PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 35, Nos. 11-12 November-December 2024 www.pstos.org

Holiday celebration

Sunday, December 1, 2024
1:30 p.m.
Haller Lake Community Club

12579 Densmore Ave. N
Seattle WA 98133

Come enjoy holiday cheer!

Music
Decorations
Refreshments
Sing-along
Surprises!

All ages welcome!!
Smiles guaranteed!

In order to plan for refreshments, **please make a reservation.**
Email joann@pstos.org
or phone 425-485-5465 & leave a message with your name & number attending.
THANK YOU!!

No admission fee, please donate what you can to cover expenses

A brief Annual Meeting to elect and install 2025 Board members will precede the festivities.

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 128 th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore. Clubhouse is on the right.

Southbound I-5: PLEASE NOTE - NE 145th St is closed just west of Exit 175. Instead, use Exit 176; turn right on NE 175th St (westbound); go 2 blocks & turn left on Meridian Ave N; go 2.4 miles & turn right on N. 128th St; go 1 block & turn left on Densmore Ave N; clubhouse is on the right.

Free parking front & rear. Disabled entry with elevator at rear of building.

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Vol. 35, Nos. 11-12, Nov.-Dec 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*
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Tyler Pattison, tyler@pstos.org
Grahame McMaster, grahame@pstos.org

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***Organ Restoration & Maintenance**—TBD*
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***Haller Lake Community Club**—Jamie Snell*
***Paramount Theatre**—Phil Hargiss*
***Calvary Christian Assembly**—Jeff Snyder*
***ATOS**—Bob Borton*

PSTOS Nominating Committee's Task is Simple for 2025

At the September board meeting, a nominating committee was named to finalize a potential slate of officers and directors for 2025. The committee includes Bob Zat, JoAnn Evans, Barb Graham and Bob Borton.

The committee's first task is to contact all present officers and directors about their willingness to serve another term. Hallelujah! They all have said "Yes!"

This, however, does not preclude new folks joining the board. The official election will be held at the December 1st holiday party at Haller Lake Community Club, and additional nominations will be accepted up to that date. Contact any committee member for more information—their contact info can be found on page 2 of all Pipelines.

(For the current officers & directors, see the column to the left.)

Our old/new President will have a message for us in our next newsletter!!

Reminder—
It's time to renew your membership for 2025. Renew online or check the website pstos.org.

Also consider joining ATOS. New price $70 effective September 1, 2024. Increase needed to balance the budget. See p.6 of Theatre Organ Journal for details.

The Pipeline publishes, at the editor's discretion, one-time free ads submitted by PSTOS members, no larger than 2 column inches, including a brief description of the item, contact info, and optionally an image, but not the price of the item.

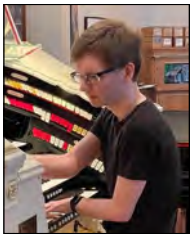
Welcome new members!

Kathleen McIntosh
Seattle, 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.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0j2IqlFvoA

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.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RrPKPFL-JM

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.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWClq1Pr7hM

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.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVX7-jaI-OY

Wickerham Wows Again!

by Jamie Snell

The air was electric at Calvary Christian Assembly as the audience gathered for Dave Wickerham's "Pops on Pipes" concert on October 12. Wickerham is among the very best theatre organists in the world, and is remembered by PSTOS members and friends from many stellar concerts, not only for his astonishing musicianship, but for his natural humor and engagement with the audience. He certainly lived up to those memories.

Wickerham opened the concert with two upbeat Vincent Youmans tunes: "Halleluia!" from the 1927 musical *Hit the Deck*, and "Great Day," from the same-named 1929 musical. Following those: Scott Joplin's "Ragtime Dance"; "On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever)" from the same-named musical; "Speak Softly, Love," from *The Godfather*; the Dean Martin hit "That's Amore"; "It's Now or Never," the Elvis Presley adaptation of ""O Sole Mio"; the 1880 Neapolitan classic "Funiculì, Funiculà"; "Windmills of Your Mind" from *The Thomas Crown Affair*; and the hymn "Blessed Assurance." To end the first half, he played a wide-ranging medley of John Williams themes from *Raiders of the Lost Ark, Harry Potter*, and *Star Wars*. But wait! - in the grand Wickerham tradition, before breaking for intermission, he asked the audience to write requests on a paper pad in the lobby, which he would assemble into a medley in the second half.

