PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 35, Nos. 5-6 May-June 2024 www.pstos.org www.facebook.com/pstos

PSTOS' *Pops on Pipes* series presents:

David Marsh

Saturday, June 8

2:00 p.m.

Calvary Christian Assembly

6801 Roosevelt Way NE

The future of the theatre pipe organ is in good hands! Come and hear this young artist as he shares music with us on a fun-filled afternoon!

David began playing the organ when he was 14 years old. His mission is "to spread the love of music to as many people as possible." He currently serves as President of the Orange County, CA, Theater Organ Society, is active in the Music Department of Villa Park High School where he teaches advanced music theory, and teaches piano and organ to all ages and all levels of players through his David Marsh School of Music. "David is sure to delight audiences of all ages with his music and his wit."

TICKETS $20 at the door or use this link to buy online: https://pstos.org/events/ticketing/20240608-Marsh-CCA/#buy-tickets

Driving directions to Calvary Christian Assembly, 6801 Roosevelt Way NE

Southbound I-5
Take exit 171 toward NE 71st/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 in 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.

Upcoming Concerts:

Brett Valliant
August 3, 2024

Dave Wickerham
October 12, 2024

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Vol. 35, Nos. 5-6, May-June 2024

Published by
Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
10002 Aurora Ave N, Suite 36 #516
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.

OFFICERS
***President**—Jamie Snell, Jamie@pstos.org*
***Past Pres**.—Bob Zat, bob@pstos.org*
***Vice President**—Barb Graham, barb@pstos.org*
***Secretary**—Jo Ann Evans, joann@pstos.org*
***Treasurer**—Jim Welch, jim@pstos.org*

DIRECTORS
Phil Hargiss, phil@pstos.org
Bob Borton, borton@pstos.org
Tyler Pattison, tyler@pstos.org
Grahame McMaster, grahame@pstos.org

COMMITTEES & ROLES
***Youth Board Representative**—Sawyer Best, sawyer@pstos.org*
***Organ Restoration & Maintenance**—TBD*
***Program Planning Team**—Jo Ann Evans, Barb Graham, Jamie Snell, Ellen Sullivan, Bob Zat, Terry Perdue, Marie Perdue*
***Paramount Crew Chief**—Phil Hargiss*
***Membership Coordinator**—Jeff Snyder, jeff@pstos.org*
***Pipeline editor-**—Annabelle Schertzinger, annabelle@pstos.org*
***Pipeline copy editor**—Jamie Snell*
***Pipeline Distribution**—Terry Perdue*
***Website**—Tom Blackwell, tom@pstos.org*
***Hospitality HLCC**—Ellen Sullivan, ellen@pstos.org*
***Social Media**—Grahame McMaster*
***Promotion, Outreach, & Publicity**—Grahame McMaster, Jo Ann Evans, Jeff Snyder, Terry Perdue, Marie Perdue, Barb Graham*

LIAISONS
***AMICA and AGO**—Carl Dodrill*
***Haller Lake Community Club**—Jamie Snell*
***Paramount Theatre**—Phil Hargiss*
***Calvary Christian Assembly**—Jeff Snyder*
***ATOS**—Bob Borton*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm happy to report good news, starting with the success of the "Spring Fling" event. We had a respectable turnout, fine music, yummy refreshments, some fun surprises, and a positive balance sheet (see the writeup in this issue). The Mighty HLCC 3/10 Wurlitzer worked flawlessly and sounded superb. Many thanks to everyone who helped, attended, and/or donated at this no-fee event.

The Program Team recently finalized the concert lineup for the rest of this year: **David Marsh** at the CCA 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer on **Saturday, June 8**; **Brett Valliant** at CCA on **Saturday August 3**; **Dave Wickerham** at CCA on **Saturday, October 12**; and the holiday party at HLCC on Sunday, December 1. This will be our first concert by David Marsh, a rising young star with plenty of accolades from around the country; Brett Valliant and Dave Wickerham are revered and beloved artists who have performed for us multiple times. We're thrilled to bring such talent to Seattle.

