

# PUGET SOUND PUBLINE

Volume 31, Nos. 5 – 6 • May – June 2020

www.pstos.org

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### TENTATIVE 2020 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Watch your inbox for any changes due to the coronavirus



### PIPES and PIE

Featuring

Jamie Snell • Jo Ann Evans

Estelle McMaster

TENTATIVELY RESCHEDULED FOR JULY 26

Haller Lake Community Club



# JUSTIN STAHL at CCA

TO BE RESCHEDULED
DATE TBD

Originally scheduled
April 25

Sadly for Justin, his six-concert tour of Australia has been postponed until 2021.

# SIMON GLEDHILL at CCA

TO BE RESCHEDULED DATE TBD

Originally scheduled
June 27



Simon lives in the U.K., and was to be in the U.S. for the ATOS convention, now postponed until 2021.

### **BRETT VALLIANT**

Merlyn Johnson residence Tacoma

**STILL ON AS OF NOW** 

Sunday, September 13



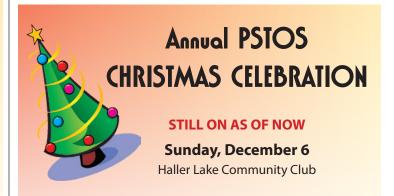
Brett has recently joined the Staff Organist team at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, AZ.



# CLARK WILSON at CCA

STILL ON AS OF NOW Saturday, October 24

We're looking forward to hearing Clark perform at CCA.



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Published by

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Seattle, WA 98133-9329

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization furthering the appreciation, restoration, and use of the historic Theatre Pipe Organs of the 1920s, through education.

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AMICA, POF, and AGO—Carl Dodrill Haller Lake Community Club—Bob Zat Paramount Theatre—Phil Hargiss Calvary Christian Assembly—Jeff Snyder

#### JOINING PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY IS FAST AND EASY!

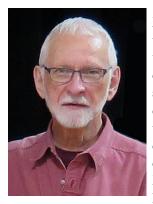
Simply click on the link below and select your preferred level of membership.

- Secure!
- No checks!
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- A few clicks and it's done!

http://www.pstos.org/membership/ new-member.htm

# DRESIDENT'S Message

# Greetings to all PSTOS members, families and friends.



Since my last message touting our upcoming concert series and other chapter events, things have dramatically changed, haven't they! First of all I

hope everyone is safe, well, and not going "stir crazy" while maintaining a safe distance from others and staying at home unless you need to go out. Please, be sure to wear a face mask if you are going to be interacting with others wherever it may be. There are some really creative custom designed masks available for sale on the web that would enhance anyone's wardrobe.

In the face of this pandemic and upon the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, along with recommendations from the Governor of the State of Washington, PSTOS postponed the first two programs in the 2020 concert series. Justin Stahl, who was to perform on April 25th, will be rescheduled for a 2021 performance, date yet to be determined. Simon Gledhill was to be the second Series performer on June 27th in advance of his attending the ATOS national convention in July but that convention has now been postponed until 2021. Simon lives in the UK and his concert schedule and travel plans for 2021 are unknown. We can only hope he will attend the rescheduled convention in 2021, then we shall see if he can visit Seattle for a program either before or after the convention. No promises on this!

Still scheduled is Clark Wilson's program at CCA on October 24th.

However this program could be subject to change at any time.

The PSTOS program planning committee is busy trying to tentatively rebook venues and shuffle artists' dates, working around their schedules, up in the air at this time. This is a continuous work in progress!

The committee is working hard to accommodate the constant changes we're all experiencing. So please watch for notifications regarding all future events. We will send updates as needed.

Just because we are homebound doesn't mean there are no opportunities to listen to Theatre Organ music and view performances. You can google "youtube theatre organ" and a list of performances by a variety of artists will be revealed. Also:

Hot Pipes at

https://www.hotpipes.eu/

ATOS radio at

https://atosradio.org/atosradio/land-ings.html

Mark Herman recently presented a program on the 3/19 1928 Wurlitzer that lived on the Alfred Newman Scoring Stage of Fox Studios in LA and now has been meticulously restored and has begun its second life in film music installed in Bandrika Studios, LA.

