance.

Did you know that PSTOS crews help to maintain organs from Mount Vernon to Bremerton? Here's a list of our current projects:

- Franklin High School (3/13 Kimball)
- PSTOS Haller Lake (3/8 Wurlitzer-Marr & Colton)
- Bremerton Masonic Temple (2/8 Wurlitzer)
- Paramount Theatre (4/20 Wurlitzer)

We're also on tap for the re-installation of the 2/7 Moller in Seattle's Roosevelt High School, as part of the school's major renovation project. And we're helping with work on the 2/7 Wurlitzer at the Mount Vernon Lincoln Theatre.

The new Organ Preservation & Maintenance committee will contribute to this effort in several ways:

- Providing opportunities for volunteers to develop organ maintenance skills and to participate in organ maintenance projects
- Developing project budgets and working with the Grant Writing committee to identify and pursue funding opportunities
- Working with crew leads and other experts to develop PSTOS organ maintenance and restoration guidelines

Are you interested in organ preservation & maintenance? The work is interesting, involving wiring, soldering, re-leathering, cleaning, shellacking, etc. While it helps to have good manual dexterity, experience with these tasks is not required - training is available!

If you'd like to find out more about PSTOS volunteer opportunities, and have some fun working on a couple of easy repair projects, be sure to come to the next Organ Maintenance Orientation/Workshop, at Haller Lake Community Club, 12579 Densmore Ave N., Seattle, on April 23, from 10 to 3. Questions? Contact **Mark Baratta**, mark@pstos.org, 425-640-7320.

The internationally famous

JELANI EDDINGTON TO PERFORM ON THE 4/48 WURLITZER AT GIG HARBOR'S BEAUTIFUL WURLITZER MANOR

Sunday, March 26, 2 PM

Barbara Hammerman and Raymond Lavine have invited all PSTOS members and their friends to a very special JELANI EDDINGTON concert to raise funds for our Scholarship Program and pipe organ preservation projects. Limited to just 90, there are still some seats available. If you've misplaced your invitation, clip the form below and reserve now! Updated drive and parking directions will be sent to you prior to the event.



To read all about Jelani, visit his website at

<http://www.rjeproductions.com/>

Reservation Form for Jelani Eddington Fund Raiser at Wurlitzer Manor

Name _____ Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(s): _____ Email(s): _____

_____ Yes I am a current member of PSTOS and would like to attend the March Jelani Eddington concert.

_____ No, I am not a current member but enclosed is an additional \$15 for annual membership dues.

As a member of PSTOS I am pleased to offer my donation of \$_____ (requested minimum \$40.00 per person, please) and look forward to attending the March 26, 2006 JELANI EDDINGTON program. Concert address, directions and parking instructions will be provided prior to the event.

Please be sure to provide email address, FAX number or mailing address so that new drive directions may be sent to you.

Membership: ☐ Already a member ☐ New Member\$ _____

Please reserve _____ seats for my party Donation:\$ _____

Total enclosed:\$ _____

Please mail this form together with your check payable to PSTOS to:

RESERVATIONS, Jelani Eddington program, 6521 NE 191st St., Kenmore WA 98028-3453

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Vol. 17, No. 3 – March 2006

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 NE 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.

OFFICERS

President—Tom Blackwell, 206-784-9203
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Secretary—Joani Roughton, 253-946-4400
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Bob Zat, 206-329-1826 • Mark Baratta, 206-522-2191
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COMMITTEES

Development & Grant Writing—Barbara Graham

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Organ Maintenance Coordination—Mark Baratta

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Promotions & Media Relations—Clint Meadoway

Scholarship—Norman Miller & Carl Dodrill

Volunteer Coordination—Dan Warner

New member processing—Doug Owen, 253-566-6734

Haller Lake keys—Bob Zat

Sunshine—Joani Roughton, 253-946-4400

Hospitality HLCC—Ellen Sullivan, 206-365-7554

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

Pipeline Editors—Russ & JoAnn Evans, 425-485-5465

Pipeline Online Website—Tom Blackwell, 206-784-9203

Nat'l Magazine Reporter—Jo Ann Evans

LIAISONS

AMICA & POF—Carl Dodrill • Haller Lake Comm.Club—Bob Zat
Paramount Theatre—Tom Blackwell • Wash. Center—Andy Crow

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 three 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

Hello folks – It was a real treat for the 80+ attendees who filled Kenyon Hall to hear Nathan Avakian and Tyler Pattison play on February 19. I think everyone will agree we have some fine talent in these two young men. With the support of PSTOS and CROC (Columbia River Organ Club), we're hopeful they will continue their studies with instructors Donna Parker, Don Wallin and Jonas Nordwall, and ultimately consider entering the ATOS Young Organist Competition.



