PUGET SOUND
# PIPELINE

Volume 35, Nos. 3-4 March-April 2024 www.pstos.org www.facebook.com/pstos

## Entertainment by our own PSTOS talented musicians

Including Jo Ann Evans, Elliot Sander, Mason Jones, Halie Dodrill, Jamison Colagrossi, Kazuki Taylor & Jamie Snell

Tasty desserts
Friendly conversations
& some surprises!

*Come and celebrate the end of winter!*

*No Admission fee. Donations appreciated!!*

*In order to have enough yummy desserts for everyone,*
***please let us know you are coming!***
*Email Jo Ann at joann@pstos.org or call her at 425-485-5465*

***Directions to Haller Lake Community Club***:
**Northbound I-5:** Use Exit 174 onto NE 130th St. Turn left over freeway one long block to 1st Ave. NE. Turn left (south) one block to 128th. Right on NE 128th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore. Clubhouse is on the right. Parking both front & rear. Handicapped entry with parking & an elevator at rear of building.

**Southbound I-5**: Use Exit 175 onto NE 145th, turn right one block to 1st Ave. NE. Turn left (south) continuing through NE 130th to NE 128th. Right on NE 128th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore, clubhouse is on the right. Parking both front & rear. Handicapped entry with parking and an elevator at rear of building.

**PUGET SOUND PIPELINE**

Vol. 35, Nos. 3-4, Mar.-April 2024

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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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*Tyler Pattison, tyler@pstos.org*
*Grahame McMaster, grahame@pstos.org*

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, PSTOS members and supporters!

Here's some exciting media news: Since the last Pipeline issue, there have been not one but two TV news segments broadcast about the Seattle Paramount Wurlitzer and silent movie series: first, on January 9 on KING 5, "Paramount Theatre's Silent Movie Mondays brings moviegoers back in time," by segment producer Eric Riddle; and then, on January 23 on KOMO 4, "Eric's Heroes: Century-old Wurlitzer organ brings Paramount's Silent Movie Mondays to life," produced by news anchor Eric Johnson. The latter featured organist Tyler Pattison, who had just accompanied the Harold Lloyd silent "Safety Last" the previous evening, to great acclaim; both segments highlighted Phil Hargiss and his organ maintenance crew, shown tuning and repairing the 4/21 Wurlitzer. You can view these two short videos online - see the box on page 4. It isn't often that the general public hears about theatre organs through major TV channels; this reporting certainly helps our outreach efforts, and PSTOS has offered to both producers to collaborate on further segments, covering other theatre organ venues in the region...stay tuned!

Speaking of media, at that same silent film on January 22, for the first time ever, the Paramount displayed a slide show about the organ, created by PSTOS and shown on monitors around the lobby. We're working on an expanded version of this slide show, and anticipate that at future silent films it will be projected on the big screen for audience members to view as they settle into their seats.

As you've seen on page 1, our first event of the year will be the "Spring Fling" on March 17 at the Haller Lake Community Club, featuring several local organists performing at the 3/10 Wurlitzer. There's no admission fee; donations are appreciated; refreshments will be provided. Later planned events include Saturday afternoon concerts on Calvary Christian Assembly's 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer by Clark Wilson in early June, Brett Valliant on August 3, and Dave Wickerham in late September or early October. And then of course our holiday party, this year on December 1. We hope to see you at these events!

Avid readers of the masthead (!) will notice that the Educational Outreach Committee is no longer listed, and there's something new: the Promotion, Outreach, and Publicity Team. At the PSTOS Board's January meeting, it was decided that the new "POP Team" would henceforth include the functions of that committee, which was ably chaired for many years by Fred Rowe until he stepped down in December. Those functions include reaching out to students to interest them in theatre organ, and providing scholarships for lessons and attendance at ATOS conferences and educational programs such as the Summer Youth Adventure. The POP Team recently met and discussed specific activities and assignments. We've already made progress on several fronts, including social media presence (Grahame McMaster), discount ticket services (Jeff Snyder), increased visibility at the Paramount (Phil Hargiss, Tyler Pattison, and others), posting concert info on event calendars (Terry Perdue and others), and updating our printed materials (Jo Ann Evans and others)…more is in the pipeline.