Here is a link to information about the studio and organ:

https://www.facebook.com/Bandrika-Studios/

Here's the link to Mark's program: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=236733324356210&ref=watch\_permalink

Plus check out the ATOS website: <a href="https://www.atos.org">www.atos.org</a> for more viewing and listening treats.

ATOS will post additional programs as more are made available for online viewing.

All of us on the PSTOS board wish you safety, wellness, and good health.

Bob Zat, President

# **Get Your Sheltering-In-Place Theatre Organ Fix Right Here!**

We've done the homework for you...while you're sheltering at home, click on these links to enjoy many hours of great music... and more...just click a link, sit back, and enjoy!

Mark Herman at Nate Barr's wonderful 3/19 Wurlitzer in his Bandrika Studio. The clip is 1:16:12 long. Mark starts playing about 2:00 into the clip. The clip may come up muted. If the little speaker icon in the lower right has an X next to it, click it to turn on the sound.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=236733324356210&ref=w atch permalink

**George Wright playing "Falling in Love With Love" at the San Francisco Fox Wurlitzer.** A very rare recording, circa 1942. Music and photos. The clip is 3:49 long. Lew Williams posted this on Facebook.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dRHDz20Bug

Easter 1929 at St. Thomas Church, New York with Sound.

Made for Fox Movietone. The clip is 6:36 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k469Xs54fxA

**Arturo Barba live at Klais organs (1948; 1998), Cologne cathedral, Germany, 2017.** Prelude and Fugue on B-A-C-H written by Franz Liszt. The clip is 13:21 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cf2Je1X8A64

**Jerome Lenk plays his arrangement of "I Left My Heart is San Francisco."** Mission Dolores Basilica, San Francisco. The clip is 1:45 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSzsBES\_gd4

This is not organ, but here's something to brighten your day:

A video of Julia Child Making Spaghetti with Mr. Rogers. The clip is 11:15 long.

https://www.thekitchn.com/julia-child-mr-rogers-spaghet-ti-23011953

**Daniel Roth plays Louis Vierne Organ Symphony No 4.** Our Lady of Refuge Brooklyn. The clip is 6:31 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bm iXZcGY4

Not organ, but very nice. Renée Fleming and Evgeny Kissin - "Ave Maria." The clip is 5:43 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoFQ92rZT3o

**Sunday Concert from the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park, San Diego.** This occurred April 26th, but is available for viewing. The clip is 1:37:27 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-5c01q71c0&feature=youtu.be

**Donna Parker playing "Rockin' Robin."** Organ Stop Pizza, Mesa AZ, about 9 years ago. The clip is 4:24 long and has some audience noise.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUY\_NjK6lu4

**Johnny Seng's "Girl Talk," -1963.** Mundelein Seminary Auditorium Wurlitzer. The clip is 3:00 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAqV7a8epx8

**Tony Fenelon's "Carmen Collection."** Marrickville Wurlitzer Sydney. The clip is 14:01 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ6P34gA54c&t=12s

Angela Craft Cross plays Rhosymedre by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The clip is 3:29 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYoZ7HR0KXc

Jerome Lenk plays the Fugue in G Major, BWV 577, known as the "Gigue", by J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Mission Dolores, San Francisco, California April 24, 2020. The clip is 3:52 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNMxZiXK2ck

**Alexander Schreiner/Mormon Tabernacle Organ: Improvisation.** The clip is 1:14 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSLfYNHxdao

River City Theatre Organ Society pays tribute to Dan Bellomy, "Teach Me Tonight."

The clip is 7:37 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uu4AFBAQOw0

Simon Gledhill, Selections From "West Side Story," 1993 A.TO.S. Convention. 4/23 Rialto Barton Grande. The clip is 16:13 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j755C rPsws

William K. Trafka, St. Bartholomew's Director of Music and Organist, Plays Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man."

