PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Volume 34, Nos. 3 - 4 • March – April 2023 www.pstos.org • www.facebook.com/pstos

THEATRE ORGAN POPS

Launching the 2023 season with

JUSTIN STAHL

playing CCA's 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer

Justin Stahl is a native of Beech Grove, Indiana. Beginning at age five with the encouragement of his great-grandfather, Justin was mostly self-taught in piano and organ. His passion for music has reached many venues that have included accompanying for several choral departments, contributing as his church's music director, playing for community theatre, and serving for over twelve years in the Indiana Army National Guard's 38th Infantry Division Band. Justin has most recently entertained thousands of patrons of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in the last three productions of their annual Yuletide Celebration, playing the 3/24 Wurlitzer installed at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Theatre organ has always been a passion of Justin's and has taken him to performance venues across the United States and Australia. Please join your PSTOS friends in welcoming Justin to the Pacific Northwest!

Saturday, April 1, 2:00PM

Calvary Christian Assembly

6801 Roosevelt Way NE • Seattle

ADMISSION

PSTOS Members $20 • Non-members $25

Age 16 and under free with adult

Click here to prepurchase tickets, which will be available for pickup in the lobby at CCA on the day of the event

https://www.pstos.org/events/ticketing/20230401-Stahl-CCA/

Drive directions to Calvary Christian Assembly, 6801 Roosevelt Way NE

SOUTHBOUND I-5

Take exit 171 toward NE 71st St/NE 65th St. Merge onto 6th Ave NE
Take a slight left at NE 71st St. Continue onto NE 70th St.
Turn right at Roosevelt Way NE. Destination will be on the right

NORTHBOUND I-5

Take exit 171 for WA-522/Lake City Way toward Bothell
Take a slight right at NE 73rd St
Take the 1st right onto Roosevelt Way NE
Destination will be on the right

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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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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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!**
- **No stamps!**
- **A few clicks and it's done!**

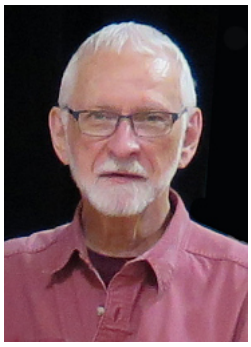
http://www.pstos.org/membership/new-member.htm

PRESIDENT'S *Message*

Greetings to all PSTOS membeers and friends. As we are fast approaching the second quarter of 2023 and the first of the concert series on April 1st, please don't forget to renew your current membership if you have not already done so. You can then take advantage of members-only ticket pricing. Perhaps you know of someone who would like to join PSTOS. Please encourage them to become a member. We certainly appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing old and new faces at our upcoming events in 2023.

The PSTOS program planning committee has put together a great lineup of artists for this year's concert series. There are two new performers in the series and the first new-to-the-area artist is Justin Stahl, presenting a program at Calvary Christian Assembly on Saturday, April 1st at 2PM. Please plan to attend and show Justin a warm Seattle welcome.

The second concert is UK's Richard Hills at CCA on Saturday, June 24, at 2PM.



The third performer is Mark Herman, Saturday, October 21st at CCA at 2PM. Mark has been to the Pacific Northwest in the past but has never experienced the CCA Kimball-Wurlitzer, so I am hoping we have a great turnout at this event too.

I would like to thank the program planning team—who deal with artist contracts, accommodations, and any special needs they might have—and to you, the members, whose continued financial support helps keep the PSTOS ship sailing forward so we can provide the musical enjoyment from an instrument that gives us such great pleasure.

See you in April!

Bob Zat, President

Welcome to new member *Karl Reinsch,* *Snoqualmie, WA*

ATOS SUMMER YOUTH ADVENTURE

SEATTLE, July 16 - 21 • DIRECTOR – JONAS NORDWALL

https://www.atos.org/program/summer-youth-adventure

The ATOS Summer Youth Adventure is a week-long event designed for young theatre organ enthusiasts who are interested in learning, developing, or refining their skills with the theatre organ. During the week, students will attend a variety of instructional sessions, master classes, and open console time designed to improve their theatre organ knowledge and skills. In addition to the invaluable instruction and learning opportunities, students will forge lifelong friendships with other young enthusiasts who share their passion for the theatre organ.

