PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 35, Nos. 9-10 September-October 2024 www.pstos.org

Pops on Pipes

Saturday, October 12
2:00 p.m.
Calvary Christian Assembly
6801 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle

presents in concert

DAVE WICKERHAM

World-renowned theatre organist Dave Wickerham will present a concert that you don't want to miss. In 2011 he was named ATOS' Organist of the Year. At PSTOS, we would call him that every year. If you make it to only one concert this year, make it this one.

The Allegheny RiverStone Center for the Arts says, "Keyboard artist-extraordinaire Dave Wickerham gave a spectacular-beyond-genius performance…"

Mark Demmin writes, "There's nothing this cat can't swing!"

The *Leader Times* in Pennsylvania writes, "Dave will be taking requests from the audience at intermission as he performs an entire second half of improvisations, magically weaving the request themes into an uninterrupted musical tapestry of myriad styles and genres to delight and amaze. There isn't a melody that this artist doesn't know!"

Tickets $20 at www.pstos.org or at the door

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
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Vol. 35, Nos. 9-10, Sept-Oct. 2024

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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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Calvary Christian Assembly—*Jeff Snyder*
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While still basking in happy memories of the Summer Social and Brett Valliant's concert (see write-ups in this issue), I'm eagerly anticipating October 12, when the inimitable Dave Wickerham will perform for us. He always brings a special joy, including through his audience request sheet at intermission, which he turns into a medley in the second half. Add to that the Holiday Party on December 1, and we still have much good music to look forward to this year.

Our 2025 concert calendar is now finalized, with four concerts rather than the usual three: March 29 – Seamus Gethicker, winner of the 2016 ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition, and a guest organist at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, AZ since 2022; June 7 – Donnie Rankin, 2023 ATOS Organist of the Year, former ATOS Board member, and currently a staff organist at the Akron, OH Civic Theatre; July 19 – Richard Hills, world-renowned UK organist, a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, Musical Adviser to the Cinema Organ Society, and 2010 ATOS Organist of the Year, with numerous recordings and worldwide concerts; and September 27 – Nick Renkosik, who has given numerous theatre organ concerts around the country, plays regularly at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee, WI, and recently performed for the Sanfilippo Foundation's Summer Concert series. The Program Planning Team is looking forward to an exciting and unusual year!

Many theatre organ fans were disappointed that this year's ATOS convention was canceled but are now feeling upbeat about next year's in Milwaukee, atypically scheduled for late July (the 21st through the 27th), hosted by the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society. Check https://www.atos.org/conventions and https://www.dtoswi.org for updates.

As always around this time of year, thoughts are turning to next year's staffing – officers, Board members, program and promotion teams, organ maintenance, event setup, etc. If you'd like to join in the fun and have the satisfaction of contributing, we would love to hear from you!

Jamie Snell
jamie@pstos.org

Welcome new members!

Stephen Mulcock
Tacoma, WA

Otis Bellerud
Olympia, WA

2025 Concerts

Put these on your calendar now for 2025!!

March 29, 2025 Seamus Gethicker

2016 winner of ATOS' Young Organist Competition, Seamus now performs at venues around the country and serves as guest organist at Organ Stop Pizza, in Mesa, Arizona. He has a broad taste in music and his programs contain selections that are sure to please everyone.

June 7, 2025 Donnie Rankin

Donnie's first interest in theatre organ was when he was 3 years old. In 2007 he began studying with Jelani Eddington, & he won the ATOS Young Organist Competition the same year. Now he plays concerts around the world.

July 19, 2025 Richard Hills

We're excited to welcome back Richard Hills who played a fabulous concert for us in June 2023. Richard was named Organist of the Year by ATOS in 2010. He's equally at home on both classical organ and theatre organ and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

September 27, 2025 Nick Renkosik

Nick not only has degrees in piano and organ performance, he is also an organ restoration technician and has a degree in Business Design & Innovation. He has also studied with Jelani Eddington and plays concerts around the country.