This month we're spotlighting the "Organ Restoration & Maintenance" committee on the cover. With five public theatre pipe organ restoration projects currently underway, we need more volunteers! Of particular interest is the upcoming Roosevelt High School project in conjunction with the Pipe Organ Foundation. The school's original 1930 Moller pipe organ will be re-installed in a wonderful new auditorium. If you are an experienced pipe organ technician or are simply interested in learning more about the technical aspects of pipe organs, contact Organ Restoration & Maintenance Committee Chair, Mark Baratta at mark@pstos.org or 425-640-7320.

We received some good news this week from Coos Bay, Oregon. Those of you who have signed up for discuss@pstos.org know that the Egyptian Theatre closed late last year and its future was uncertain. Our friends at CROC are happy to report that the City of Coos Bay has recently purchased the theatre and will operate it as a performing arts center. The theatre's original Mighty Wurlitzer will be saved and restored by a team led by Rick Parks of Salem.

Speaking of discuss@pstos.org, please consider joining up. This new e-mail group is designed to encourage discussion of Northwest theatre organ topics: organs, organists, program suggestions, organs for sale, news items and generally anything PSTOS or Northwest theatre organ related. Another important function of this group is to connect individuals who want to carpool to events, especially the upcoming Jelani Eddington concert at Wurlitzer Manor. With parking limited to 40 cars, carpooling is absolutely required. Any PSTOS member can join the group by simply e-mailing webmaster@pstos.org and asking.

A best kept secret in Seattle might be the Paramount Theatre's "First Saturday" public tours. Held on the first Saturday of every month, the tours start at 10AM in the lobby. The 90 minute tour includes the 1928 grand

PSTOS Coming Events

◆ JELANI EDDINGTON at Wurlitzer Manor

See front page for details!

Sunday, March 26, 2 PM

◆ WURLITZER HOME PARTY at Jack & Mary Lou Becvar's Kent residence

The Becvars welcome PSTOS members once again to their very interesting home to enjoy a great catered BBQ and a special guest artist performance on their 3/19 Wurlitzer.

Saturday, June 24

◆ The Big Band Sounds of HENRY REED & his GOOD TIMES BAND and the PSTOS Pipe Organ

An afternoon of the wonderful rhythmic music of the Big Band Era! Watch for more details in the next Pipeline!

Sunday, May 7, 2 PM

◆ SUMMER SIZZLER at YELM!

Once again we'll hear Father Terence's exciting 3/16 Robert Morton and enjoy the famous Church Ladies' Buffet Lunch! Artist TBA. This is always a great event. Mark your calendar!

Sat., Aug. 12

lobby, mezzanine, loge, 2nd mezzanine, stage, dressing rooms and backstage areas. You will also see and hear the theatre's original Knabe Ampico reproducing grand on the Mezzanine level demonstrated by our friends from AMICA (Automatic Musical Instrument Collector's Association). When the stage setup allows it, you will also see and hear the Paramount's original 4/20 Mighty Wurlitzer as demonstrated by PSTOS volunteer organists and organ crew.

There is still seating available for the March 26th Jelani Eddington event at Wurlitzer Manor in Gig Harbor. This great event, made possible through the generous personal invitation of Barbara & Raymond, is not to be missed. Seats are limited so make your reservation now. All proceeds will benefit the PSTOS Scholarship fund supporting young organists.

...Tom Blackwell, President

Other NW Theatre Organ Events

◆ Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

94-year-old Bob Mitchell accompanies silent films at Kenyon Hall

**A \$2 discount for PSTOS members!
Let them know when reserving.**

Reservations: (206) 937-3613 or
kenyonhall@earthlink.net or on the
web at www.kenyonhall.org

Fri., Sat., March 24, 25, 8 PM

◆ Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon

Hear the Wurlitzer every Mon/Tue at
7 PM & Fri/Sun at 5 PM.

◆ Columbia River Organ Club

Latest news can be found at
www.croconline.org

◆ Olympia's Washington Center

Presents "Larger Than Life," the silent
films of Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. Organ
accompaniment by Dennis James.