Happy Spring!
Jamie

## 2024 Programs

The program committee is busily planning some great concerts and events for 2024.

On tab so far:

June—CCA concert by Clark Wilson (a Saturday TBD)

August 3—CCA concert by Brett Valliant (Saturday)

Sept/Oct—CCA concert by Dave Wickerham (a Saturday TBD)

December1—Holiday Event at HLCC (Sunday)

Stay tuned for more information soon!

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- A few clicks & it's done!

*https://www.pstos.org/membership/*

## An Opportunity for You

When Bob Zat moved to Portland, we lost not only his leadership and friendship at our PSTOS events, we also lost the personal sound equipment that he used to bring to make our events sound better. Who knew? Our volunteers are wonderful to help out behind the scenes!! Now PSTOS needs to buy some equipment, slowly over time, to replace what we have "lost." The first purchase of microphones, stands, cases, and cables has been made which cost about $500. If you would like to donate to this project or to future purchases yet to be made, we would welcome your donation. Simply bring your gift to our March 17 event or give online via our website. Thank you for helping PSTOS events sound better!!

*Donna Parker loves our kids and is doing a special event just for them!!*

## *Attention teachers and parents!!!*

Monday, May 6, 2024

Doors open at 10 a.m.

Show at 11 a.m.

Students grades 3-12 will step back in time to the 1920s at the historic Paramount Theatre. Hear Donna Parker at the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ while watching a short silent film and learn about the Paramount's history.

Free RSVP on Paramount website

https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/14530/silent-movie-monday-matinee

# Thank you, KING and KOMO!!!

Recently both KOMO-TV, through Eric's Heroes, and KING-5's EVENING did features on the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer organ.

KING 5's EVENING interviewed Paramount organ crew chief Phil Hargiss and organist Tedde Gibson as well as STG's MacKenzie Mercer and presented a marvelous piece about silent movies and the theatre organ at the Paramount. Here's the link: https://www.king5.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/evening-downtown-seattle/paramount-theatres-silent-movie-mondays-moviegoers-back-in-time/281-20cbed2c-275e-4089-bdbd-f6b87e9ce047

Eric Johnson and his camera crew went to the Paramount on Monday, January 22, the day of the recent silent movie, and interviewed organist Tyler Pattison and organ crew chief Phil Hargiss. If you haven't seen the feature that they broadcasted on January 24, click on this link.
https://komonews.com/news/erics-heroes/the-paramount-theater-silent-movie-mondays-wurlitzer-organ-piano-music-movies-entertainment-theatre-seattle-washington-king-county-arts

You will really enjoy reading the articles or watching the videos!

**THANK YOU KOMO and KING-5 for featuring something we love, theatre pipe organs, and mentioning PSTOS!**

*Here's Tyler (below) on January 22, 2024, and (right) at age 14 when he was a much younger theatre organist!*

**TYLER PATTISON**

Tyler, at just 14, has a fine classical piano background, and is now studying theatre organ. A student of Don Wallin, he is also coached by Jonas Nordwall.

# Silent Movie Mondays at the Paramount Theater

Coming May 6

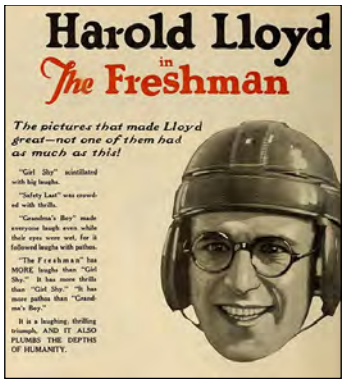
**The Marriage Circle**
May 6, 2024
Donna Parker on the organ

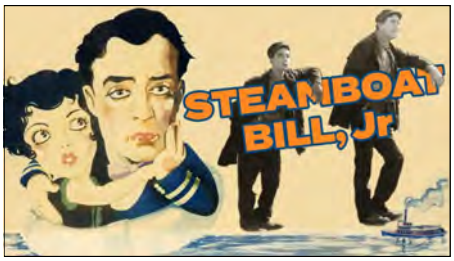
**Sherlock Jr.**
and **The Love Nest**
August 5, 2024
Christian Elliot on the organ

**All shows begin at 7 p.m.** **$12 general admission / $10 for seniors**

## *Silent Movies at The Historic Everett Theatre*

March 10
3:00 p.m.