Instructors: Jonas Nordwall, Donna Parker, Jelani Eddington, Don Feely
Tuition: $379. Scholarships are available that may cover tuition, lodging, and transportation. Contact Jonas Nordwall **j.nordwall@atos.org**
Instruments: Paramount Theatre, Seattle, 4/21 Wurlitzer Publix 1; Wurlitzer Manor, Gig Harbor, 4/48 Wurlitzer; Merlyn Johnson residence, Tacoma, 3/24 Robert-Morton; Tahoma Studio, Maple Valley, 3/35 Wurlitzer; Calvary Christian Assembly, Seattle, 3/25 Kimball/Wurlitzer
Registrar, contact for more info: Donna Forsthoffer, **dlf2112@gmail.com**

An Urgent Message From Your Pipeline Editor

Greetings to all my PSTOS friends,

In April of 1990 *(33 years ago next month!)* I acquired my first Mac computer, with the goal of learning graphics software and producing an upgraded Pipeline. Early efforts were pretty primitive, but as software (and my skills) improved, the Pipelines improved. Hopefully you have enjoyed them over these many years.

The time has now come for the Pipeline to be taken over by a new editor.

ARE YOU THAT PERSON? IT'S A FUN AND HIGHLY CREATIVE ACTIVITY!

A new editor will have new ideas and will develop his/her own style. The Pipeline need not continue in its current format. A refresh is perhaps long overdue.

It isn't necessary to use high end software. There are quite respectable newsletters laid out in Word, and there is other page layout software without a giant learning curve.

At the very most, I will finish out 2023—four more issues. Ideally, a new editor can begin soon. Helping a new editor get up to speed is a high priority for me.

QUESTIONS?

If you would like to explore what is involved, how much time is required, and other details, please be in touch at joann@pstos.org

Jo Ann Evans

Robert Morton Theatre Organ Saved!

On January 31, Phil Hargiss, head of the Paramount Wurlitzer maintenance team, was notified by Josh LaBelle, STG's Executive Director, that a friend of his had discovered a pipe organ in the basement of a home undergoing renovation in Seattle's Bryant neighborhood. The friend put Phil in touch with Ian Hamm of HUB Construction Group, the company doing the renovation. Concurrently, Bob Zat was contacted by one of Ian's partners, Jon Goldstone, who sent photos. Carl Dodrill was also notified at about the same time.

Console with roll player above

On February 3, Tom Blackwell and Phil inspected the instrument, and determined it to be a Robert Morton pit organ, with dual roll-player, a style 39, which originally contained a Flute, Violin, Vox Humana, Xylophone, and traps. The organ's provenance is not entirely certain. According to the opus list at robertmorton.org, it is Robert Morton opus 20757, which was installed in 1927 in the Grand Theatre in Bellingham, was later moved to the Del Feely residence in Tacoma, and then in 1953 to the Woodrow C. Wilson residence in Seattle.

Closer examination revealed that most of the Flute pipes had been replaced (probably by Balcom & Vaughan) with a Robert Morton Tibia Clausa, with a half-dozen missing Tibia pipes replaced with pipes from some other builder. The string pipes are marked Salicional, but look like they are original. (It's not at all unusual for the pipes in the chamber not to match the names on the stop tabs.) One string pipe has been damaged, but is repairable. Overall, the organ will require considerable restoration, but the result will be well worth the effort. Tom took additional photos, which he has posted on the PSTOS website.

Violin, Basses and Vox

A couple of parties had initially expressed interest in taking the organ, but ultimately declined, making it necessary to store the organ until someone could be found to give it a good home. Fortunately, STG theatre manager Mason Sherry offered temporary space in STG's warehouse, and provided the services of Kevin Riordan and his crew, along with STG's box truck.

Percussions

Between February 14 and 18, Mike Wallace, Hans Riebeling, and Phil dismantled the organ, packed the pipes and other small parts in crates that had been stored for the past several years in the Paramount Theatre attic, and prepared the larger components for transport. On February 20, Kevin and his crew, Mike, and Hans loaded everything into STG's truck, and transferred it to the warehouse.

Tibia and Violin

As of February 24, another party has expressed interest in the organ, so it may be moved again soon. Phil is waiting to hear details.

Bass tibias

Blower

In Memoriam
Doug Owen
1932 – 2023

It is with sadness that we announce the death of longtime PSTOS member, Doug Owen, who passed away February 13, 2023, at the age of 90. Doug was a staunch theatre organ supporter, and regularly attended major concerts at CCA. He served on the PSTOS Board of Directors for a number of years in the 1990s. PSTOS sends sincere sympathy to his many friends and family members.