Planning is actively underway for 2025. We anticipate at least three concerts by top-tier artists from the US and abroad, as well as at least two events featuring local talent, including some of our up-and-coming young players. There's also been brainstorming about some possibilities that we haven't tried recently...stay tuned. Your suggestions are certainly welcome.

We're fortunate in having successfully met some recent challenges – finding and involving younger theatre organ enthusiasts, enhancing our social media presence, filling some vacant leadership positions, and focusing our promotional strategy. Our two biggest challenges now are: (1) building involvement by theatre organ fans in the 40-50 age range, to eventually move into leadership roles; and (2) finding a few technically inclined souls to handle routine organ maintenance, tuning, concert prep, and troubleshooting. On the organ tech front, we're managing fine for now, thanks to some valiant volunteers, but we need a long-term plan. If you're reading this and would like to help with these challenges, PSTOS will be eternally grateful!

Happy Spring!
Jamie Snell
jamie@pstos.org

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.*

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**

A very special opportunity for you!!

In addition to the evening silent movie, Donna Parker is hosting this educational opportunity for students and adults!!

Silent Monday Matinee

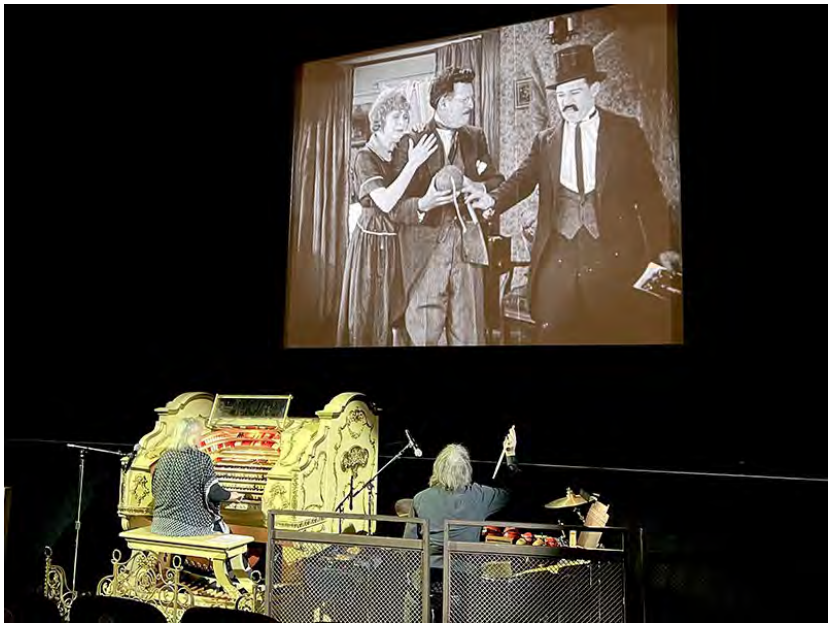
Monday, May 6, 2024

Doors open at 10:00 a.m.

Show at 11:00 a.m.

A 60-minute lecture, demonstration, and film screening about silent movies and the history of theatre pipe organs.

All ages welcome!



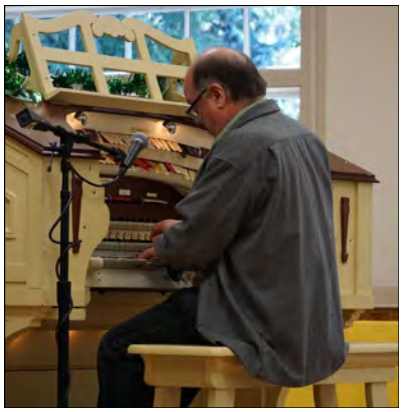
Step back in time to the 1920s at the historic Paramount Theatre! Hear The Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, view a short silent film, and learn about the music, history, and theatre of the silent film era.

