PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 37, Nos. 5-6 May-June 2026 www.pstos.org

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society presents

Pops on Pipes

Theatre Organ at its Best with

KEN DOUBLE

Saturday, May 16
2:00 p.m.

$20 at pstos.org or cash at the door
16 & under free with adult

All Nations Church, Seattle
6801 Roosevelt Way NE

Ken Double had a "double" career as both a theatre organist and a professional broadcaster. With a degree in Radio-TV from Butler University, he broadcast NBA & Big Ten basketball, NHL, IHL, & AHL hockey, the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race and hundreds of other events. His first theatre organ concert was in 1978 and since then he has played around the world, made more than a dozen recordings, and served as ATOS President 2007-2017 and as Master of Ceremonies for ATOS national and regional conventions.

We're excited to welcome him back to Seattle!

Driving directions to All Nations Church, 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.

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Vol. 37, Nos. 5-6 May-June 2026

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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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***Paramount Theatre**—Phil Hargiss*
***All Nations Church**—Jeff Snyder*
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Welcome new member!

Bradford Anderson
Coupeville

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello! I hope you are enjoying the beauty and renewal of the earth as we move further into spring.

As surely as astronomical seasons change, we go through many different seasons in our lives. Are you in a season of change, finding yourself at loose ends? Have you considered using some of your time, skills, and talents volunteering for PSTOS? There are many organs in need of care, little odd jobs that need to be done, and, perhaps most important of all, many people who would readily join our ranks if only someone would make them aware of theatre organs and the unique musical capabilities they possess.

Volunteering need not be a lengthy commitment. Could you put up a concert flyer in your community club? Write a grant proposal? It can be as simple as handing out information cards at a silent movie or helping set up prior to an event. If you want to explore what volunteer opportunities are available at any given time, please contact one of the PSTOS board members—and remember, asking for information does not constitute an agreement on your part, so ask away.

Make the most of these fleeting spring days and we'll see you at All Nations Church, Seattle (remember, same building, new name!) to hear Ken Double on May 16.

Grahame McMaster

Renew your membership for 2026! Renew online or check the website pstos.org. $25 per family

Also consider joining ATOS. $35 for the first year or returning members. *www.atos.org.*

ATOS membership includes the bi-monthly Theatre Organ magazine and other benefits!

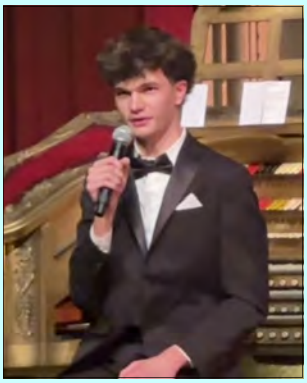
A new (renewed) feature at this summer's ATOS convention will be a **Technical Seminar!** Come & learn from the best.

Did you see this at the Spring Fling? It's a theatre organ demonstration model built by Russ Evans. Thank you for sharing this, Jo Ann! I hope to see this at all our upcoming events! I haven't gotten to try it out yet!

Upcoming 2026 Concerts

Vintage pops on the 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer
All Nations Church, Saturdays at 2 pm

Ben Forsthoffer — July 25



Ben's passion for the theatre organ started at age 5 when he first heard the Wurlitzer at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Now he is a student of Jelani Eddington and is also fluent in improvisatory jazz piano and highly capable in classical piano, which influences his unique style, grounded in technically flawless playing and traditional theatre organ technique. He was one of the featured performers at the ATOS convention in summer 2025. You will want to hear him in Seattle!

Dave Wickerham — October 10

Dave is one of PSTOS' most beloved theatre organists. He writes about himself, "For as long as I can remember, music has been an integral part of my very being. It is the one truly universal language and has served as a vehicle allowing me to convey—at the deepest level—my feelings, passion, and most of all JOY! I can't imagine life and this world without MUSIC!!" His concerts are always unique treats, and we look forward to having him back in October 2026. Plan now to attend and bring friends!

Other planned 2026 events:

Summer Social - August 23, 2026
Jo Ann Evans' home

Holiday Party - December 6, 2026
Haller Lake Community Club

Silent Movie Mondays at the Paramount Theater

Monday, July 27, 2026
The General (1926)
Tyler Pattison at the Wurlitzer
Paul Hansen on Foley Sound

Widely regarded as one of the greatest silent films ever made, Buster Keaton's *The General* delivers breathtaking stunts, perfectly-timed comedy, and pulse-pounding action—all set against the backdrop of the American Civil War. Keaton stars as a devoted train engineer whose beloved locomotive and sweetheart are both stolen by enemy forces, leading to one of cinema's most thrilling and hilarious chase sequences.

