PUGET SOUND
PIPELINE
Volume 26, No.8 • August 2015 www.pstos.org • www.facebook.com/pstos

PLEASE** help us with food and seating by **RESERVING NOW!

Your hosts thank you!

Old fashioned summertime ICE CREAM SOCIAL

With **PETE EVELAND**

at the Evans' 3/18 Wurlitzer

6521 NE 191st Street • Kenmore WA

Plus

RAY HARRIS

with jazz-and-more accordion music while you enjoy ice cream and camaraderie on the patio

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2PM

ADMISSION

PSTOS members $10 • Non-members $15

16 and under free with adult

Seating is limited to the first 50 who reserve.

Please reserve at joann@pstos.org

*or directly with Russ or Jo Ann at **425-485-5465.***

Leave message with name, phone and number in your party.

Hailing from the midwest, Pete has enjoyed numerous musical experiences including organist/pianist/calliope player on the Mississippi Delta Queen, organist for the Cincinnatti Bengals and the Cincinnati Stingers hockey team, staff organist for the Wurlitzer Organ Co., and more. We once again welcome Pete to the Evans Wurlitzer and look forward to an entertaining afternoon of music and fun.

***Drive directions to the Evans home** • 6521 NE 191st St. in Kenmore • 425-485-5465*

From I-5 take EXIT #175 eastbound onto NE 145th St., drive 1.4 mi. to Bothell Way. Turn left (north) on Bothell Way, driving around the north end of the lake 3.0 mi. to 68th NE. Turn left (north) on 68th and drive 1/2 mi. to NE 190th St. Turn left (west) on NE 190th, drive one short block to NE 191st St. Turn left, drive one long block to a cul-de-sac on the left marked Dead End, also NE 191st St. Turn left into the cul-de-sac. The Evans home is the first on the left. Park in drive or on street.

From I-405 take EXIT #23 westbound toward Bothell, drive 5 miles, staying on Hwy 522, to the main light in Kenmore at 68th NE. Turn right (north), and continue as above where underlined.

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

VOL. 26, NO. 8 – AUGUST 2015

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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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PSTOS EVENT SPONSORS

2015 series

John Atwell, Sept. 27
Sponsored by Russ & Jo Ann Evans

2016 series

March 6— Simon Gledhill
Sponsored anonymously

May 15—Ken Double
Sponsor needed for this event.

September 11—David Gray
Sponsored by Gil Drynan

October 16—Dave Wickerham
Sponsored anonymously in memory of R. W. 'Put' Putney

Your $500 sponsorship is tax deductible. *Contact Jon Beveridge at jon@pstos.org to become a sponsor. If you prefer to remain anonymous, just let Jon know.*

PRESIDENT'S *Message*

What a summer! In the Seattle area the summer got off to a wonderful start with both the Jonas Nordwall concert and the June Silent Movie Monday series at the Paramount Theatre. I just received the attendance numbers from the movie series and between the four films, 3980 people heard the Mighty Wurlitzer under four different organists. What always amazes me is the number of people who raise their hand each week that have never been to a silent movie before. It's in the hundreds. As I work at the table in the lobby, there are also many patrons who are regulars to the silent movies. Some are there mainly for the movies, but many love hearing the music just as much. The challenge is to get those music lovers to a PSTOS event. The program committee is working on making that step easier. Any ideas you have would be welcome.

I want to thank the four generous members who have offered to sponsor upcoming concerts in our annual concert series. We are so fortunate to have so many members dedicated to both preserving the theatre organ and presenting it to the public. The sponsorships allow us to continue to invite world-class musicians to play concerts for us and to keep the organ in concert-ready condition. Sponsorships also give us the opportunity to be more creative in both publicizing and promoting the series so that more people can hear the music we love. Thank you! One 2016 program still needs a sponsor. Please contact PSTOS treasurer Jon Beveridge if you can help. If you have any ideas or contacts that could help the program committee promote or publicize the concert series, please contact me.