AGO Programs

Classical organ events for your enjoyment

More informaton at www.agoseattle.com

Sun. March 12, 7:30 pm
The Seattle Bach choir presents three Bach motets (BWV 226, 229 & 230) plus modern works by Bryars, Nystedt and Sixten at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, 2400 NW 85th St Seattle 98117. Ample free parking in lot west of church. Donation at door.

Fri. March 17, 12:10 pm
Mark McDonald, organist in concert on the Brombaugh organ at Christ Episcopal Church, 310 N K St, Tacoma WA 98403. Donations accepted.

Sat. March 18, 7:30 pm.& Sun. March 19, 2:30 pm
Baroque Violin, Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord concert in the Thompson chapel **a**t St. Mark's Cathedral 1245 10th Ave E Seattle 98102. The *Mystery Sonatas* (also known as *Rosary Sonatas*) by Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber (1644–1704).

Mon. March 20, 7:30 pm
Informal concert featuring five local young organists under age 30. Using the three manual Casavant organ at First Congregational Church of Bellevue 11601 NE 2nd St. Bellevue 98004.

Friday March 24, 12:05 pm
Organ at Noon: Annual All-Bach Recital. UPS Kilworth Chapel, 3410 N. 18th St, Tacoma, WA 98416. Dr. Wyatt Smith will perform works for organ and harpsichord by J. S. Bach. No charge.

Sun March 26, 3:00 pm
Rebekah Gilmore, Soprano and Michael Kleinschmidt, organ present a varied program which will use the Ortloff organ at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church 722 N. 145th St. Shoreline, WA 98133.

Sun. March 26, 5:30 pm
Organ Vespers for the Fest of the Annunciation at Epiphany Episcopal Church, 1805 38th Ave Seattle 98122. Music by Jean-Adam Guilain and Marcel Dupré.

Friday March 31, 7:30 pm
Multimedia presentation with the organ work "The Fourteen Stations of the Cross" (1978) by Alan Ridout. Plus works by Reger and Brahms. Played by Walter Knowles on the Bond organ in splendid acoustics at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6210 NE 181st St, Kenmore, WA 98028.

Fri. April 21, 12:10 pm
Third Friday Concert: John Stuntebeck, organist in concert on the Brombaugh organ at Christ Episcopal Church, 310 N K St, Tacoma WA 98403, Donations accepted.

Sun. April 23, 3:00 pm
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital, Lagerquist Hall, Pacific Lutheran University, 868 Wheeler St South, Tacoma. Paul Tegels, university organist plays the Fritts organ.

Sun. April 23, 5:00 pm
Susanna Valleau will play a Pre-Evensong organ recital. Evensong follows at 5:30 at Epiphany Episcopal Church, 1805 38th Ave Seattle 98122.

Friday April 28, 12:05 pm
Organ at Noon: Journey to Resurrection. UPS Kilworth Chapel, 3410 N. 18th St. Tacoma, WA 98416. Dr. Wyatt Smith will perform the entirety of Pamela Decker's "Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ." No charge.

Sat. April 29, 7 pm
Concert at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church (3605 84th Ave SE, Mercer Island 98040) played by Youngjin Joo, organist at Bellevue Presbyterian Church. No charge (free will offering). Ample free parking.

Other Events for your Enjoyment

Silent Movie: Snow White (1916) Restored film previously thought to be lost. Marguerite Clark in the title role, directed by J. Searle Dawley. Live musical accompaniment provided by harpist Leslie McMichael and violist Barbara McMichael. (The organ will not be used)

Sat. March 11, 7:30 pm (doors open at 7)

Kenyon Hall
7904 – 35th Ave SW
Seattle 98126,
Grown-ups $10, Kids $5,
Family rate $20.

Enjoy CCA's 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer
Accompanying a Saturday afternoon
Hymn Sing
Sat., April 29, 1:00 pm

6801 Roosevelt Way NE • Seattle

Seattle Theatre Group presents

Silent Movie Mondays

The Paramount Theatre

Doors at 6:00 pm • Show at 7:00 pm
General Admission Seating $12.00 (not including fees)

Exit Smiling (1926)

Music by Chris Elliot at the Mighty Wurlitzer
May 8, 2023

Beatrice Lillie with Jack Pickford star in the comedy EXIT SMILING (1926) directed by Sam Taylor. The film is set in the backstage world of a cut-rate theatrical circuit with the character Violet desperately wanting to be an actress. This is the popular stage star Lillie's first and only silent film.

