



PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Volume 26, No. 6 • June 2015

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SECOND CONCERT OF THE 2015 PIPE ORGAN POPS SERIES

MUSIC, by George!

A tribute to the genius of **GEORGE WRIGHT**
and other musical greats named George

George Wright is remembered as one of the most inventive and entertaining theatre organists of the 20th century. Join in celebrating his memorable music, plus other great music "by George," recreated for you by none other than the incomparable...

JONAS NORDWALL at the 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer

Sunday, June 14, 2:00

Calvary Christian Assembly

6801 Roosevelt Way NE • Seattle



JONAS NORDWALL enjoyed a personal friendship with George Wright—and his music—over many years.

Jonas has toured the world playing concerts in theaters and performing arts centers. He has performed in Japan, Europe, and China and has made seven concert tours to Australia.

Nordwall has over 25 highly acclaimed recordings on a variety of labels. His recordings are frequently heard on the internationally syndicated radio show, "Pipedreams."

A Portland native, Nordwall's first musical

studies began at age 4 on the accordion. Besides Portland teachers Joe Parente and Eileen Hagen, he had tutoring sessions with Charles Magnante and Anthony Galla-Rini, two of the twentieth century's most famous accordionists. At the age of 16, Nordwall performed on the accordion for Sweden's King Gustav Adolf.

During the 1970s and early '80s he was senior staff organist for the Organ Grinder Corporation, where he performed in both Portland and Denver on large, personally

custom designed Wurlitzer theatre pipe organs in lavish restaurant settings. He has been a featured artist for many American Theater Organ Society national and regional conventions.

His performances and recordings have created rave reviews, which have stimulated a new interest in the organ. A recent review stated "... if more organ concerts were as carefully programmed and excellently performed, the organ would again be at the forefront of the musical public."

ADMISSION for those not subscribing to the concert series
PSTOS members \$20 • Non-members \$25 • 16 and under free with adult

EZ on-off I-5!
Lots of free parking!
Easy access—no steps!

DRIVE DIRECTIONS **IMPORTANT!** The Calvary parking lot is operated by Diamond, but **parking is free for those attending the concert!**

SOUTHBOUND I-5—Take exit 171 toward NE 71st St/NE 65th St. Merge onto 6th Ave NE. Take a slight left at NE 70th St. Turn right at Roosevelt Way NE. Destination on the right.

NORTHBOUND I-5—Take exit 171 for WA-522/Lake City Way toward Bothell. Take a slight right to NE 73rd St, then the first right onto Roosevelt Way NE. Destination will be on the right.

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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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Gil Drynan, gil@pstos.org • Bob Buchholz, bobb@pstos.org

Jake Cihla, jake@pstos.org • Terry Perdue, terry@pstos.org

COMMITTEES

Organ Restoration & Maintenance—Bob Zat

Program Coordinating Team—

Bob Buchholz, Jo Ann Evans, Barb Graham, Ray Harris,

Susan Buchholz, Jamie Snell, Jeff Snyder, Bob Zat

Scholarships—Carl Dodrill, carl@pstos.org

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Facebook—Lisa Kuhn, Jeff Snyder

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

Pipeline Editors—Russ & Jo Ann Evans, joann@pstos.org

Pipeline Online Website—Tom Blackwell, tom@pstos.org

LIAISONS

AMICA & POF—Carl Dodrill

Haller Lake Community Club—Bob Zat

Paramount Theatre—Phil Hargiss

Washington Center—Andy Crow

Calvary Christian Assembly—Jeff Snyder

AGO—David Locke

JOINING PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY IS QUICK AND EASY!

For a one year household membership, send a \$25 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, your email address, and your phone number to:

PSTOS, Jon Beveridge, Treasurer

9594 1st Ave. NE #453,

Seattle WA 98115-2012

OR...you may securely join PSTOS or renew your membership ONLINE!

Go to: www.pstos.org

Click on "Join PSTOS."

Secure!

No checks!

No stamps!

A few clicks and it's done!