I truly hope you enjoy the rest of the summer. Invite a friend to help celebrate Fred Beeks' 80th birthday at the Fox Theatre in Centralia on August 8 with a showing of *The General*. Enjoy Pete Eveland on August 9 at the Evans' Wurlitzer.

…Jeff Snyder, President

PSTOS *Coming Events*

Old fashioned Ice Cream Social with PETE EVELAND at the Evans Wurlitzer
Plus **RAY HARRIS** and his accordion.

Sunday, August 9, 2 PM

Home of Russ & Jo Ann Evans in Kenmore

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

Exciting programs ahead in 2016!

March 6—SIMON GLEDHILL, CCA
May 15—KEN DOUBLE, CCA
July 17—PAUL QUARINO,
Merlyn Johnson home, Tacoma
September 11—DAVID GRAY, CCA
Ocober 16—DAVE WICKERHAM, CCA
December 4—Holiday party, HLCC

ATOS Convention is Big! Review and photos by Jamie Snell

This year's ATOS convention, based in Philadelphia from July 2 - 7, certainly lived up to its title: "It's Something Big!" Perhaps the most noteworthy attractions were concerts on the world's two largest organs, based on numbers of pipes: the Wanamaker Organ at Macy's in Philadelphia (6 manuals, 463 ranks, built by Los Angeles Art Organ and others, 28,677 pipes, fully functional); and the Boardwalk Hall Auditorium Organ in Atlantic City (7/449 Midmer-Losh, 33,114 pipes, about 25% functional). But the week offered the 470+ attendees much more; following are notes on the main events.

Thursday, July 2 – Overture Day (optional)

• Concert by Jonas Nordwall at the 4/146 Aeolian in the Ballroom at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. Highlights included George L. Cobb's "Russian Rag," based on Rachmaninoff's C-sharp minor Prelude. The event included free time to tour the gardens.

• Concert by Peter Conte at the 6/463 Wanamaker Organ at Macy's, including the "Overture to Candide," "Ride of the Valkyries," and "Carmen Suite."

Friday, July 3

• The formal Membership Meeting, at which was announced the election of Michael Fellenzer to Chairman of the Board, followed by reports from the Board and discussion of many topics including the recent leadership retreat.

• Concert by Ron Rhode at the 2/8 Wurlitzer in Macy's Greek Hall. Tied for this reviewer's favorite concert, being 100% top-of-the-line pops, never too loud, played flawlessly and with taste.

• Concert by Mark Herman at the 3/24 Wurlitzer at the Colonial Theater in Phoenixville, PA. Marvelous stage presence; highlights included a medley from "Peter Pan" and the artist's own "Jarvis."

• Concert by David Peckham at the 3/66 Kimball at Dickinson High School in Wilmington, DE. Highlights included a medley from "Damn Yankees" and Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance." Unexpected was the full-length "Peter and the Wolf," with percussion by Cathy Peckham and narration by Bill Coale.

Saturday, July 4

• Membership forum, an informal meeting with continued discussion, notably on the need for improved communication with chapters.

• Young Artist Competition at the 3/24 Wurlitzer at the Colonial Theater. The competitors were Seamus Gethicker (16), Ryan Hardy (17), and Dan Minervini (21), who was declared the winner.

• Concert by Andrew Van Varick, last year's winner of the competition.

• Concert by Dave Wickerham at the 3/66 Kimball at Dickinson High School. Tied for this reviewer's favorite concert, being nearly 100% top-of-the-line pops, including an Irving Berlin medley, and hilariously "Winter Wonderland." The audience was enraptured by Wickerham's spontaneity and enthusiasm.

Sunday, July 5

• Concert by Lance Luce at the Allen digital organ in Octave Hall at the Allen Organ Co. in Macungie, PA.

• Silent film beautifully accompanied by John Baratta at the 3/13 Marr & Colton at the Grand Theater in East Greenville, PA: "Go West," starring Buster Keaton (1925).