Show begins at 7 p.m. **$14 general admission / $12 for seniors**

“Spring Fling” Full of Fun and Surprises

by Jamie Snell

Spring was in the air as about forty PSTOS friends assembled at the Haller Lake Community Club on March 22 for the “Spring Fling,” featuring a star-studded cast of young local musicians: Sawyer Best, Lindsey Dabek, Jamison Colagrossi, Murl Allen Sanders, and Kazuki Taylor. The audience, well provided with spring-themed refreshments, anticipated some fun entertainment, but no one could have predicted the range of genres and styles, combinations of instruments and vocals, captivating stage presence, and sheer musical virtuosity.

Sawyer, the program architect, opened at the Mighty Wurlitzer with a jaunty version of the Ethel Merman classic “Everything's Coming Up Roses," from the 1959 Jule Styne musical *Gypsy*. The organ sounded best-ever, thanks to the stalwart PSTOS prep crew. Vocalists Lindsey and Jamison then took the stage, with Murl at the piano, for the Burke & Johnston hit “Pennies from Heaven,” made famous by Bing Crosby in the same-named 1936 film. Murl moved to the organ for the 1924 Gershwin hit “Somebody Loves Me.”

For a change of pace, Jamison, Sawyer, and Murl appeared with their accordions for a trio on the Russian classic “Kalinka,” composed in1860 by Ivan Larionov. Faithful to tradition, they started slowly and gradually increased the tempo, with the audience clapping in time, ending with wild applause. Returning to the Great American Songbook, Jamison came to the console for a light-hearted rendition of “Tiptoe through the Tulips” by Joe Burke, from the 1929 film *Gold Diggers of Broadway*. Murl then appeared with his accordion, and with Sawyer at the piano, they played a duet on the 1932 Cole Porter standard “Night and Day.”

For another surprise, Murl moved to the piano to accompany Lindsey in an unusual choice: Burton Lane’s “How about You?”sung by Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney in the 1941 film *Babes on Broadway*. The song being a duet,Lindsey achieved a feat by singing both parts quite convincingly. Jamison then returned to the organ for Harry Warren’s 1923 standard “Home in Pasadena,” followed by a special treat: 13-year-old Kazuki came to the console and played a spirited rendition of “On a Wonderful Day like Today,” from the1964 Newley & Bricusse musical “*The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd*.”The crowd roared!

Next up, two Rodgers & Hart songs on the organ: Sawyer first, with “Spring Is Here,” from the 1938 musical *I Married an Angel*; then Murl with the beloved 1934 ballad “Blue Moon.” Moving to international repertoire, with Sawyer back at the console, Lindsey sang “Quando, Quando, Quando?” the 1962 Italian bossa nova by Tony Renis. Lindsey continued, with Murl on the accordion, singing a timely takeoff on the Louis Silvers tune “April Showers,” whimsically adapted for tax season. The pair continued with a suitably steamy rendition of the 1958 Peggy Lee hit “All Right, OK, You Win.”

Murl and Sawyer continued with an accordion duet on the 1944 Ellington standard “I’m Beginning to See the Light,” followed by Sawyer at the organ with “Might as Well Be Spring” by Richard Rodgers, from the 1945 film *State Fair*. And for the closing number, with Jamison on banjo, Lindsey on vocals, Murl on accordion, and Sawyer at the organ, the seasonally apt Irving Berlin tune “Easter Parade.” The applause was enthusiastic, and the foursome encored with the 1968 Beatles hit “Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da,” in which the audience joined gleefully in singing the chorus. As attendees came forward to mingle with the performers and peruse the various instruments, the spirit of spring was palpable.

Many thanks to the illustrious musicians, and to everyone who pitched in to make the event a success…HLCC liaison Tanja Wylie Jones, for coordination; members of the PSTOS Program Team and others, for setup and cleanup; Jo Ann Evans, for managing CD marketing, helping the musicians with rehearsal, and behind-the-scenes organizing; President Grahame McMaster and Pipeline Editor Annabelle Schertzinger, for promotion; Ellen Sullivan, Marie Perdue, and Lynda Sue Welch, for sublime refreshments, as well as stage and table decorations; Greg Smith and Terry Perdue, for organ prep; Terry and Treasurer Jim Welch, for managing the donation boxes; and last but not least, Bob Borton, for organ and stage setup and closeup, microphones, speakers, cables, amplifiers, mixers, and other intricate technical details.