During the matinee we will learn about French filmmaker/magician Georges Méliès' imaginative Sci-Fi world. A unique education event led by one of the Paramount's talented Organists, foley artists, and a film historian, this one-hour lecture/demonstration will give students and the young at heart insight into the magic of film in its beginnings!

"Spring Fling" Event a Success, With Some Surprises

by Jamie Snell

Spring was in the air on March 17 at the Haller Lake Community Club, as the audience gathered for the "Spring Fling" event. The Program Team had lined up an eclectic group of local players and musical segments, and the Refreshments and Decorations Team had prepared a colorful assortment of cupcakes, along with tea and coffee, plus table centerpieces with a St. Patrick's Day theme.



After an upbeat welcome by emcee Jeff Snyder, yours truly opened the program with "There's No Business Like Show Business" from the 1950 Irving Berlin musical *Annie Get Your Gun*. Jo Ann Evans then came to the console, and Halie Dodrill to the piano, for four duets: two Harry Woods hits - "When the Red, Red Robin (Comes Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along)" (1926), and "I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover" (1927); "April Showers," the Louis Silvers tune from the 1921 musical *Bombo*; and Irving Berlin's 1933 hit "Easter Parade," most famously used in the same-named 1948 film starring Judy Garland and Fred Astaire.

For a change of pace, 10-year-old Kazuki Taylor took the console for a fine rendition of Scott Joplin's 1899 classic, the "Maple Leaf Rag." This version was without pedals, the player's legs being slightly too short to reach them, but this fact did not stand in his way. The audience went wild!

Jo Ann continued at the organ with three tunes: the Roger Edens tune "It's a Great Day for the Irish," sung by Judy Garland in the 1940 film *Little Nellie Kelly*; "Just one of Those Things," from Cole Porter's 1935 musical *Jubilee*; and Charles Strouse's "Put on a Happy Face," from the 1960 musical *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Next, Elliot Sander came to the piano for a duet with Jo Ann on the 1926 Chester Conn tune "Sunday." He then moved to the organ to lead an audience singalong of three Irish standards: "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "Danny Boy" (AKA "Londonderry Air"), and "Sweet Rosie O'Grady." He concluded with two Jimmy

Continued on page 5

"Spring Fling" *continued*

Van Heusen tunes: "It's Always You," from the 1941 film *Road to Zanzibar*; and "Come Fly with Me," popularized by Frank Sinatra in 1958.

Yours truly then returned to the stage to announce the next segment - not a performance, but "Name That Tune," an audience participation game based on the TV and radio shows of the same name. These started back in the 1950s, and have continued through the present, with versions in at least 28 countries. The rules were simple: A tune begins; if someone hollers out the correct name, or the initial musical phrase is completed, the next tune begins; and so on. Jeff Snyder served as referee; at the end of ten minutes, the planned limit, he judged that the audience was having a good time, and let it go on for another ten. Of the 82 songs started, all but three were named.

Jamison Colagrossi came to the console next, and played two songs: "Home in Pasadena" (Harry Warren, 1923); and "The Parting Glass," a traditional Scottish and Irish parting song. And finally, yours truly played Jule Styne's "Never Never Land" from the 1954 musical *Peter Pan*, and "When You Wish Upon a Star" by Leigh Harline, from the 1940 Disney animated film *Pinocchio*.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this event, including: the performers - Jo Ann Evans, Halie Dodrill, Kazuki Taylor, Elliot Sander, and Jamison Colagrossi; Program Team Chair Jo Ann, for organizing the event, handling reservations, etc.; Jeff Snyder, for superb work as emcee and great photography, and helping with "Name That Tune"; Bob Borton, for setup, organ prep, handling audio technology, giving chamber tours, and helping with the LP and cassette giveaways; Terry Perdue, for working with Bob and helping with donations; Marie Perdue and Cheryl Stuart, for handling refreshments and decorations; Greg Smith, for organ repairs and tuning; Bob Zat (in absentia), for providing fine instructions on the organ and venue, and for being available by phone in case of organ problems (there were none); and finally, the Program Team, the new POP Team, and Pipeline Editor Annabelle Schertzinger, for brainstorming, planning, promotion, and much other work to make the event a success. BTW, there was no admission fee, but we still ended up slightly in the black, thanks to generous audience donations...**thank you!**

Welcome new members!!