Mon., Mar. 27, 7 pm, Three Musketeers

Mon., Apr. 3, 7 pm, Robin Hood

Mon., Apr. 10, 7 pm, The Gaucho

Info 360-753-8585, or at
www.washingtoncenter.org

◆ Mt. Baker Theatre, Bellingham

Australia's outstanding NEIL JENSEN
in a wonderful afternoon of Wurlitzer
Pops. Definitely worth the drive!

Sunday afternoon, May 28

◆ Theatre Organ Cruise to Alaska featuring internationally famous WALTER STRONY, July 23-30

7-Day Alaskan Explorer, departs July
23 for Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria.
Enjoy special concerts and workshops
by the inimitable Walt Strony playing a
beautiful Allen theatre organ. Organized
by PSTOS members Gary Marks &
Ryan Dye, owners of North Pacific
Organ & Sound in Redmond, this will be
a special vacation indeed for all theatre
organ aficionados. For brochure and
details contact Denise Vogel

**www.azumanotravel.com
1-800-395-5578**

BOB MITCHELL, Famed Organist/Choirmaster, will appear at Kenyon Hall



West Seattle's Kenyon Hall will be honored in March with performances by Bob Mitchell, at 94 one of the few living first-generation theater organists in the U.S.

In 1924, at the age of 12, he began accompanying silent films on Wurlitzer pipe organs in his home city of Los Angeles. When sound films replaced silents, he played pipe organs in churches, also training choirboys.

After study at Eastman School of Music, he continued at the New York College of Music, supplementing his income by playing and singing on radio and at Joe's Cha-teau, a popular speakeasy in Manhattan.

Back in Los Angeles in 1934, he founded The Mitchell Choirboys, famed for some one hundred motion picture performances, most notably Academy Award winning "Going My Way," with Bing Crosby, and thousands of radio and television broadcasts.

Mitchell was staff pianist-organist on several stations. You may also remember seeing and hearing him in the early days of TV on *Ladies' Day*, *Parlor Party*, *Engineer Bill*, *The Jack LaLanne Show*, and *Art Linkletter's House Party*. He was called a few years ago to play organ accompaniments at the Silent Movie Theater in Hollywood, where he is now heard several times a month.

Special discounts for PSTOS members!

While in Seattle Mitchell will accompany silent films Fri./Sat., Mar. 24/25, at 8 PM. Tickets \$8-\$14. **Special \$2 PSTOS member discount.** For reservations call (206) 937-3613 or e-mail kenyonhall@earthlink.net. For more information and movie titles, please visit www.kenyonhall.org.

From The MAILBOX

PSTOS scholarship recipient DANIEL GOLTZ vying for Presidential Scholar award!

Greetings from Walla Walla!

Graduation is finally coming into sight, and while fighting the usual case of senioritis, I have some exciting news to share with PSTOS. You may perhaps remember I recently traveled to Miami to participate in the NFAA Arts Week, and I returned having completed a truly amazing experience. Everyone invited to this special week had absolutely amazing talent, and it was tremendously inspiring to be able to meet so many dedicated artists. It was an experience that I will never forget. I met many incredible musicians, and on a humorously nerdy side note, I met the lifelong lawyer of none other than Virgil Fox!

However, the most exciting news is that I have been nominated to become a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Each year, the Presidential Scholars program is held to honor the nation's most distinguished high school seniors, and the NFAA is the sole nominator for the Presidential Scholars in the Arts; fifty young people from among those attending Arts Week are nominated as Presidential Scholars in the Arts (this out of the initial nationwide pool of over 6500!). This pool of fifty will be further pared down to twenty, and these twenty will become Presidential Scholars. Out of these fifty, I am one of only eight classical musicians. By the time you read this, I will have already sent in my application (essays, essays, essays!) and will not find out my status until April or May. If chosen as a Presidential Scholar, I will travel to Washington D.C. this summer and will perform in the Kennedy Center and receive an audience with the President in the White House! Please visit www.nfaa.org if you would like to find out more information about this exciting opportunity.

I am very excited about graduation, and simply cannot wait to begin studying at Whitman College next year. I would like to plan a trip to the Seattle area soon and would be delighted to meet some more PSTOS members. In the meantime, if you would like to correspond, please email me at gimpiegaurd@hotmail.com.