Don't miss our annual

Holiday Party

Sunday afternoon, December 1, 2024

at Haller Lake Community Club

Details in the next Pipeline

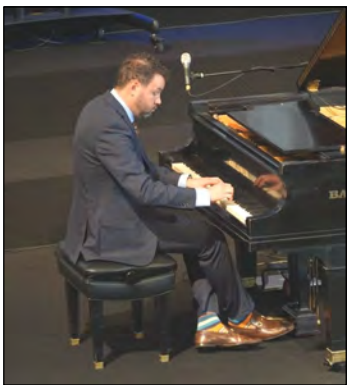
Brett Valliant Delights

by Jamie Snell

Brett Valliant is highly esteemed among theatre organ fans, so it was no surprise that excitement was high for his August 3rd concert at CCA. He is perhaps best known as a long-time staff organist at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, AZ. A native of Wichita, KS, Valliant began piano lessons at age 4, and studied organ at Wichita State University. He started playing professionally at age 11, and by 15 was playing concerts around the US. He has also performed in Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand; he has played for the American Film Institute, as well as at conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists. In 2021, he was named ATOS Organist of the Year.

After an introduction by emcee Jeff Snyder, Valliant opened with "Come Fly with Me," the 1958 Frank Sinatra hit; Henry Mancini's "It Had Better Be Tonight" from the 1963 film *The Pink Panther*; and the 1953 Vic Damone hit "Ebb Tide." If anyone in the audience had wondered whether this concert would be pizza parlor music, the opening numbers answered that question! For these numbers, and throughout the concert, Valliant provided interesting and amusing remarks about their history and personal significance. Next, for a surprise, Valliant got up and moved to the Baldwin grand piano, explaining that he had earlier recorded the organ part for a duet with himself on "Old Piano Roll Blues," which he proceeded to play. The audience was evidently delighted by the mixture and antiphonal effects of the piano and organ.

Turning to Broadway, Valliant played a medley of tunes from the 1927 Kern and Hammerstein musical *Show Boat*, including "Make Believe," "Ol' Man River," and "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man." Next up, Ennio Morricone's "Gabriel's Oboe," the theme from the 1986 film *The Mission*, followed by the 1933 Jerome Kern classic "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes." As he moved to the piano again, Valliant told of his long-time piano teacher, who knew of his passion for the organ but pretended only competence to teach piano, and only after her death was revealed to him as being a professional organist. To end the first half, Valliant played another piano-organ duet, this one of highlights from classical piano favorites, including: Rachmaninoff's *Prelude in C-Sharp Minor*; Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor*; Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*; Richard Addinsell's *Warsaw Concerto*; and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. Judging from the applause, this tour-de-force left no doubt of his prowess as a pianist, as much as an organist.



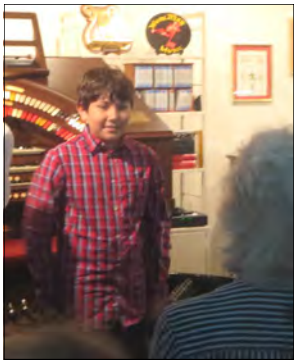
Following intermission, with the usual scrumptious cookies and coffee, Valliant resumed with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," followed by Billy Joel's "I Go to Extremes," the 1957 Johnny Mathis hit "Chances Are," and "Little White Lies," the 1930 tune by Walter Donaldson, with arrangement credit to Portland organist Paul Quarino. Next, returning to Broadway, "76 Trombones" from *The Music Man*, and "Memory" from the Andrew Lloyd Webber show *Cats*. To end the program, Valliant then played a medley from *West Side Story*, including "Tonight," "One Hand, One Heart," "I Feel Pretty," "Maria," and "There's a Place for Us." Then, after thunderous applause, as an encore, the timeless "Over the Rainbow," followed by more thunderous applause.

Thanks to everyone who made this event a success, including Brett Valliant; Jo Ann Evans and the entire program planning team; Pipeline editor Annabelle Schertzinger, social media coordinator Grahame McMaster, webmaster Tom Blackwell, and the "POP" team for promotion; Bob Borton, Terry Perdue, Jeff Snyder, and Greg Smith for assuring that the organ sounded spectacular, as always; Ellen Sullivan and Marie Perdue for refreshments; treasurer Jim Welch for ticket sales and financial management; Rachel Snyder for CCA member ticketing; JoAn Andenes for AGO ticketing; and PSTOS-CCA liaison Jeff Snyder and CCA facilities manager Todd Lidstrom for myriad vital details.

Another Superb Summer Social

by Jamie Snell

Russ and Jo Ann Evans have hosted many theatre organ events at their home in Kenmore, and the PSTOS Summer Social on July 21 continued the tradition in grand style. As the guests arrived at the back patio, the two hosts greeted them and guided them to the organ studio, home to their 3/18 Wurlitzer. When everyone was seated, Jo Ann welcomed the group and gave a brief history of the organ, then opened the program with the classic tunes "Back Home in Indiana" and "Carolina in the Morning." She then introduced the youngest artist of the day, Kazuki Taylor (11), who played an up-beat rendition of "Little Brown Jug." Jo Ann had been coaching Kazuki for several months, and his playing was a delight to hear.