Pre-film introduction and CineClub post-film discussion with Anne Francis, Broadway Across America. Music by Christian Elliott on the Mighty Wurlitzer.

Running time 80 min.

https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/event/4680

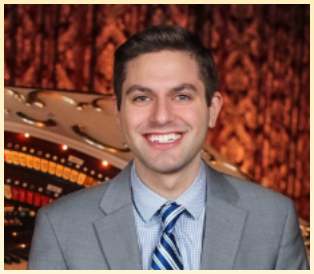
PSTOS Coming Events

PIPE ORGAN POPS 2023 SERIES

Richard Hills
Sat. June 24, CCA

Richard Hills is one of the very few musicians truly to have bridged and mastered the divide between the world of the classical organ and that of the theatre organ. He has numerous prizes and awards to his credit, both in the UK and the USA, where he was named Organist of the Year in 2010 by the American Theatre Organ Society. He has appeared many times on national and international TV and radio, and has several recording credits. His most recent solo recording was made on the magnificent dual-purpose Compton organ of Southampton's Guildhall.

Mark Herman
Sat. October 21, CCA



Mark Herman performs concerts and silent film presentations across the US and abroad. In 2012, he was named the American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year and is the youngest person ever to receive the honor. Mark has been featured on several episodes of American Public Media's *Pipedreams* program, and has performed for conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, American Guild of Organists, and Organ Historical Society. He has toured in Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

PAGES FROM THE PAST . . .

Reprinted for your enjoyment from the February 2006 Pipeline

The Federal Way BIG BOB'S PIZZA PARLOR story

As written by Ed Zollman, Jr., and published in *The Console*, January. 1970

Up here in Washington we have pizza served with a pipe organ, and both are quite enjoyable to patrons of Big Bob's Pizza Parlor located in the Seattle suburb of Federal Way. As part of Bob's Pizza presentations, there are extra attractions furnished on various occasions. One of these was the appearance of Australia's Tony Fenelon during his recent tour of the U.S. He played two nights and his programs consisted of informal jazz and popular music.

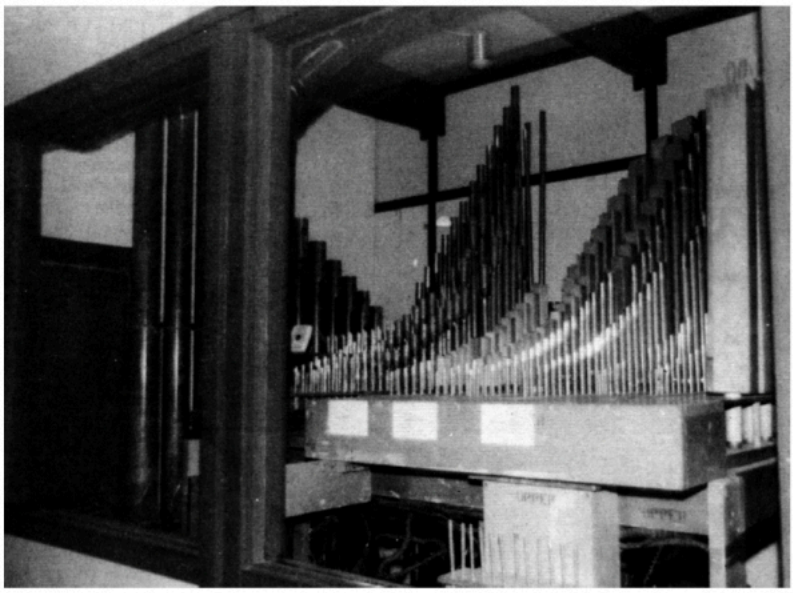
Officially opened February 2, 1969, the organ in the restaurant is played seven days a week with Tom Kaasa, Brad Miller and Ron Barnett featured on different nights. On opening night, the Morton was given a workout rather late in the evening. Puget Sound Chapter ATOS held a concert at the downtown Paramount with Don Isham at the console. After the show members and guests gathered at Big Bob's for pizza and a chance at the console.