Kimberly Majko
&
Gavin Duncan

AGO Programs

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

Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.
Organist Kimberly Marshall presents an All-Bach concert on the Flentrop organ at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E., Seattle. Tickets $25/$20.

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m.
Dr. Kimberly Marshall, Organ Professor at Arizona State Univ. Bach Presentation & Masterclass using the Noack organ at First Lutheran Church of West Seattle, 4105 California Ave. SW, Seattle, 98116. No charge. Ample free parking. Jointly sponsored by Seattle AGO & UW School of Music. If interested in playing, contact Dr. Stephen Price at UW School of Music.

Saturday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.
Fine Arts at Faith will present Portland-based singer & songwriter Bobby Jo Valentine as he performs original works. His music is religiously inspired to be inclusive of all walks of life. Suggested donation $10 per person or $20 per family. Reception will follow. Faith Lutheran Church, 9041 166th Ave. NE, Redmond, 98052.

Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.
Organ & tuba concert at University Presbyterian Church, 4540 15th Ave. NE, Seattle, 98105. UW students Joel Horton, tuba, & Cole Henslee, organ. Prokofiev's Romeo & Juliet, Urlicht from Mahler 2, Mvt 2 of Dvorak's New World Symphony & New Kid by Anna Baadsvik. Church has 4-manual Reuter pipe organ.

Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.
Concert by James O'Donnell, organist of Westminster Abbey, playing the Hutchings-Votey/Rosales organs at St. James Cathedral, 804 9th Ave., Seattle, 98104. Suggested donation $20/$12. J.S. Bach's Prelude & Fugue in E Flat & Olivier Messiaen's Les Corps Glorieux. Following a 23-year tenure as Organist & Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, Mr. O'Donnell now holds the post of Professor in the Practice of Organ at Yale School of Music & Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

Sunday, May 12, 2:00 p.m.
Seattle AGO Chapter event. Young Organists' Recital & Reception. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, 3218 W. Barrett St., Seattle, 98199. Church has a 3-manual 36-rank Casavant organ. No charge. Open to the public.

Saturday, May 18, 10:00 a.m.
Organ Masterclass with Dr. Stephen Price at St. Dunstan's Church, 722 N. 145th, Shoreline, 98133. Students will play the Ortloff pipe organ. Free. Open to the public. If you would like to play at this masterclass, contact music director Susanna Valleau at St. Dunstan's at music@sdchp.org.

Sunday, May 19, 2:00 p.m.
"Bells & Pipes, Fire & Ice." Northwest Edvard Grieg Society presents a Nordic Chamber Music Iceland Concert featuring Doug Cleveland, organist, & Brian Chin, trumpeter. Concert will feature new works for organ & trumpet by Icelandic composers. Ballard First Lutheran, 2006 NW 65th, Seattle, 98117. Church has a 2-manual 24-rank Balcom & Vaughan pipe organ.

Sunday, May 19, 3:00 p.m.
Dr. Stephen Price in concert on the Ortloff Organ at St. Dunstan's Church, 722 N. 145th, Shoreline, 98133.

Sunday, May 19, 3:00 p.m.
Burton Memorial Organ Concert with organist Wayne Gilreath from Atlanta, GA, in concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1300 9th St., Anacortes, 98221. Free, donations accepted.

Here are some websites where you can hear theatre organs at your leisure!!! More in the next Pipeline!