Artists: Jamie, Jamieson, Mason, Jo Ann, Kazuki, Sawyer, & Murl

The program continued with three talented up-and-coming organists, newer friends of PSTOS, starting with Jamison Colagrossi, who recently moved to the area from Indiana. Being a fan of Tetris, he played the game's theme, officially titled "Korobeiniki," based on the Russian folk song. He then moved from the organ and picked up his - wait for it - banjo! Sawyer Best then took the bench and they played a duet on "Rainbow Connection," made famous by Kermit the Frog (Jim Henson) in the 1979 film *The Muppet Movie*. Next up, Mason Jones came to the organ and played the old favorites "Tiptoe Through the Tulips," "Teddy Bear's Picnic," and an original composition, provisionally titled "Untitled Love Theme."

Yours truly then took the bench for three standards: "If I Only Had a Brain," from *The Wizard of Oz*; "Cheek to Cheek," from the 1935 Astaire-Rogers film *Top Hat*; and "Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer," the Hans Carste song popularized by Nat King Cole.

Sawyer Best then returned to the console to play "Comedy Tonight," from the 1962 Sondheim musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*; "Not While I'm Around," from the Sondheim musical *Sweeny Todd*; and a medley from *The Music Man*, including "Goodnight My Someone," "Lida Rose," "Gary, Indiana," "Till There Was You," and "76 Trombones." Next, for another surprise, Sawyer took up his accordion, while Murl Sanders, the noted Seattle accordion and piano virtuoso and instructor, appeared with his accordion, for a duet on the Stevie Wonder hit "You Are the Sunshine of My Life."

Following much applause, Sawyer returned to the console for two encores: the Milton Delugg novelty tune "Roller Coaster," popularized by George Wright; and the timeless ballad "Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*. The applause resumed resoundingly.

Following the program, the audience migrated to the Evans' back patio, where root beer floats and spirited conversation were in plentiful supply. Impromptu organ playing continued in the studio, as did accordion playing on the patio. Apparently, a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to Russ and Jo Ann Evans for hosting the event and allowing the use of their Mighty Wurlitzer; to the performers for marvelous playing; to Marie Perdue and Ellen Sullivan for refreshments; and to all who helped set up and clean up.

Sawyer Best at his Best

by Annabelle Schertzinger

Sawyer Best, one of PSTOS' young theatre organists, presented two concerts in August at Kenyon Hall in West Seattle. After 10 years of private study on both piano and accordion, Sawyer discovered the theatre pipe organ five years ago and has fallen in love with it. His passion and talent are evident in every performance, and his repertoire is wide-ranging. Both concerts included a variety of music and a silent movie. His movie-accompaniment skills are excellent! On August 3 he opened the show with *"This Could Be the Start of Something Big,"* [indeed!] and also included several other tunes from movies and musicals including *"The Music Man."* He introduced the1929 Laurel & Hardy movie *"Liberty"* by playing *"Paramount on Parade"* which was written for the Paramount/Publix chain of theaters as a theme. The August 18 concert included tunes such as *"Stormy Weather," "Pure Imagination," "The Impossible Dream," and* a medley from *"Hello, Dolly."* After the 1922 silent movie, *"The Blacksmith"* featuring Buster Keaton, Sawyer moved to the piano where he played or played and sang some tunes. Soon Sawyer will head back to Oregon for another year of study at Willamette University. We look forward to him being back in Seattle for more music on his school breaks!

Sawyer reminiscing about his mentor, the late Lou Magor, before playing and singing Magor's original song, *"West Seattle."*

Reminder—
It's time to start thinking about renewing your membership for 2025. Renew online or check the website pstos.org. $25 per family

Did you know?

The Paramount Theatre in Seattle offers a free tour on the first Saturday of each month. Usually the organ is introduced and played at each tour. 10 a.m.

911 Pine Street
Seattle
Visit the Paramount's website to make a reservation.

Also consider joining ATOS. $70 is the new price, effective September 1, 2024, in order to remain fiscally sound. Membership includes a subscription to *Theatre Organ* magazine.
www.atos.org.

Another Opportunity to see a Silent Movie

Kenyon Hall, 7904 35th Ave. SW, Seattle, 98126, presents Dennis James accompanying the 1924 film *"Peter Pan"* starring Betty Bronson.
Sunday, September, 29, 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. $15/$10.