First installed in the Dream Theatre in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in 1924, it was removed about 1935 and went to Portland where Balcom & Vaughan installed it in the Highland Baptist Church. It was played in the church until officials decided a new instrument was needed and a Rodgers plug-in was selected as a replacement.

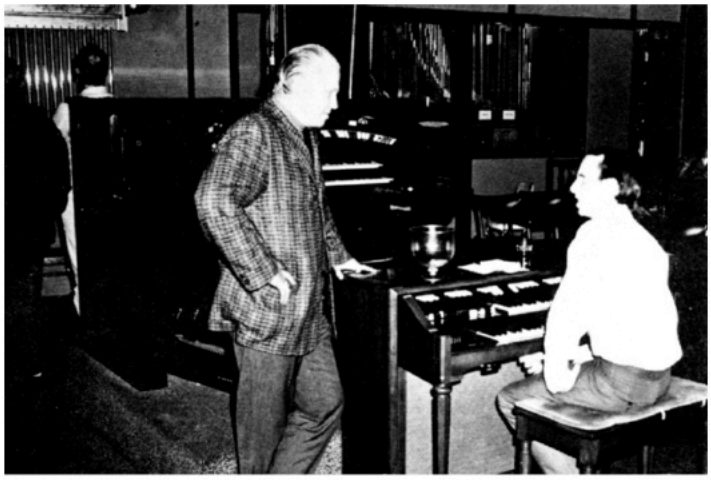
The Morton, a two-manual five-ranker with chimes, came to the attention of Dennis Hedberg, who knew Bob Koons was looking for a medium to small size instrument for his contemplated pizza parlor to be built in Federal Way, and notified him that the organ was available. Ranks were: diapason, concert flute (large scale), vox humana, violin and violin celeste.

The Morton was purchased for $1,000 and soon thereafter removed from the church by Koons and helpers from Portland and Seattle—the author was one of the buffs from Seattle who helped remove it.

Within a matter of a few weeks the instrument had been reinstalled in the new restaurant, completely wired and was playing in the rough. Installation work was supervised by Lee Bauscher, who owns the former Omaha World Theatre Wurlitzer.



Pipework of the Robert-Morton organ installed in Big Bob's Pizza can be seen clearly thrugh the plate glass windows that serve as one wall of the organ chamber. Swell shades are at top of chamber area.



Organist Tom Kaasa consoles organist Brad Miller while he plays on one of Kaasa's off nights on an electronic substitute. The Morton was out of order for a few days due to bad starter brushes in the blower motor.

In the following months percussions were added from Koons' own large Wurlitzer pipe organ. These included glockenspiel, xylophone, sleigh bells, and traps, including snare drum, bass drum and complete toy counter. It is hoped to add many more percussions such as a marimba harp, chrysoglott, and possibly even a Steinway player piano.

As for additional pipework, there will be a tibia, of course, and a trumpet and kinura, the latter unenclosed is being considered for the organ.

Bob Koons is a well known organ buff in Seattle and owns the former Seattle Coliseum Wurlitzer which is a duplicate of the former Liberty instrument in Portland. It was first erected in the large downtown theatre in 1918. It is interesting to note that Bob paid $1 for this large organ. In the year 1951 the Coliseum was being remodeled and the organ had to come out. The owner of the theatre also owned the television station where Bob worked for many years and the charge of $1 was to make a legal contract.

He has spent the last 5 years slowly removing the behemoth music maker and has also bought and swapped other parts and ranks for his home installation. The main part of the Wurlitzer will remain essentially the same. Bob has built a large annex to his home. The chambers, Main and Solo, are unusual—they are over 20 feet high, and floor space measures 12 feet by 12 feet. Construction is of concrete.

Another unusual feature of the installation is the swell shade openings. They are at the very top of the chambers. Most of the instrument will be installed at the low floor level. It is hoped the

PAGES FROM THE PAST . . . *Continued*

Owner Bob Koons drops in at off hours to check on business and talk to patrons. He is standing at left beside organist Tom Kaasa.

empty area at the top of the chambers will give the organ a live sound, so many times not heard in a home project.

The instrument must be completely releathered. We have just started on this job—and there are 26 ranks to do. WOW!

EDITOR'S UPDATE—Unfortunately, the organ and restaurant were lost in a fire in December 1975. A few percussions were salvaged but the restaurant and most of the organ were a total loss.