Starring
Buster Keaton

April 28
3:00 p.m.

Tyler Pattison at the organ for both shows

*Visit theeverettttheatre.org for tickets*

*Reminder—*
*It's time to renew your membership for 2024. Renew online or check the website pstos.org. $25 per family*

Also consider joining ATOS. $25 for the first year or returning members. *www.atos.org.*

**Area Pipe Organs:**

**Lincoln Theater, Mt. Vernon**
The organ is played before many shows. Contact the box office for more information. 360-336-8955

**Mt. Baker Theater, Bellingham**
If you're interested in playing this organ, contact the theater at 360-733-5793

## AGO Programs

Classical organ events for your enjoyment
More information at www.agoseattle.com.

***Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.***

*Dietrich Buxtehude's Membra Jesu Nostri cantatas presented by five soloists, baroque instruments and chamber choir. Epiphany Episcopal, 1805 38th Ave., Seattle 98122. Tickets $25 available at www.epiphanyseattle.org/concerts*

***Saturday, March 2, 8 p.m. (pre-concert talk at 7:15)***

*Wayne Marshall Organ recital on the Fisk organ at Phymouth UCC, 1217 6th Ave., Seattle 98101. Presenting the great Passion Symphony by French organist and composer Marcel Dupre. Tickets at SeattleChamberOrchestra.org. $15 Parking in church garage, 515 University Street.*

***Sunday, March 3, 3 p.m.***

*Michelle Huang and Erin Wight, a Seattle-based piano & viola duo, will present a special concert for a time of transition as we move out of winter and into the promise of spring. Featuring a musical collaboration with organist Susanna Valleau, they will weave together perspectives and traditions from around the world. St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 722 N. 145th St., Shoreline 98133. Suggested donation $20 adults, $5 students.*

***Sunday, March 3, 3 p.m.***

*Gallery Concert Series presents harpsichordist Wyatt Smith playing the Goldberg Variations of J.S. Back at Blessed Sacrament Parish, 5050 8th Ave., Seattle 98105. Pre-concert lecture at 2:30 p.m. Large parking lot north of church.*

***Friday, March 7, 7:30 in Lagerquist Hall, PLU, Tacoma***

***Saturday, March 8, 7:30 at Univ. Presbyterian, Seattle***

*Two concerts of the 64-voice Concordia College Choir from Moorhead, Minnesota. Conducted by Michael Culloton. Tickets $25 at ConcordiaCollege.edu/ChoirTour*

***Saturday, March 9, 7 p.m.***

*Fine Arts at Faith will be hosting the Columbia Choirs of Metropolitan Seattle as they return for the spring concert for the series. Suggested donation $10 per person, $20 per family. There will be a meet and greet with the artists after the event. Faith Lutheran Church, 9041 166th Ave. NE, Redmond 98052.*

***Saturday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.***

*Harmonia Orchestra and Chorus present a concert "Oracle" at First Free Methodist Church, 3200 3rd Ave. W., Seattle 98119. Compositions by two local AGO members will be featured: the world premier of a work for choir and chamber orchestra "Winter Solstice" by Sheila Bristow and a cappella choir work "Hear My Voice" by Jessica French. General admission $25, $10 for those who can't afford $25, free admission for children 5-18 & college students. All tickets include a streaming link. Www.harmoniaSeattle.org.*

***Sunday, March 10, 3 p.m.***

*Organ recital by Wyatt Smith at St. John's Episcopal, 114 20th Ave. SE, Olympia 98501 using the 3-manual Schlicker pipe organ.*

***Sunday, March 10, 5:30 p.m. Evensong, 6:30 Chapter Social***

*Epiphany Parish, 1805 38th Ave., Seattle 98122. Choral Evensong followed by a Chapter Social to welcome spring. Refreshments served and free music exchange.*

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***Sunday, March 17, 10 p.m.***

*Organ by Night concert by Kyle Haugen on the Flentrop of St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E., Seattle 98102. No charge.*

***Friday, March 22, 12:05 p.m.***

*Organ at noon concert by Dr. Wyatt Smith on the Fritts organ of Kilworth Chapel, University of Puget Sound, 3410 N. 18th St., Tacoma 98416. No charge.*