PRESIDENT'S Message

June is going to be a great month to hear the theatre organ and a variety of theatre organists in Seattle. The big event, as you've no doubt noticed on the cover of the Pipeline, is the second concert in our Pipe Organ Pops! series featuring Jonas Nordwall's "Music, by George" concert at Calvary Christian Assembly on June 14. Invite a friend to hear Jonas. It's going to be a great afternoon of music. Starting the month on June 1, Walt Strony will be back in Seattle, but this time at the Paramount playing for the silent movie "The Mark of Zorro." Chris Elliott, Tedde Gibson, and Donna Parker will each take a turn at the Paramount's Wurlitzer console playing for silent movies in the series celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Martin Scorsese's The Film Foundation. Check out the schedule for Trader Joe's Silent Movie Mondays at <http://www.stgpresents.org/paramount/calendar/monthcalendar/2015/6/-June>

June will continue to be a big month of work on the pipe organs in the care of PSTOS. Most of the action is taking place at Haller Lake. Russ Evans, Bob Zat, and Greg Smith have been busy getting the Ray Whelpley console and relay working with the Haller Lake Wurlitzer. We look forward to hearing it again with Pete Eveland at the console in August. Minor maintenance work was also done in May at Calvary as some wind leaks had come up in the the original wind lines of the organ. As any of you know that own or have owned a pipe organ, these instruments do not take care of themselves and take much time and money. Donations are still needed to keep both these instruments ready to be played. Please consider helping us continue the work by visiting <http://www.pstos.org/features/calvary/> to give. The default donation from this page goes to the Calvary project but if you prefer to give toward Haller Lake, use the "Add special instructions to the seller" section to note your gift is for Haller Lake. Donations can be sent by mail to: Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society 9594 1st Ave. NE #453 Seattle, WA 98115-2012. All gifts are tax deductible.

Finally a bit of housekeeping... As we have moved to sending membership renewal notices via email for those who have email, quite a few of you, thirty to be exact, are still needing to renew in order to continue your membership. Please be watching your "inbox" or possibly your "junk mail" box for an email from me. Sometimes emails are more easily lost than regular mail so if you think you may be overdue and want to check, please send me a message at jeff@pstos.org and I will let you know.

...Jeff Snyder, President



PSTOS Coming Events

▶ JONAS NORDWALL



The 2nd of the 2015 "Pipe Organ Pops!" series

Sun., June 14, 2 PM

Calvary Christian Assembly

▶ Catered Italian dinner with

PETE EVELAND at

the HLCC Wurlitzer

Plus RAY HARRIS and his accordion.

Sunday, August 9, 5PM

Haller Lake Community Club



▶ JOHN ATWELL, from Melbourne,

Australia, and the 3rd of the 2015 "Pipe Organ Pops!" series

Sun., Sept. 27, 2 PM

Calvary Christian Assembly



▶ Tribute to ANDY CROW

Remembering Andy's lifetime of dedication to the theatre organ.

This event was originally planned in 2013 but but was canceled due to Andy's health. We are happy to be able to reschedule it!



Sat., Oct 24

Bill Keller home, Olympia

▶ HOLIDAYS at HALLER —Our own

JAMIE SNELL will headline the day with "Old Fashioned Christmas Fun, Music and Grand Singalong!"

Our PSTOS holiday celebration returns to HLCC with music, food, fun, and camaraderie.

Sun., December 6, 2 PM

Haller Lake Community Club





TRADER JOE'S SILENT MOVIE MONDAYS JUNE SERIES

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Celebrating the 25th anniversary of Martin Scorsese's "The Film Foundation"

Film price \$10. All films at 7:00PM.

All films in this series accompanied by the Mighty Wurlitzer.

June 1 — *THE MARK OF ZORRO*
Accompanied by Walt Strony

June 8 — *MY BEST GIRL*
Accompanied by Christian Elliott

June 15 — *THE UNHOLY THREE*
Accompanied by Tedde Gibson

June 22 — *SNOW WHITE*
Accompanied by Donna Parker

The post-screening CineClub in the Paramount bar is a community discussion about the film, covering silent film trivia questions and exploring silent film in general. Led by a film industry specialist, it takes place following each film. All ages welcome.

From the MAILBOX

Thought you might like to see the poster for our August show. Jeff Fox canceled as he is moving to South Dakota at the end of this month. May 24th at the Raymond will be his farewell performance.

Nick who will be accompanying "The General" at the Centralia Fox, is blind. He will be assisted a little by his wife who will tell him the timing. He knows the story well and has been doing dry runs so it should be great.