Sincerely, Daniel Goltz

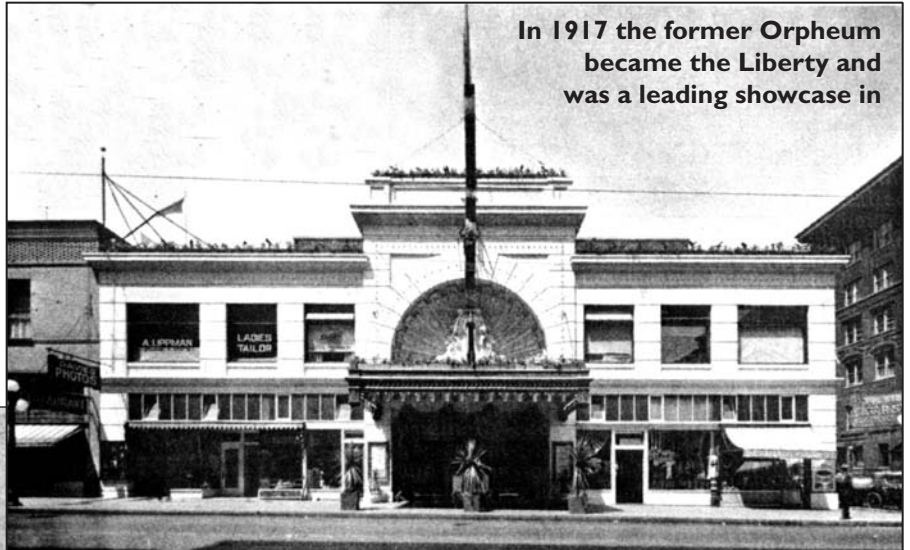


Pages From The Past... From *Console*, November, 1969

Portland's Liberty Theatre had colorful story, several names.

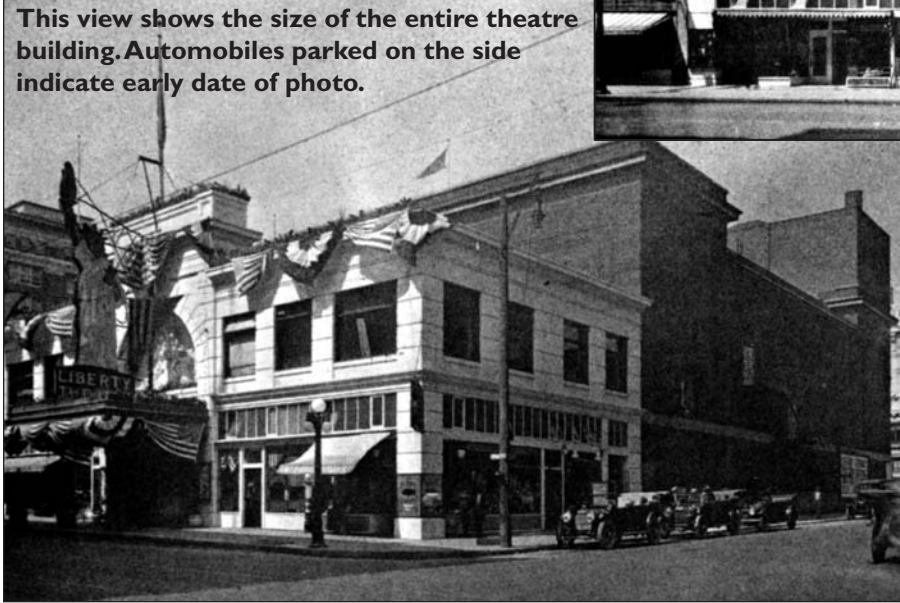
Portland's Liberty Theatre was something of a Wurlitzer history in itself before Harry J. Carruthers came west to take over maintenance of the organs installed in the Jensen-Von Herberg theatre chain.

Opened first as the Orpheum as a two-a-day house in the vast Orpheum circuit of vaudeville theatres in 1912, it was converted to motion pictures in 1916 when the west coast T & D circuit took possession of the building. At this time, Portland's first Wurlitzer organ was installed in the theatre. In 1917 another Wurlitzer was installed when the Jensen-Von Herberg interests assumed operation and renamed it the Liberty.