Wanting to expand, Bob Koons had already acquired the Burien Theatre and developed it into a 300-seat pizza restaurant, Big Bob's Pipe Dream, opening in 1975. His home organ project was abandoned when that instrument went into the new restaurant.

Bob Koons became ill in 1978 at which time the restaurant was sold and renamed. He passed away in 1979.

The organ was later sold to Milt Kiefer of Vancouver, WA, who had plans to add pizza parlors to his growing business. The expansion venture did not materialize and the organ was sold to Dennis Hedburg of Portland. Parts of the organ went into the Organ Grinder Restaurants in both Portland and Denver. Years later Dennis had a huge sell-off of surplus organ parts, some of which most surely were from the Seattle Coliseum Wurlitzer.

Brad Miller, shown in the photo with Tom Kaasa, now lives in Spokane, teaches school, plays regularly for a local church and occasionally plays the Wurlitzer in the Spokane First Nazarene Church. This is the 1914 Wurlitzer from the Seattle Liberty Theatre which was located in downtown Seattle at First & Pike until 1955.

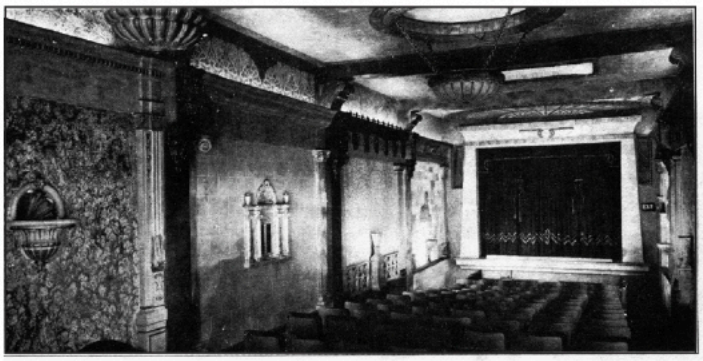
But that is another article!

For more photos and information, go to the PSTOS website, www.PSTOS.org, and click on SEARCH. When the options come up, type in Big Bob's Pizza Restaurant.

ABOUT THE WRITER—Ed Zollman, Jr., together with his wife Patti Simon, owns Zollman Pipe Organ Services, providing expert installation, restoration, service and tonal finishing. They are responsible for the outstanding Wurlitzer Manor organ installation. Coincidentally, Patti was a staff organist at Big Bob's Pipe Dream Restaurant. Zollmans may be reached at 316-729-6860, or on the web at www.zollmanpipeorgans.com.

An Interesting Theatre Exhibit From the 1920s

As published in the former *Vestal Press House Organ*, Winter 1976 issue



Interior of the EPCO MODEL THEATRE looking toward stage. Note various wall textures between the pillars on left wall.

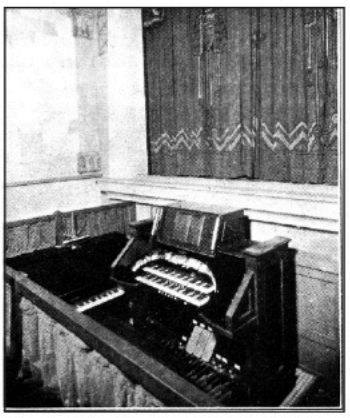
The EPCO Model Theatre in Los Angeles was sponsored by about two dozen firms specializing in various aspects of construction and decoration, as a display of their wares and capabilities for the benefit of those contemplating construction of a new theatre or movie palace in those halcyon days of the industry.

Note the different architectural treatments on the left wall.

The organ was supplied by H.H. Hicks, Link Piano Company, whose address is the same as the theatre. It is fitted with a roll-playing attachment on the top of the console, contrary to the usual Link practice of having endless rolls stacked four-high in a separate cabinet.

The architect of this place was Edward J. Borgmeyer; decoration was by Robert E. Power Studios; the cast iron marquise (sic) by the Lowith Iron Works; stage scenery by Flagg Scenic Studios; lighting fixtures by Angelus Lighting Fixture Co.; wall textures by Howard Booher of Decorative Plaster; ornamental iron and brass by Cecil Campbell of Campbell Ornamental Iron Works; switchboards by Safety Electrical Products Co.; ornamental staff by Cesare Paoli, Hollywood Ornamental Staff & Stone Co.

We wonder how many of these firms still exist? [And that was in 1976!— Editor]



Orchestra pit with organ console. A roll-playing attachment is fitted on the top of the console.