St. Bartholomew's grand Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ with its newly restored Celestial division in the dome, one of New York's greatest musical treasures (2017). The clip is 3:41 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWY7fuF0J74

Dan Bellomy plays "Falling In Love With Love."

Warnor's Theater Robert Morton theater organ, Fresno CA. Clip is 5:02 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=towhnCEV0kE

Jerome Lenk plays the Adagio movement from the 5th Organ Symphony, Op. 42, No. 1 by Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Mission Dolores, San Francisco, California. The clip is 6:03 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiEhkX2DeXA

Justin Stahl at the Wichita Wurlitzer plays Guys and Dolls medley. The clip is 4:57 long.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-QriNLYuP0

# **DAGES FROM THE DAST... 1925 - 2020**

# The Travels of Seattle's Embassy Theatre Kimball Over 95 Years

From Seattle, to a Woodland Park church, to Edmonds, to Lynnwood, and finally to Leavenworth

# NEW EMBASSY THEATRE OPENS NEXT SUNDAY

NEXT Sunday the doors of the attractive and new Embassy Theatre, at the corner of Third Avenue and Union Street, will open. To properly introduce the beautiful new show house to the public, Manager Joseph Danz is presenting the new Paramount release, "The Show Off," one of the most human and humorous American comedies ever produced.

This new show shop is unique in its construction. There are two main entrances, one being on Third Avenue and the other on Union Street. Seating arrangements are the very best, being of heavy stuffed plush, and accommodating 1,000 persons. Patrons will have the pleasure of hearing a wonderful Kimball organ which is now being installed and which was originally ordered for the big Heilig Theatre. The decorations and finishing of the new Embassy Theatre are of the very finest and lend a beautiful atmosphere for the setting of the silent productions that will be portrayed on the silver screen.

Picturegoers, who attend the grand opening of the Embassy next week will find the initial production, "The Show Off, a comedy-drama full of life and chuckles. Ford Sterling carries the leading role, supported by popular Lois Wilson, the charming Louise Brooks and the shining Gregory Kelly.

In this typical American picture there are no special sets, staged thrills, no forced realism—just natural humor and poignant pathos. If you need a laugh tonic you will enjoy seeing "The Show Off" and the new Embassy Theatre.



Three years after the Embassy Theatre opened, sound movies arrived. The 1930 marquee above advertises Greta Garbo's first sound film.



Wednesday, September 7, 1927 movie ad



The Kimball was moved from the Embassy Theatre to Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, above. In 1964 a new Casavant organ was purchased by the church and the Kimball was acquired by Mr. & Mrs. Harold Shawver, who installed it in their beautiful waterfront home in Edmonds. After Harold passed away, the home was sold with the organ, which was refurbished in 1995.

It eventually was aquired by PSTOS member Dave Luttinen in Lynnwood, but was never installed. When Dave moved to Michigan, David Johnston became the new owner and moved it to Leavenworth, where he meticulously installed it in a special studio.



David has created a fascinating small home museum featuring a variety of interesting memorbilia. He has recently expanded the Kimball with parts from the Jack Becvar estate.

# **DAGES FROM THE DAST... 1992**

# Farewell with all the stops pulled out

By Jon Hawn, staff columnist for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Published March, 1992.

Bellevue is losing a vital organ without

much hope for a transplant.

Bellevue will survive. But Pizza & Pipes, which for the last 15 years has mixed party pandemonium with pepperoni pizza, will close for good April 5. With it goes the mighty 15-ton Wurlitzer, star ship of the aging fleet that



Jon Hahn

piped priceless dreams into darkened theaters and movie houses for half a century.