• Awards banquet at Sunnybrook Ballroom, Pottstown, PA, with fine background music by Dick Smith at the 3/14 U.S. Pipe Organ. Organist of the Year was awarded to the youthful Scottish artist David Gray.

Monday, July 6

• Seminar on Bill Coale's forthcoming definitive biography of George Wright.

• Concert by Hector Olivera at the 3/66 Kimball at Dickinson High School. Highlights were "Body and Soul" in the style of Buddy Cole and "Kitten on the Keys," both delightfully understated.

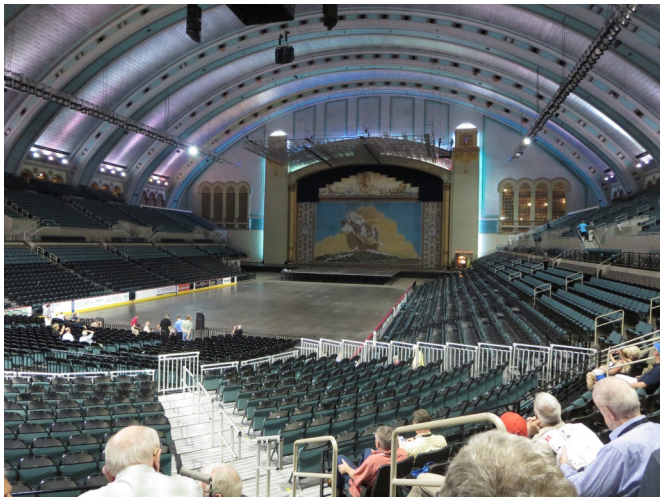
• A brief and fully explicated tourist ride on the historic Wilmington & Western Railroad, pulled by a steam locomotive complete with cinders.

• Concert by Simon Gledhill and Richard Hills at the 3/66 Kimball at Dickinson High School, mainly duets with the artists at separate consoles, sometimes one at the piano. The two UK performers displayed their usual exquisite taste, precision, and wit.

Tuesday, July 7 – Encore Day (optional)

• Brief concert and sing-along by Don Kinnier at the 3/8 Kimball at the Broadway Theater in Pitman, NJ, followed by an artfully accompanied silent film: "One Week," starring Buster Keaton (1920).

• Concert by Steven Ball at the 7/449 Midmer-Losh in the Boardwalk Hall Auditorium Organ in Atlantic City: Widor's "Organ Symphony No. 5." Given that only 25% of the organ is functional, one could only imagine quadruple the sound in this extraordinary venue with a concert seating capacity of 14,770.



• Concert by Steven Ball at the 4/55 Kimball in the Boardwalk Hall Ballroom.

A full report on the convention will be published in the forthcoming issue of Theatre Organ magazine.

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

As seen in *The Seattle Times* July 16, 1913

What happened to the Colonial's organ? See next page...

THE PICTURE PLAY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

COLONIAL THEATRE

Fourth Ave. at Pike St.

Fourth Ave. at Pike St

OPENS TONIGHT

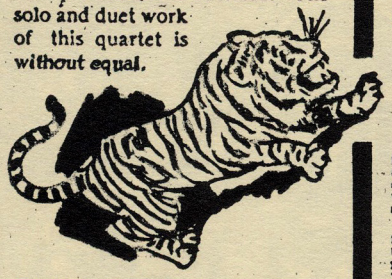
DOORS OPEN 7:45 — FIRST PERFORMANCE PROMPTLY AT 8 P. M.

The management of the Colonial Theatre opens its doors to the public tonight with this brief statement: We have erected the best picture playhouse on the Pacific Coast. No expense has been spared in its construction, every known device for the comfort of our patrons being installed. The ventilating system supplies a continuous supply of fresh air. The lighting facilities are perfect. The decorations are beautiful, but withal subdued and restful—the Colonial idea being followed throughout.

In our programs we will place before the public nothing but the best, our aim being to make this the cleanest amusement place possible. We have secured for the opening the most wonderful three-reel feature ever produced: "THE TIGER LILY." In this play, the human passions, from tender love to intense hatred, are portrayed with such clearness and fidelity to life as to hold an audience spell bound from beginning to end.