AGO Programs

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

Friday, September 20, 12:10 noon
Third Friday concert at Christ Episcopal, 310 North K St., Tacoma, 98403. Donation at door.

Friday, September 21, 7:30 p.m.
Organ Dedication played by Paul Tegels of the 2-manual 30-rank M.L. Bigalow opus 31 pipe organ at Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 5050 8th Ave. NE, Seattle, 98105. The organ, dedicated in memory of Ruth & Paul Manz, was built in 2004 for a location in Chicago and was relocated and installed in Seattle in 2024. Suggested donation $30/$25.

Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m.
Candlelight concert of choir & organ music to using the newly-installed two-manual 30-rank Bigalow organ at Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 5050 8th Ave. NE, Seattle, 98105.

Sunday, October 6, 3:00 p.m.
Wyatt Smith and his colleague Tracy Doyle (University of Puget Sound Director of the School of Music & Professor of flute) will present a program of music of living composers (some local) for flute & organ on the Pasi organ at Trinity Lutheran Church of Lynnwood, 6215 196th St. SW, Lynnwood, 98036. Free parking. Suggested donation $15/$10.

Saturday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.
"Before Bach" organ concert by Dr. Benjamin Stone on the Bigalow organ at Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 5050 8th Ave NE, Seattle, 98105. Suggested donation $30/$25.

Friday, October 18, 12:10 noon
Third Friday concert at Christ Episcopal, 310 North K Street, Tacoma, 98403. Donation at the door.

Friday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 20, 3 p.m.
Two identical performances. Soprano Laura Loge & organist John Stuntebeck will bring Scandinavian church music to Thomsen Chapel of St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle.

Here are some websites where you can hear theatre organs at your leisure!!!

Dave Wickerham plays requests at TOSA Marrickville Wurlitzer in November 2011. Video of playing.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LxI_HmDppI

Hot Pipes (theatre organ podcasts by Steve Ashley)
https://www.hotpipes.eu/

Theatre/Cinema Organ Lessons & Performances (Tom Horton, UK organist)
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcZBFnMNyB_ArWYaK9G0g-kWDIVrDRruk

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
https://www.pstos.org

American Theatre Organ Society—history
https://www.atos.org/about/history/theatre-organ

Sandy Maxx Interview with Richard Hills
https://www.facebook.com/TheSandyMaxx/videos/1179717583185171/

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 & it's done!

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

Lowrey Digital Organ

Free to a good home. New owner handles move. One-octave pedalboard, two partial keyboards of three and a half octaves each (offset one octave from each other). 42.5" wide, 25"deep, 40.5" tall.
Contact Jonathan Conrad, 206-617-2853, jjxcrunner@gmail.com. Pickup in Arlington.

Piano for Adoption

I'm a widower whose wife had a passion for music. I have a Kawai Rx2 Piano that belonged to her, now looking for a new home. Contact Gay Stanek, gstanek02@gmail.com

Cable Nelson Spinet Piano

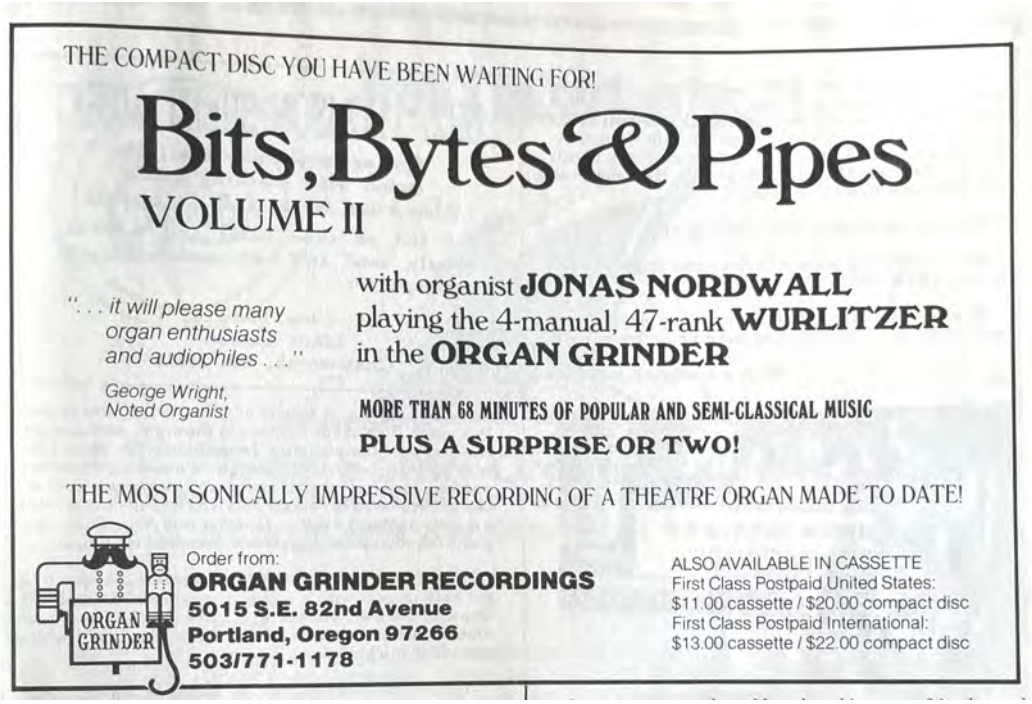
Free to a good home. In good condition. Currently in south Snohomish County. Current owner willing to help pay for the move.
Contact Barbara at barbt231@comcast.net.