Fred Beeks

2015 FOX THEATRE FILM SERIES!

Fred & Eva Beeks Present



The classic silent film
"THE GENERAL"
with original score, played by Nick Nicolai
on the Fox Theatre's Wurlitzer

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 - 2PM & 7PM
\$8 - SINGLE | \$20 - FAMILY 3-4 persons

ONLY AT THE **FOX THEATRE**
123 S TOWER AVE • DOWNTOWN CENTRALIA
TICKETS: HUBBUB, BOOK 'N' BRUSH, HOLLEY'S PLACE, SANTA LUCIA, POSTNET
www.brownpapertickets.com

POSTNET

ATOS Annual Convention July 2-7, Philadelphia, PA

ORGANISTS

Jonas Nordwall	Dick Smith
Peter Conte	John Baratta
Ron Rhode	Hector Olivera
Mark Herman	Simon Gledhill
David Peckham	Richard Hills
Andrew Van Varick	Dr. Steven Ball
Dave Wickerham	Don Kinnier
Lance Luce	

VENUES

Longwood Gardens	Grand Theatre
Colonial Theatre	Broadway Theatre
Dickinson High School	Boardwalk Hall
Wanamaker organ (Macy's)	

Don't delay—make your reservations NOW!
This will be a truly phenomenal event!

For all the details, click here:

<http://www.atos.org/2015-convention>



**Welcome back
to two former
PSTOS members**

Ed & Sharon Axton, Everett

Vince Fryer, Mt. Vernon

Kirkland's Gateway Theatre — what did its Kimball pipe organ cost? This info from the internet; more on page 5.

Kirkland's Gateway Theatre was originally named the Jackson. In 1918, it was purchased by J.E. Ring and reopened as Ring's Theatre. The next year the name was changed to the Gateway Theatre. In 1926, the Kirkland Theatre Building, Inc. was formed and the theater was rebuilt in brick. The new theatre opened with a \$10,000 Kimball pipe organ on November 23, 1926.

Disaster struck in 1930, when a fire seriously damaged the theatre. It was repaired, and in 1936 the facade was completely remodeled in a streamlined fashion. It was again remodeled in 1945.

The Gateway Theatre went through many troubles in the 1950s, closing for months at a time. Its last movie was shown around 1958. In 1963 it was converted to a performance arts theatre and renamed Theatre East. It closed for good in 1968 and was converted to stores. It was located at 110 Central Way.



Gateway Theatre with the Kirkland Fire Department. Date unknown. From the PSTOS website.

PAGES FROM THE PAST... *Treasures from the Archives*

Tense moments in the pipe organ industry...

The following correspondence between representatives of the W.W. Kimball Co. and others provide insight into shenanigans engaged in by both manufacturers and purchasers of theatre pipe organs in the 1920s.

ORGAN DEPT. W. W. KIMBALL CO. CHICAGO

Mr. George J. Bohen,
San Francisco

April 7, 1925

Dear Mr. Bohen:

If you have an opportunity to get hold of a reputed photostatic copy of a letter from the National Theatres Corporation or one of the Cooney brothers referring to the Stratford Theatre, Chicago, and stated to me to have been gotten out by Wurlitzer here, I shall greatly appreciate either receipt of the copy itself or a sworn statement of its contents from your personal reading of same.

Briefly, the circumstances are these. Our finest organ in Chicago is the Stratford, built for friendly people who later sold out to a firm that has been thick with the Wurlitzer crowd, members of which are said to have stated immediately they got the house that they were going to have Wurlitzer make an organ of our instrument.

Later this was one of seven or eight houses in Chicago compelled to rebuild the stage and provide a steel fire proof curtain in accordance with an ordinance which had not been strictly enforced. This was the moving cause in the rebuilding of three other organs, including the Senate and Pantheon which we have done, this having been necessary on account of reconstruction of the theatre.

Mr. Terry, a friend of ours and president of the Chicago Society of Organists which holds its meetings in Kimball Hall, is organist of the Stratford. He called me up at home late one night to know if I could help him as the organ was full of runs ciphers and silent notes. I was staggered, and drew out of him the fact that the owners had the house electrician and some aids cut our cable and splice it with crude methods. He said they claim to have telephoned me and secured my permission. They had not telephoned or communicated with anybody in our company. Mr. Fridlund immediately made an inspection and brought samples of the work down here, and we served formal notice on them, through our attorneys, that we hold them responsible for all damage to the organ and required them to place the matter in our hands, and stated further that we would not touch it until the other people got off and until the tearing up process was completed, other than that we would send a man out to clean up the worst of it from day to day. All that was necessary was to cut off the cable and pull it through and reconnect it to our union board as a regular job, there being plenty of extra length.