COLONIAL QUARTET

We have worked for months to organize a quartet that would be just a little better than any other, going to Chicago for the tenor and Boston for the bass, and as a result we have an organization as near perfect as can be made. The solo and duet work of this quartet is *without equal.*



THE TIGER LILY IN PITTSBURGH

Writing from Pittsburgh a well-known Seattle business man has this to say: "I saw the 'Tiger Lily' tonight, and it is easily in the lead—the best production I have ever seen. You are fortunate in being able to secure it for your opening night."

PROGRAM

—OF—

EXTRAORDINARY MERIT

—FEATURING—

The Tiger Lily

IN THREE REELS

Synopsis: Cleo Morin, thinking her husband is neglecting her for his work and their little daughter, elopes with Henri Mordan. Her husband is seriously injured and later with his daughter moves to another country. Ten years later Cleo has become a popular actress and wealthy. She buys a country home. Among many of her admirers is Sidney Breton, who in response to her inquiry as to a suitable costume for a mask ball, suggests that she go dressed as "The Tiger Lily," which she does, accompanied by a Bengal tiger.

Her former husband moves to the same place and unknowingly takes a villa adjoining hers. Cleo's admirer falls in love with Nina, Cleo's daughter, now grown to womanhood. She becomes jealous of her and plans revenge, not knowing that she is her daughter. The tiger, playing an important part, is about to attack her, when Nina's father discovers who the two women are. The play ends with love and right enthroned.

A Beautiful Scenic
"MANFREDONIA, SOUTHERN ITALY"

Two Corking Good Comedies—
"BUILDING A TRUST" — and — "WHEN LOVE LOSES OUT"

1,000 SEATS

All on One Floor

This is the largest one-floor house in the West. The stage and floor can be plainly seen from every seat, not a pillar being used in any part of the auditorium.

LADIES' REST ROOM

In the balcony, over the front entrance, a parlor and rest room have been provided for the exclusive use and comfort of lady patrons. Splendidly furnished, it is an inviting place to spend a quiet half hour.

Permanent Engagement of Louis Dimond

Louis Dimond has but few equals on the keyboard. His versatility as a soloist includes the better class of lighter compositions and the entire range to the greater masterpieces, which he performs with faultless technique and marvelous power. His improvisations accompanying the moving pictures are the work of a genius in the realm of instrumental music.—From The Seattle Times, July 6, 1913.

ALL SEATS 10 CENTS

CHILDREN 5 CENTS

PAGES FROM THE PAST... *Continued*

Seattle's Colonial Theatre had two organs, a Kimball, then a Wurlitzer

The original Colonial Theatre organ was a 3/27 Kimball. In 1916 it was moved to the Mission Covenant Church on Capitol Hill.

The Kimball was then replaced with a 2-manual 7-rank Wurlitzer. A tibia was added later.

The Wurlitzer was removed in 1931 to radio station KOL, then later bought by Don Myers. The Wurlitzer console went to Paul Turchan of Portland.

The Colonial had a seating capacity of 700.

News from 1971... reprinted from *The Console*, August 1971

DESIGNER OF MORTON DIES

Stanley Williams, designer and builder of the first Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ, died June 25th [1971] at his home in Santa Monica, Calif, at the age of 90. In failing health for several years, Mr. Williams was one of the most respected organ men in the industry.

Learning the organ trade while under apprenticeship to Robert Hope-Jones in England, he came to the United States, early in this century, and ultimately became head voicer for the Murray M. Harris Organ Company in Los Angeles. This firm, with subsequent changes in ownership and name, eventually became the Robert-Morton Pipe Organ Company.

With A E. Spencer, who was superintendent of the Harris Company, Mr. Williams installed the classic organs in early Los Angeles theatres. Some of the instruments he erected were in Tally's Broadway, the Garrick and Woodley's theatres.