During intermission, many attendees did just that, in between luscious rounds of coffee, cookies, and home-made pumpkin bread. One audience member was overheard to say, "I'm in disbelief!" But the best was yet to come...

The second half opened with "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," from the same-named film; "Serenade" from Romberg's *The Student Prince*, and the Kern classic "All the Things You Are" from the 1939 musical *Very Warm for May.* Wickerham then commenced the anticipated audience request medley, including: "Thus Spoke Zarathustra," the legendary tone poem by Richard Strauss; the timeless "Blue Danube Waltz" by Johann Strauss II, composed in 1866; "Jalousie," the well-known 1925 tango by Jacob Gade; theme from *Chariots of Fire*; Joplin's "Entertainer Rag"; the inimitable 1915 novelty tune "Nola" by Felix Arndt, written as an engagement gift to his fiancée and later wife; the Irving Gordon classic "Unforgettable," popularized by Nat King Cole; "Bali Hai" from *South Pacific*; theme from *Star Trek*; "Ilia's Theme" by Jerry Goldsmith, from *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*; the 1947 Barclay Allen hit "Cumaná"; the Leonard Cohen hit "Hallelujah"; the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"; the Henry Mancini hit "Moon River" from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*; "Sunrise, Sunset" and "Fiddler on the Roof," from the same-named musical; theme from *The Addams Family* by Vic Mizzy (complete with audience finger snaps); the toccata from J.S. Bach's "Toccata and Fugue in D minor"; "In the Hall of the Mountain King," composed by Edvard Grieg in 1875; "Rubber Ducky" from *Sesame Street*; the 1911 Irving Berlin hit "Alexander's Ragtime Band"; and "God Bless America" with multiple intricate variations. The audience was, well, in disbelief.

Following an extended standing ovation, Wickerham acquiesced to an encore, "something simple," he said, and embarked on a seven-minute medley of variations on "Chopsticks," touching other well-known themes including Chabrier's "España."

Needless to say, the audience went wild.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this momentous day a success!

Silent Movie Mondays at the Paramount Theater

Monday, January 27, 2025
The Gold Rush (1925)
Live full orchestra performs Chaplin's original score.

Written, produced, directed by Charlie Chaplin who stars as the Lone Prospector, a character who ventures into the Alaskan wilderness during the Gold Rush in search of fortune. One of the film's most iconic scenes features Chaplin's character cooking and eating his own shoe to stave off starvation. *The Gold Rush* is celebrated for its blend of comedy and pathos, and Chaplin himself considered it one of his best works

Monday, April 28, 2025
The Last Laugh (1924)
Donna Parker on the organ

This German silent film directed by F.W. Murnau stars Emil Jannings as an aging hotel doorman who takes immense pride in his job and uniform. However, his life takes a dramatic turn when he is demoted to the position of washroom attendant due to his advancing age. The film ends with a surprising twist allowing him to return to the hotel in a position of newfound wealth and respect. *The Last Laugh* is celebrated for its innovative use of the moving camera and its profound depiction of human dignity and despair.

Monday, August 25, 2025
The Freshman (1925)
Tyler Pattison on the organ, Paul Hansen on Foley Sound

Harold Lloyd shines as the lovable underdog Harold Lamb, a naive and eager college freshman who dreams of becoming popular by joining the school's football team. Despite his enthusiasm, Harold becomes the butt of jokes and is unaware that he is the laughingstock of the school. Through his perseverance and genuine nature, Harold finally earns the respect and popularity he sought. A delightful blend of physical comedy and sweet charm.

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

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

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.

ATOS Convention
July 21-27, 2025
Milwaukee, WI

Visit The Dairyland Theatre Organ Society website for more info. dtoswi.org

AGO Programs

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

Friday, November 1, 7:00 pm
All Souls Requiem Mass. Mozart's Requiem with orchestra. St. James Cathedral, 804 Ninth Ave., Seattle, 98104.