In 1917 the former Orpheum became the Liberty and was a leading showcase in

This view shows the size of the entire theatre building. Automobiles parked on the side indicate early date of photo.



only natural that Jensen-Von Herberg company was in the frame of mind that was most receptive to a Wurlitzer salesman promoting as large an instrument as possible for the new property. The organ was suited not only for accompanying films, but for solo and concert work as well. The parade of leading console artists who appeared at the theatre is testimonial enough to the fact that the theatre operators wanted the biggest and best.

Being one of the early Wurlitzers it was tuned to A-435 and may have lacked some of the refinements of later models. But what it lacked in this regard, it more than made up for in the theatre when played by the marvelous organists of the day. Portland patrons were well pleased because it is reported the

Then, in 1918, the theatre really hit the big time when the Style 285 4/32 Wurlitzer was moved in. During this period many famous organists such as Henry Murtaugh, Oliver Wallace and Henry Keates presided at the magnificent keydesk. For a two year period the theatre was called the Music Box, but when it closed in 1959, it was once again the Liberty. A view of the theatre under the Music Box banner was used on the front cover of *Marquee*, the journal of the Theatre Historical Society, for the October 1969 issue. Information regarding the many changes in management was taken from *Marquee*.

Constant care was given the big one by Harry J. Carruthers who came west about 1920. The organ filled the theatre unmistakably. While the two-manual instruments that had been installed prior were adequate for playing film accompaniment, the Liberty owners were sold on the idea of something outstanding. Their Seattle Liberty had a large three-manual Wurlitzer which was primarily responsible for establishing the instrument made in North Tonawanda as the leading music maker of its kind to be obtained from any organ builder. And it was

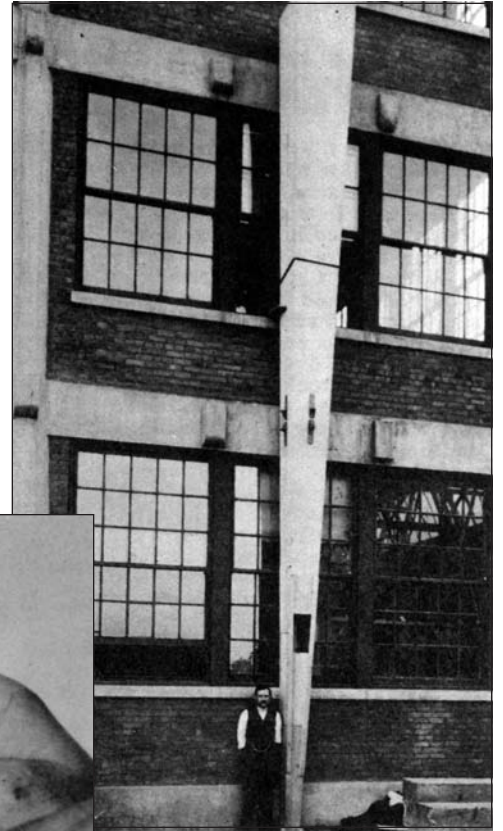


The Portland Liberty Theatre interior during its heyday.

Pages From The Past...continued



LEFT: Console, switchstacks, relays set up on erecting room floor of the Wurlitzer factory for tryout of instrument before it was shipped.



ABOVE: Diaphone on display outside Wurlitzer factory.

LEFT: The smallest pipe in the organ.

BELOW: In 1963 the organ was moved to West Seattle's Granada Theatre by Lou DuMoulin.

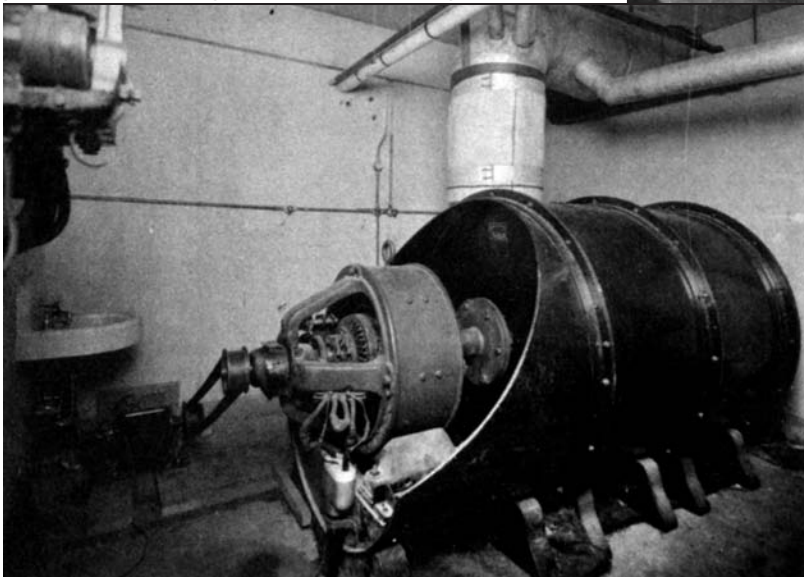


theatre was nearly always filled in those golden days of the silent photoplay.