Billy Nalle on organ and Ray Mosca on drums - 2 selections from "Swingin' Pipe Organ"
RCA 1957 - video of stills only
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baKNR-Qlfuk

Mark Herman - Without a Song (Astoria Centre, Barnsley, UK)
Video of playing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tD0SKM73CZI

Dave Wickerham - Jammin' at The Janckos (3/32 Wurlitzer opus 1616)
Video of playing, narration, walking tour of Jancko Collection in S. Florida https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmOx5sm4GyQ

Phil Kelsall - Musical Museum Live - 20th March 2022
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78M19GekAfw&t=90s

Phil Kelsall at the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ of the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool - Volume Two
Video of tour and playing
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyz36QhhgLo&t=0s

Sunday, May 19, 10:00 p.m.
Organ by Night concert by Wyatt Smith on the Flentrop of St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E., Seattle, 98102. No charge.

Saturday, May 25, 10:00 a.m.
Olympic Chapter of AGO sponsors an organ masterclass for scholarship recipients led by Dr. Stephen Price at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 1187 Wyatt Way NW, Bainbridge Island, 98110. Free & open to the public. After class there will be open console time at the 2-manual 24-rank Bond organ.

Friday, June 7, 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Jonathan Embry will present a recital on the Fritts-Richards organ at St. Alphonsus Parish, 5816 1th Ave. NW, Seattle, 98107. Suggested donation $15.

Thursday, June 13, 7:00 p.m.
Christopher Houlihan in concert as past of the Margaret Graebner Series for pipe organ concerts at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 E. Lopez Ave., Port Angeles, 98362. Free, open to the public.

Sunday, June 16, 10:00 p.m.
Organ by Night concert by Julian Petrallia on the Flentrop of St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E., Seattle, 98102. No charge.

Wednesday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.
Joseph Adam presents a concert of works by Paul Hindemith, Florence Price, & Franz Liszt on the combined Rosales/ Hutchings-Votey organ at St. James Cathedral, 804 9th Ave. Seattle, 98104.

Sunday, June 23, 3:00 p.m.
Burton Memorial Organ Concert with Wyatt Smith joined by mezzo soprano Tracelyn Gesteland in concert using the 1926 Sherman & Clay/Wicks organ at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1300 9th St., Anacortes, 98221. Free of charge; donations accepted.

Pages from the Past

Tampa Bay »

DANIEL WALLACE | Times

Merriment, music, a movie

Rosa Rio, 107, listens to the warm reception from a packed house as she takes the stage for Tampa Theatre's Vaudeville Revue and Picture Show on Sunday. She played the Mighty Wurlitzer theater organ to Buster Keaton's *One Week* silent film from 1920. "I'm delighted to play for people and be enjoyed," she said. "I reap so much joy in doing it." She has been playing the piano since she was 8, and earned her first job playing for silent movies at age 10 in New Orleans. The variety show featured five acts with juggling, magic, shenanigans and general tomfoolery.

Epilogue | Rosa Rio

At 107, 'a life force' departs the stage

BY COLLEEN JENKINS
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — The Queen of the Soaps has played her last note.

Rosa Rio, the spirited organist who earned her nickname providing accompaniments for soap operas and radio dramas decades before thrilling Tampa Theatre audiences with her witty turns on the Mighty Wurlitzer, died Thursday (May 13, 2010) at 107.

In a testament to her stamina, Mrs. Rio's death — just weeks before her 108th birthday — took people by surprise.

"The lady triumphed at every turn," said Lew Williams, a fellow organist and longtime friend. "She was more than a musician. She was a life force."

She was also possibly the last of the original generation of theater organists, said John Apple of Michael's Music Service, a company that published some of her work.

Rosa Rio was an organist for soap operas and radio dramas before her job at the Tampa Theatre.

"We really lost a link to that past," he said Friday.

Mrs. Rio's resume read like a history book on the evolution of the entertainment industry. She established herself as a silent movie accompanist in the '20s after studying piano at Oberlin College in Ohio and organ at

» See ROSA RIO, 9A

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Thursday, April 25, 1985

Neptune Theater organ is no pipe dream

By Don Carter
P-I Reporter

One day next summer, there will be a mighty sound in the Neptune Theater. It will be what Mike Wallace calls *"the"* sound.