For Sale

Two manual, 8-rank unit pipe organ. Originally by Wicks, expanded by Balcom & Vaughan. Recently refurbished with tonal finishing by the Pipe Organ Foundation. Console can be unplugged for easy moving. Well-balanced stop list. Easy to disassemble and move. Currently in Port Orchard, WA. *Contact hopemcp@hotmail.com or call/text 206-310-0900.*

Pages from the Past

An ad from the November 1988 issue of *Tabs and Drawbars,* the newsletter of the Pacific Council for Organ Clubs.



And an email received this week:

[First time on CD! Original Organ Grinder Albums Like You've Never Heard Them Before!](#)
Launching the "At the Organ Grinder 3 1/2 Volume Collection" After months of research & preparation, we are enthusiastically delighted to announce the release of "3 1/2 Volumes" of Organ Grinder performances on CD as an early means of crowdfunding for the documentary. You can order these. See below.

[KPTV-12 Segment on the Documentary](#)Today I was invited onto KPTV-12's streaming show by reporter Greg Nibler, to talk about the history of the Organ Grinder and about the next steps for the documentary project. https://www.youtube.com/live/Rep-B3xcspY?si=Il9AgF3AP-BZCY8q&t=20

Dennis Hedberg from Portland has digitized this 2-CD set of Organ Grinder performances from years gone by from LP records using the master tapes that were recently discovered. Some unreleased performances are included. Featured artists include Jonas Nordwall, Paul Quarino, Patti Simon Zollman, Don Simmons, David Lee, Jack Coxon, Russ Chilson, & Ray Young. Two hours and 8 minutes in length. The price at $100 is a bit steep but 20% will be donated to ATOS, and you will get pristine, best quality sound that we can expect from Dennis. www.pipedreamsfilm.com

Pages from the Past

From the same issue of *Tabs and Drawbars*. But no 2024 equivalent of this! Wouldn't this be fun?

Don't miss the boat!

SEA SAFARI

Sea Safari Organ Cruises

Invites You To Join Us On Two Fabulous Music Cruises In June And October Of 1989.

Number 1

June 24 to July 8, 1989: Copenhagen, Norwegian Coast & Fjords, North Cape Murmansk, Russia and return to Copenhagen, aboard the new ROYAL VIKING SUN. By popular demand, our artist will be Australia's great organist/pianist TONY FENELON.

Number 2

October 12 to 21, 1989: Chesapeake Bay, including a 3 day pre-cruise visit to Washington, D.C. Our 15th Anniversary Cruise aboard our own chartered ship NANTUCKET CLIPPER. Featured artists for this cruise will be two of your favorites: ROSEMARY BAILEY AND GENE ROBERSON. We will "TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE SHIP" for this cruise!

SEND IN THE COUPON OR CALL US COLLECT FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE TWO EXCITING CRUISES!

_____ June 24 to July 8, 1989: Copenhagen, Norway & Murmansk, Russia.

_____ October 12 to 21, 1989: Washington, D.C. and Chesapeake Bay.

_____ Please add my name to your mailing list to receive SEA SAFARI NOTES.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____ PHONE(____)_____

Mail to: *ANNE OLSON/SEA SAFARIS*
1236 Volcan View Dr., P.O. Box 2230
Julian, California 92036
619-765-1236

Please don't miss the boat!

NOVEMBER 1988

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Don't Miss It!

Coming Saturday, Oct. 12

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society presents

Pops on Pipes

Theatre Organ at its Best with

DAVE WICKERHAM

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No stairs - Plenty of free parking - Refreshments

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