After the theatre closed, the organ was removed and stored for a number of years in the warehouse of Balcom & Vaughan Pipe Organs, Inc., in Seattle. The console was kept in the main plant on Meridian Street. About 1963 the instrument was purchased by Lou DuMoulin and erected in the former Granada Theatre, a neighborhood house in the south part of Seattle. It became the Granada Organ Loft and was operated as a membership affair for silent film and organ buffs. At the present time [1969] the theatre is operated on Friday and Saturday nights and features silent films and the great Wurlitzer. The programs are attracting sizable audiences and the organ more than adequately fills the theatre with rousing music.

Photos of the Granada installation were borrowed from the Myers Brothers in Portland. The auditorium view was filmed by *The Console*.

BELOW: The large Spencer Orgoblo that produced wind pressure for the organ. Note belt-driven generator at left.



Be sure to consider attending the ATOS National Convention to be held in Tampa, Florida May 24–30. Hear top organists perform on top organs! See sights you'd miss on your own. A terrific way to catch up with theatre organ friends from around the world.

<http://www.atos.org/>

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors

6521 NE 191st ST

Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nathan Avakian and Tyler Pattison gave us a show to remember at Kenyon Hall!

The February sun was brilliant, surely an omen for a brilliant day ahead. And so it was when Nathan Avakian and Tyler Pattison approached the Kenyon Hall Wurlitzer and grand piano

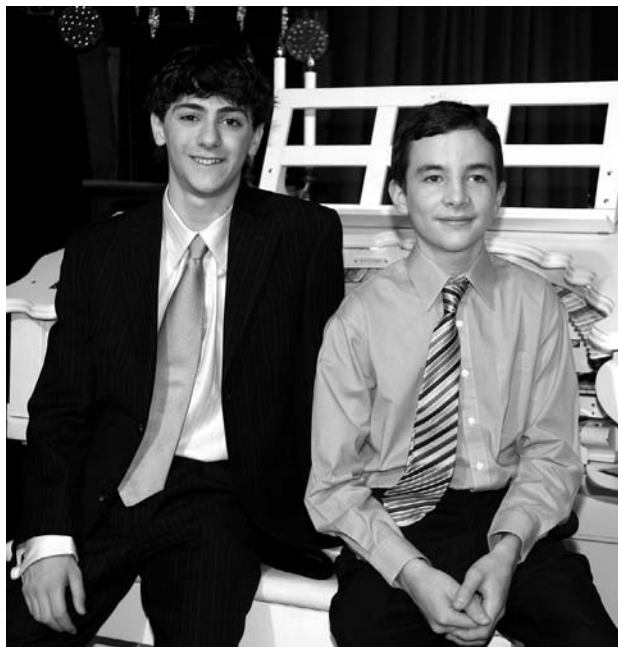
to open together what became an outstanding musical adventure for all. Nathan at 14 and Tyler barely 15, proved their mettle. Announcing their own numbers and taking turns at the console, they presented a program with a wide variety of theatre organ music, well rehearsed and with a professional flair. One PSTOS member said he doesn't recall enjoying a theatre organ program more!

Nathan's teacher/coach, Donna Parker, and Tyler's teacher Don Wallin and coach Jonas Nordwall deserve high marks for guiding these young performers so well.

Many PSTOS thanks to the folks at Kenyon Hall and especially to Tom Roughton who facilitated several rehearsal sessions at the Hall.

We look forward to hearing both Nathan and Tyler many times in the future.

Many thanks for sharing your talents, and great luck to you both!



Nathan (left) and Tyler relax following their outstanding performance.

Photo courtesy of Dottie Pattee, Nathan's grandmother



A highly appreciative audience filled the hall with cheers and a standing ovation following Nathan's & Tyler's rousing duo arrangement of *The Old Piano Roll Blues*.