Most evenings, while patrons are watching revival films at the University District theater, there is a show of another kind going on up in the old theater's organ lofts. Behind the gilded grilles that flank the theater's screen, Wallace is putting together his life's dream: his own theater pipe organ.

The hobbyist, who by days repairs computers and scientific instruments for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has spent several years collecting the 1,200 organ pipes, console, relays and other parts from around the Northwest. The collection had become somewhat of a problem, filling the 38-year-old bachelor's home and two other warehouse locations.

So he cut a deal with the Neptune's owners: They'll let him keep his organ on the premises, in exchange for its use.

"You have to use an organ," Wallace explains, "Otherwise, the leather (in the air-operated bellows) dries up, and you've got big problems."

"It should send shivers up and down your spine," predicts Neptune manager Dan Long, who believes that the organ — with 15 ranks, or sets of pipes — should fill his 800-seat theater with more dramatic sound than the recently restored Paramount organ fills that 3,000-seat theater.

Long says he hasn't figured out just what kind of silent films he'll get when the organ is completed, but thinks "we'll probably ease them (patrons) into it gradually, perhaps with interludes between shows on Friday and Saturday nights. Then there are lots of great old silent cartoons and shorts."

The theater manager believes "Seattle is really prime" for renewed interest in the old silent classics. He cites the crowds that turned out for re-release of the 1925 epic "Napoleon" in 1983, the Neptune's Laurel and Hardy and Buster Keaton programs last year, the showing of the original 1925 "Phantom of the Opera" (the one with Lon Chaney as the phantom), and this year's Seattle Symphony silent series at the Paramount.

Meanwhile, the Phantom of the Neptune is up in the loft putting the pieces of his epic puzzle together. Wallace's grand instrument will be a hybrid of more than a dozen old organs — a Robert Morton-Gottfried Moeller-Estey-Wurlitzer, if you will.

His console, for example, came from the Oregon Theater in Salem. The relays which connect and combine electric impulses from the keyboard and activate the pipe valves came from a Portland organ. The pipes came from all over, and one of the windchests (which distribute air to the pipes) was handmade by Gennie Whitting, a longtime Seattle organ buff.

Many of the companies which made the old pipe organs are now out of business. Others, like Wurlitzer, long ago dropped the pipe organs to concentrate on electronic organs and other lines.

But Wallace says he's not worried about replacement parts, "because you can fabricate many of them by hand, and there still are a lot of the original parts around." The word about old organ parts "travels in closed circles" among organ buffs, as well as in ads in the American Guild of Organists' Diapason and other organ-related publications.

The task of getting all the pipes and components up into the Neptune's four chambers, and connecting the miles of 12-volt wire and pneumatic tubes, takes a lot of heft and time, but it's made easier by the Neptune's architecture.

The theater was built in 1921, during the heyday of silent films — six years before Al Jolson and "The Jazz Singer" crooned in the era of talkies and the subsequent death of the theater organ. Thus the Neptune has all the right spaces for an organ. The building's also constructed of reinforced concrete, so it's not likely to shake apart when the organist pulls the stops to activate the 16-foot diapasons and bourdons.