In addition to the mess they made of the action, they cut out plaster and put steel beams across the organ chambers over the organ, built forms and poured concrete around these beams without even putting a tarpaulin over the pipes, with the result that we have in the office samples of pure tin strings with the mouths completely plugged up with splashes of wet concrete which has hardened in the pipes. Not only did they mess up the pipes with concrete but they trod all over them and smashed them by the dozen.

They asked us to keep the organ in shape it is true, and we told them officially what we would do about it.

About this time reports began to come in to us from people who claim to have seen a photostatic copy of a letter written by these people to Wurlitzer, telling them that our organ was more or less of a wreck and that we couldn't seem to make it play, and asking Wurlitzer to send out some competent man so that they could get some use out of their Kimball. Of course the circumstances were perfectly known to Wurlitzer, and if my several trustworthy informants told the truth, it was a very dirty piece of business. I have not been able to see a copy of this letter. I do not care to take any steps until I have either seen it or somebody has given me a sworn statement of seeing and reading it, together with a summary of the contents. It is very likely that such a letter would be furnished to Wurlitzer branches around the country and be used against us where we are most active, therefore I think that you and Mr. Balcom [of Balcom & Vaughan Pipe Organs in Seattle] might get track of it. Will you see what you can do?

Yours very truly,
Manager Organ Department
W.W. Kimball Company

Copies to: Mr. C.M. Balcom, Mr. S.W. Williams, Mr. W.B. Milner

PAGES FROM THE PAST... *Continued*

In 1927, the owner of Kirkland's Gateway Theatre tried to avoid paying the freight on his new Kimball organ.

Gateway Theatre
Kirkland, Wash.

Jan 12th, 1927

To: W. W. Kimball Company

Dear Sirs:

Am enclosing a copy of a letter – this was the agreement on which I bought my organ. Mr. Balcom told me there would be no freight charges. I was to get the organ for \$4,500.00 installed.

When the organ arrived Mr. Balcom O.K.'d the freight bill, I paid it, which was \$350.00 and \$20.00 for draying.

My second payment was to be \$450.00. I am deducting freight and drayage charges and sending \$100.00 for second payment which includes \$20.00 interest and am also sending \$150.00 for the third payment.

When I received the contract from the Company and saw there was a clause about the freight I drew Mr. Balcom's attention to it and he said, "Oh, I'll fix that up right away." I have never seen Mr. Balcom since he installed the organ although I have left word for him to call.

Please send me a receipt in full for the amount that has been paid, and oblige.

Sincerely,

J. PAULY

W.W. Kimball Co.
Chicago, Ill.

January 27, 1927

Attention: Mr. Blanchard

Dear sir:

In reply to your letter regarding the Kirkland, Washington, deal, Mr. Pauly, our purchasing friend, is wrong and you should know that unless I make a change in the contract the deal remains as it is on paper.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to him, correcting the things he surely must have known all of the time. He paid a great portion of the tin bill and hired another concern to finish, and why he is trying to dodge around paying for the work he should pay for is a mystery to me. Regarding the Mercantile Collection Co., I never heard of them, I promised payment to no one connected with them, or did I hire tinnners to do work.

I will follow this deal up upon my return to Seattle, unless you receive the amount due you from Pauly.

You must have heard from Mr. Bruen by this time. He received the money needed to close up our accounts about ten days ago. He accepted our discount. His three houses and also Mr. Stradley's houses were purchased by the Universal Co. Have you received this money and have you heard from J. Danz?

Respectfully yours,
C. M. Balcom

June 5th, 1927

Mr. Jacob Pauly
Gateway Theatre
Kirkland, Wash.

Dear Mr. Pauly:

In our conversation on May 23rd you asked to have me look up the letter I gave you upon the signing of the Gateway contract, to see if I had not included freight as a concession from our company. I told you at that time there was no agreement on my part to pay the freight as all of our merchandise is sold with the purchaser paying all transportation and hoisting charges. You asked me to send you this letter, you will find it enclosed together with a copy of the complete specifications and contract.

I have tried to be very fair in this matter and you state that you are very well pleased with your organ and installation and I believe in all fairness to the Kimball Company you should take care of this matter by bringing your account up to date. The amount due to date including interest is \$582.88. I have promised the Chicago office an early reply on this matter so please let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,
C. M. Balcom

The enormous Kimball factory consumed 17 acres on Chicago's southwest side near 32nd and California Streets. Proclaimed the world's largest piano and organ factory, it contained 850,000 square feet of floor space.