Sunday, November 3, 5:30 pm
Gabriel Faure's Requiem sung in context of worship. Epiphany Episcopal, 1805 38th Ave. Seattle 98122.

Saturday, November 9, 7:30 pm
"Endless Song" organ concert by Dr. Justin Murphy-Mancini. Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 5050 8th Ave NE, Seattle 98105.

Tuesday, November 12, 7:30 pm
University of Washington Faculty Recital. Rachel Priday on violin & Stef Price on organ. Plymouth Church United Church of Christ, 1217 6th Ave. Seattle, 98101. Free & open to the public.

Friday, November 15, 12:10 noon
Third Friday concert at Christ Episcopal, 310 North K St., Tacoma, 98403. Free-will donation at the door.

Friday, November 15, 7:30 pm
Anton Bruckner Bicentennial Concert. St. James Cathedral, 804 Ninth Ave., Seattle, 98104.

Saturday, November 23, 7:30 pm
Nathan Laube in concert, celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Brombaugh organ, Christ Church Episcopal, 310 North K St., Tacoma, 98403.

Friday, December 6, 12:05 noon
Dr. Wyatt Smith presents an organ recital on the Fritts organ at Kilworth Chapel, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma.

Friday, December 6, 7:30 pm & Saturday, Dec 7, 2:00 pm
Two performances of Handel's "Messiah" at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 5050 8th Ave. NE, Seattle, 98105.

Wednesday, December 11, 6:00-8:00 pm
Organ master class with Janette Fishell at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 E. Lopez Ave., Port Angeles, 98362.

Thursday, December 12, time TBD
Organ concert by Janette Fishell at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles.

Friday, December 13, 7:00 pm
Advent readings & carols with the Cathedral Youth Choirs. St. James Cathedral, 804 Ninth Ave., Seattle, 98104.

Friday, December 13 & Saturday, December 14, 7:30 pm
Handel's "Messiah" with period orchestra. Epiphany Episcopal, 1805 38th Ave., Seattle 98122. Tickets $45.

Saturday, December 14, 7:30 pm
"Tis the Season" organ concert by Kyle Canaday at Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 505 8th Ave. NE, Seattle 98105. Suggested donation $30/$25. Family-friendly event.

Sunday, December 15, 3:00 pm
Seattle Girls Choir Cantamus. St. Dunstan's Episcopal, 722 145th N., Shoreline 98133. Suggested donation $20/$5.

Friday, December 20, 12:10 noon
Third Friday concert at Christ Episcopal, 310 North K St., Tacoma, 98403. Free-will donation at the door.

Sunday, December 22, 5:30 pm
Advent carol service with anthem & readings by candlelight. Epiphany Episcopal, 1805 38th Ave., Seattle 98122.

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

The Balmoral Blues—David Lobban at the Empress
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMLmF5mX9h0

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

Donnie Rankin & Jelani Eddington at Carma Labs
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLBntRQofVg

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/

Margaret Hall & Greg Cunningham, Deep Purple Concerto
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=id 81niDZNYY

Free to a good home
Wicks 2/8 theatre pipe organ. Enlarged from Wicks opus 476 (1923), originally in Liberty Theatre, LeGrand, OR; console from Orange (CA) Theatre. In sealed, padded pipe trays in Anchorage, AK. New owner handles shipping.
John C. Finley, finley@ak.net 907-561-5648

For sale or donation to a non-profit
1922 Wurlitzer 2/9 pipe organ, Opus 569, originally in Corvallis Amusement Company, then in other homes in Oregon & Alaska.
Margaret MacKinnon,
margaret.mackinnon@gmail.com

Pages from the Past

From the West Seattle Herald. April 18, 1990.

Play that schmaltzy music

photo by Ralph Radford

PAT LAJKO isn't playing an ordinary pipe organ. He's invented an electronic system that plays an authentic pipe organ sound, in contrast to the sterile versions produced by synthesizers.

Innovative organ-lover forges electronic pipes

By SEAN ROBINSON

How long does a good idea take?

If you ask Pat Lajko, West Seattle inventor, he'll tell you he spent three years just *thinking*. That's how long it took to create an electronic pipe organ sound with that authentic feel.