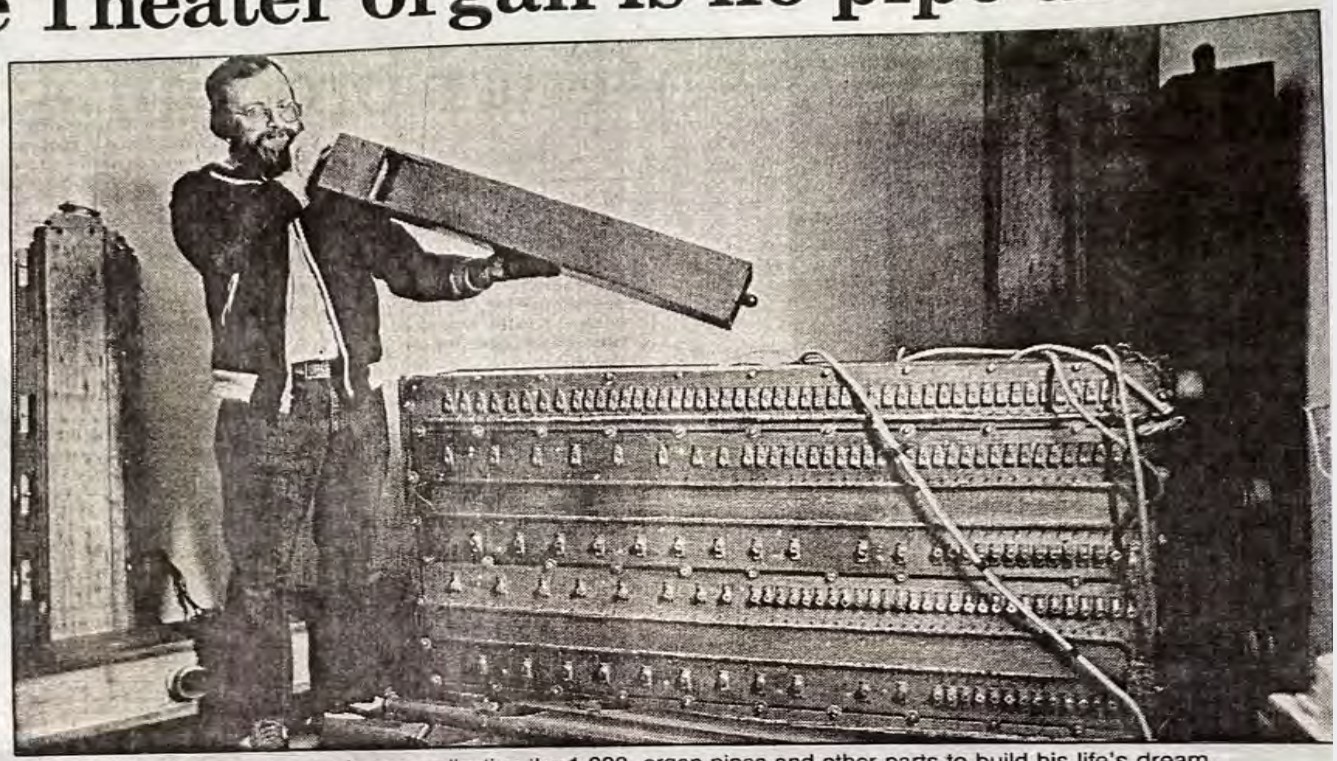
The Neptune's original 15-rank organ was removed just before World War II, served many years on the Seattle Pacific University campus, and recently was sold to an Oregon hobbyist.

Wallace learned the skills fo building an organ, as well as a the history about which part from which old movie palac organ moved here and there, as member of the local America Theatre Organ Society chapte He helped the society's all-volun teer crew restore the Paramoun Theater's long-silent Wurlitzer.

What's so fascinating abou theater organs, to take this kin of time and dedication?

"It's *the* sound," Wallace er thuses. "Here," he says, hoistin a 5-foot tibia pipe to his lip puffing into it with all his migh and producing the low, throat tone of a torch singer.

"That's the pipe people asso ciate with the theater orga sound; the tibia's the pipe tha does all the crying and sobbing."



Mike Wallace has spent several years collecting the 1,200 organ pipes and other parts to build his life's dream.

Theatre Organ POPS Concert

Featuring

DAVID MARSH

Playing the 3-manual 25-rank

KIMBALL-WURLITZER theatre pipe organ

Calvary Christian Assembly Church • 6801 Roosevelt Way NE • Seattle

Saturday, June 8, 2:00 PM

ADMISSION $20

16 and under FREE with adult

Tickets at the door, or online at pstos.org

Presented by

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society