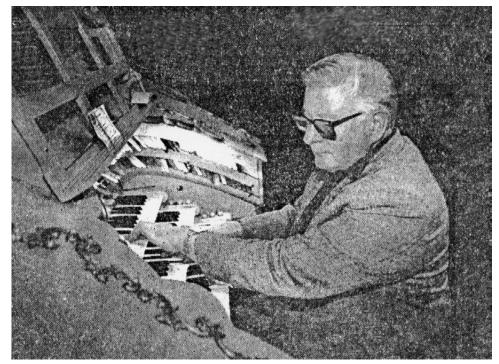
Shot down by a proposed roadway that will serve the Bellevue Convention Center area. And by too many competitors in the Pizza Wars. And by a generation given to electronic indifference.

While organist Dick Schrum played "There'll Be Some Changes Made" to an almost-empty house one evening earlier this week, several youngsters stood their ground at the mind-zapping video games against a back wall. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and little electronic bleeps were winning out over concert hall realism.

A whole generation and more have grown up on Pizza & Pipes birthday parties, both at the original P & P on Greenwood Avenue North in Seattle, and in the sound-surround Bellevue building overlooking the I-405 freeway. The former now is a giant video store. The 6,700 square-foot Bellevue building will be bulldozed to extend Northeast Sixth Street.

And the huge Wurlitzer, like the Seattle Mariners, probably will be bought and shipped out of town. Like the Fifth Avenue Theatre organ that went to California. Like the original Pizza & Pipes organ from Greenwood Avenue North that went to a private home north of Bothell. Other Pizza & Pipes operations still are open in Tacoma and several California cities.

"The Greenwood Avenue store closed faster than we expected," said Schrum, who played on opening night at both Pizza & Pipes and still plays at the Dog House Restaurant and Swedish Club. "When Greenwood closed, there were people in tears. But we still had this one to come to. What it all means probably won't hit me till the last day, because after that, there will be none."



Dick Schrum will be going strong on the Wurlitzer at Bellevue's Pizza & Pipes until closing day.

Oh, there'll still be the Paramount Theatre organ and some others. But the mighty "Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra" with all its pipes, bubbles, chimes, bells, drums, whistles, horns, lights, sound effects and dancing puppets won't be there to play "Happy Birthday" to party kids and sweethearts.

Some of you will remember silver-haired Thelma Barclay, now retired, with her huge repertoire of organ music and funny stories. The garishly rococo Wurlitzer console has been home to the likes of Andy row, Jane McKee Johnson, Bob White, Fred Forsberg, Greg Smith and Sharon Stearnes.

The organ, first housed in 1925 in the 3,000-seat Academy of Music Theatre in New York, was designed to replace movie-house pit orchestras. It is connected by electrical cables to the sound-producing units, which enabled it to be raised and lowered on a platform out of the former orchestra pits.

It was extensively refurbished and installed in Bellevue in 1977, according to Greg Smith, a Seattle native who helped install it. One of several who regularly played for Pizza & Pipes, he's now one of the owners. "My next job will probably be helping take it down, ship it and re-install it somewhere else. It definitely won't

go to a broker and be parted-out," he said.

Smith said there are prospective buyers in Phoenix, Los Angeles and San Antonio. So far, no word from Tampa-St. Pete. "You couldn't build an organ like this for \$350,000 today . . . and no one's building them," he said. Bidding on the organ "probably will start at about \$42,000 and go into the mid-50s," he estimated. "And it probably will cost another \$50,000 to dismantle it, crate it, ship it and re-install it."

Before the big April 5 last-day blowout party, which begins at noon, there will be a final organ concert on Sunday, March 29, at 2 pm. (tickets at the door).

Schrum says playing on the very last day will be difficult. "I don't know if I can do it (then), but I'd sort of like to play an old Fred Waring song that Frank Sinatra sang: 'Put Your Dreams Away for Another Day."

Editor's note: This article erroneously states the Greenwood Avenue Pizza & Pipes Wurlitzer went to a private home north of Bothell. It actually went to a private home in Maple Valley, where it was installed in a large barnlike building by Jerry Gould. It is occasionally heard in private concerts today.