In 1917, Harry Werner, the man responsible for organizing the American Photoplayer Co. in Berkeley, realized "Fotoplayers" were losing out on sales to the Wurlitzer firm's new pipe organ built expressly for theatres. He began a search for a company that could build similar instruments. His quest ended at the California Organ Company in Van Nuys, Calif., which had a large building and the facilities to produce a suitable instrument for movie houses.

But more than this, Werner discovered that Mr. Williams had the knowledge to build a unit pipe organ that would be competitive with the Wurlitzer product.

A merger was arranged between the two firms and Mr. Williams was named plant superintendent and authorized to design and build a theatre-type instrument which was subsequently named the Robert-Morton. The first Morton was installed in a theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., and saw many years of service.

Many of the first Morton organs were sold to the Alexander Pantages Theatre chain and were installed in under-stage chambers. The early instruments were half straight and half unit affairs. One organ still remains partially installed in the Los Angeles Warren's Theatre. This organ was erected in the theatre in 1920 and the console remains in the orchestra pit. [1971]

Just prior to the reorganization of the firm in 1924, Mr. Williams resigned to join the W. W. Kimball Company as west coast representative and was responsible for some of the big installations made in the Southern California area by the Chicago-based firm.

After a short time with Kimball, he was offered and accepted a similar position with the Aeolian Organ Company, which shortly merged with the E.M. Skinner Company. He remained with Aeolian-Skinner during the rest of his business career and was responsible for the many contracts for the company's instruments installed in the west.

Although he designed and was the man who built a great many theatre instruments, Mr. Williams admitted that he was never truly satisfied with the theatre organ as it first went into theatres. "They were nothing but noise makers and I was glad to return to the field of classic organs," he told *The Console* several years ago when being interviewed for a history of the Robert-Morton Company.

His career of organ building and installing took him to India for one job. He installed a player pipe organ for the Maharajah of Mysore. One of the first shocks he had during the job was seeing the console for the organ unloaded from a ship and pulled, upside down, by an elephant to its location inside the palace.

Mr. Williams is survived by his wife, three children and six grandchildren.

Remembering NORMAN MILLER 1926 – 2015

Norman passed away peacefully at his home overlooking Puget Sound on July 3rd at age 89.

Joining PSTOS 35 years ago in 1980, he served as treasurer for many years.

Passionate about helping young people further their musical training, he was an ever-active member of the PSTOS Scholarship Committee, a position he held until the time of his death.

The 7-rank classical pipe organ installed in his home was his pride and joy and he spent countless enjoyable hours seated at its console.

PSTOS sympathy is extended to his many friends and family members. We'll miss his friendliness and warm smile at events.

Coming September 27!

Final concert in the 2015 series PIPE ORGAN POPS!

From Melbourne, Australia

John Atwell

plays the 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2:00

Calvary Christian Assembly
6801 Roosevelt Way NE • Seattle

JOHN ATWELL has entertained theatre organ audiences for more than 40 years in Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Canada and New Zealand. His playing style is not easily pigeonholed, but reflects the diversity of his musical experience. He is known for the popular piano/organ duo concerts presented with Tony Fenelon, his friend and musical colleague for nearly 40 years. The well-known duo presented the opening concert of the 2010 American Theatre Organ Society convention at Seattle's Paramount Theatre. John is a house organist at the Regent Theatre, Melbourne, home to the 4/36 Wurlitzer previously installed in San Francisco's Paramount Theatre. Retired from a career as a medical research scientist, he enjoys being able to spend more time with music. He has a doctorate in immunology, has published numerous scientific papers and has several patents. He has found retirement does not necessarily mean you have more time on your hands. "I think I need to go back to work full-time for a break," he says.

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

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER BONUS OFFER

Buy a ticket and bring a non-member friend for free!

*Buy a ticket and get a free ticket for your **NON-PSTOS-MEMBER friend!** If you're a season ticket holder, ask at the lobby table for your special bonus ticket!*

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 70 Continue onto 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.