Lajko, 38, loves theater pipe organs. The Charlestown- area resident loves them so much, he has one in his house. It's an old Wurlitzer, 1920 vintage, lovingly refinished by its owner. His job writing and selling computer software earned him enough to afford the $8,000 musical antique.

"I didn't like the guitar," said Lajko of his lifelong obsession (His brother was the guitar nut.). "I never had an interest in pianos. I wanted my own organ. I've always wanted a pipe organ."

One problem loomed. Though the organ fit into the house easily enough, the pipes were another story. High notes on a pipe organ whistle through petite tubes. Low notes rumble through tree-trunk-size shafts 16 feet long. You can't just lean them up in the corner.

Once more, necessity proved to be the mother of invention. "I wanted to have a real-sounding organ in the house, and I knew I wouldn't have space for everything," said Lajko. "I spent about three years just thinking and listening to pipe organ music, trying to figure out what makes it different from electronic. Too much music done on synthesizers is so stale."

With the thinking complete, it was time for action. Lajko spent another year creating a small circuit board that could play two authentic-sounding notes. Now he had a prototype, and he ordered dozens of circuit boards, manufactured to his design. He re-wired the organ, drilled the holes for the circuits, and attached his brainchild. The project cost about $10,000.

"I'm coming pretty close," he said, launching into a schmaltzy rendition of "Give My Regards to Broadway." The music conjures vaudevillian images.

"Theater organ people are so picky," he said. "Some of the experts in the organ field say I have achieved the tremolo." He switches toasunny version of "You're a Grand Old Flag."

Lajko isn't saying exactly how he created the sound, but he revealed the principle that guided him: the human element.

"All of the imperfections that are in a real organ are what I have gone out of my

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Pages from the Past

Organ-playing inventor tunes the human element

Continued from A-1

way to produce, only the imperfections are controllable," he said. "You won't have all the maintenance problems of an organ."

It's impossible to achieve 100 percent perfect imperfection, said Lajko. But he attached some of the actual pipes to his organ recently, for comparison's sake. As the organ moaned through Bach's "Toccata Fugue in D minor" (a popular horror movie standard), pipes blew and circuits whistled their electronic language at the same time. The difference was barely discernible.

Besides being easier to maintain, he said his "digital pipes" can be more versatile than a real pipe organ. People like Lajko, who love the big sound but don't have the space, can have it in their home.

So far, the response from organ-lovers has been favorable. Lajko is a member of the American Theater Organ Society, and his invention drew praise at an ATOS meeting in Arizona last winter. He hopes to display the complete organ at the ATOS national convention this summer.

"It could be patentable," he said. "I would plan to patent it. But I'm hoping first to find an investor."

If he can find one, it's conceivable that Lajko's creation could be installed in organs across the country. But that prospect is far off.

In the meantime, he's still tinkering with sounds. A "wood maple" is his latest challenge. It's one of the most difficult organ sounds to reproduce. But even if his invention takes off, Lajko doesn't figure to become a full-time organ-maker.

"You gotta do a variety of things, or you'll go crazy," he said.

In a related story—

PSTOS's own Dan Pflugrath also has a virtual pipe organ. He said he'd always wanted an organ, but he didn't have enough room at his house, and he was moving too often to make one practical. Then along came the Pandemic, and Dan made a virtual pipe organ his Pandemic project. Thirty plus years had changed technology greatly. Unlike Lajko in the previous article, Dan spent not $10,000 but about $750. He had a laptop computer that could run the Hauptwerk software now available, and he spent about 4 months rewiring circuit boards. Sample sets are available that are recordings from different theaters and cathedrals around the world. Dan has 11 such sets, most of which were free. He made his own Distributed Mode Loudspeakers, which hang near the wall beside his organ. You can find instructions online to do almost anything, he says.

Dan was inspired by Fraser Gartshore who does live concerts online every Sunday. Gartshore has also built his own Hauptwerk virtual pipe organ.

A Lutheran Church in Silverdale, WA, recently installed a very expensive virtual pipe organ that was custom-made for them, Dan reported.

Visit Dan's youtube page at https://www.youtube.com/@danpflugrath4000/community for pictures and more information. It also contains a link to Fraser Gartshore's page.