***Friday, March 22, 12:30 p.m.***

*Organist Stephen Price and baroque violinist Tekla Cunningham present a "Pop-up" concert at University House, 4400 Stone Way N., Seattle 98103. No charge. Dr. Price will play a 3-rank Marceau portative organ.*

***Sunday, March 24, 6 p.m.***

*Westminster Performing Arts presents a sing-along of selections from the Lent/Easter section of Handel's Messiah. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1300 9th Street, Anacortes, 98221. Free.*

***Sunday, April 7, 7 p.m.***

*Trinity Artists at the Organ is pleased to present Dr. Craig Cramer in recital at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6215 196th St. SW, Lynnwood. Organ by Martin Pasi. Free parking. Suggested donation: adults $15, senior & students $10.*

***Friday, April 12, 12:05 p.m.***

*Organ at noon concert by Dr. Wyatt Smith on the Fritts organ of Kilworth Chapel, University of Puget Sound., Tacoma. No charge.*

***Sunday, April 21, 10 p.m.***

*Organ by Night concert by Chris Stroh on the Flentrop of St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle. No charge.*

***Friday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.***

***Saturday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.***

*Bach's Magnificat, Handel's Gloria and Charpentier's Te Deum presented by the choir and baroque orchestra of Epiphany Episcopal, 1805 38th Ave, Seattle 98122. Tickets $38.*

***Sunday, April 28, 3 p.m.***

*Organ concert at St. Andrew's Episcopal, 7410 S. 12th St., Tacoma 98465. Paul Tegels at the Fritts organ. Reception follows.*

# Pages from the Past

## 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.

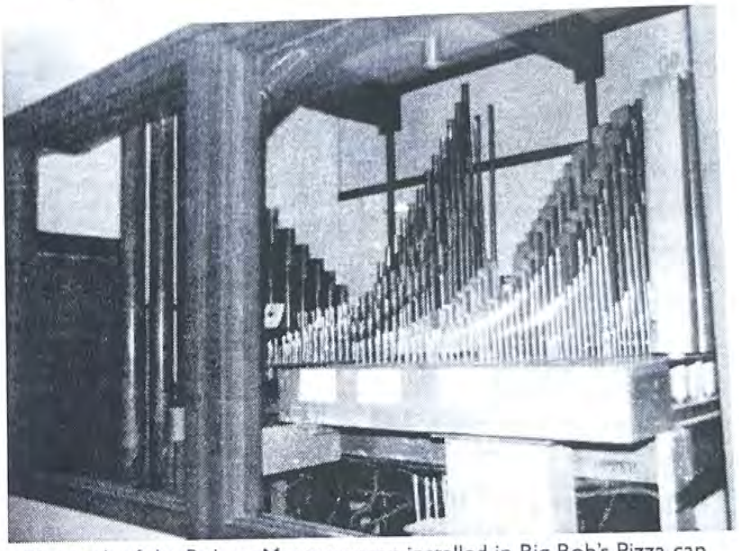
Officially opened February 2, 1969, the organ in the restaurant is played seven days a week with Tom Kaasa, Brad Miller and Ron Barnett featured on different nights. On opening night, the Morton was given a workout rather late in the evening. Puget Sound Chapter ATOS held a concert at the downtown Paramount 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 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

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.

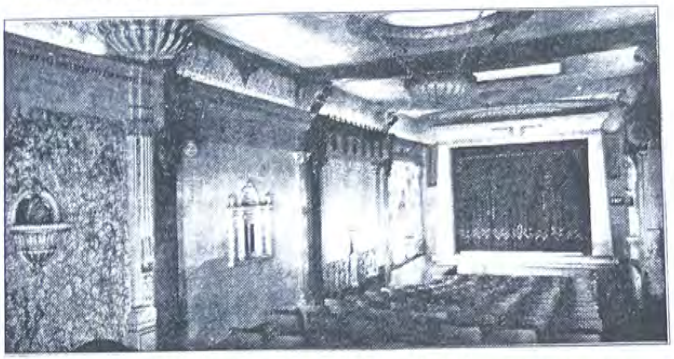
But that is another article!

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.