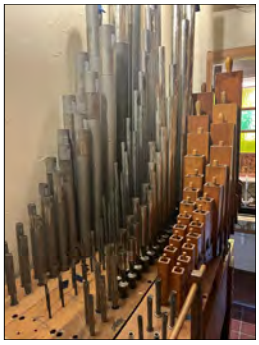
PSTOS Members Save Local Theatre Pipe Organ!

By Tom Blackwell

Many PSTOS members will remember Francis Riley, whose Wallingford area home had a 2/6 hybrid theatre pipe organ installed. Francis, a retired Seattle Police Officer, also had a Reproduco MO (mortuary organ), Gulbranson player piano, exposed set of Regal reed pipes, and several sets of vacuum-operated “free reeds,” all playable from a Wurlitzer two-manual console. Over the years, AMICA (Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors’ Association) member Wesley Spore assisted Francis with the installation that included a Moller Artiste player unit so that all the instruments could be played via rolls. Many of the components for the organ were sourced from a 1980s reinstallation of a theatre organ in the Seattle Neptune Theatre completed by PSTOS member Mike Wallace in the 1980s and later removed by Wesley in the late 1990s.

Francis also had a standalone Chickering Ampico B reproducing grand piano and a large collection of rolls. He enjoyed these instruments for many years, along with his collections of antique furniture pieces, vintage light fixtures, and still-functioning “old technology” such as early Edison light bulbs, giant high voltage knife switches, gauges, and control panels.

When Francis passed away in early 2025, the family worked to prepare the home for sale. They contacted PSTOS, AMICA, and other local musical organizations for help in finding new homes for the collection of instruments. When PSTOS members Phil Hargiss and Sawyer Best visited the home in May 2025, the family had already liquidated the Chickering piano, Reproduco mortuary organ and other items, but the 2/6 theatre organ was still largely intact. During their visit, Sawyer and Phil demonstrated the organ for family members and encouraged the family to keep the organ installed in hopes the new owners of the house would like to have it.



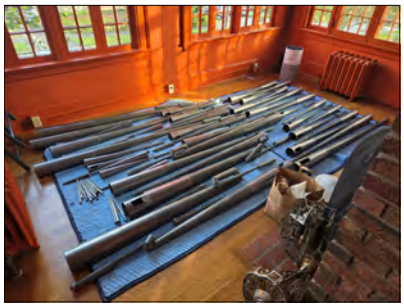
When the sale of the home closed in the Fall of 2025, the new owners unfortunately were not musically inclined and had other plans for the space next to the kitchen where the pipe chamber was located. The owners reached out to PSTOS to see if an organization or individual would be interested in having the organ. An online ad was placed on the PSTOS website which ran for six months. There were a few nibbles, but none materialized. As the kitchen remodel plans began to take shape, the owners reluctantly made the decision to “part out” the organ to save as much as possible from going to the landfill. Several individuals from PSTOS, AMICA, and local organ builders expressed interest in various parts. Dates were arranged to begin the removals.

As a tribute to Francis and his vision for installing the pipe organ in the home, the owners wanted to have a “Grand Send-Off Party” for the organ on Saturday, January 31, and Sawyer was asked to play a short program. In the days leading up, Phil Hargiss and Tom Blackwell did some touch-up tuning and troubleshooting to make sure the instrument was ready for Sawyer’s

Continued on page 6

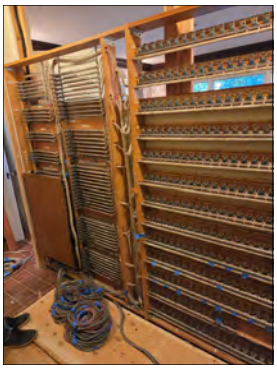
program. The plan was to begin disassembling the organ immediately following the program.

THEN, A NEW DEVELOPEMENT! Just a couple days before the party, PSTOS member Jonas Clark stepped forward to say that he would be able to take the complete instrument! The idea was floated with the owners, and they enthusiastically approved of Jonas' plan. The individuals who had expressed interest in various parts were notified, and although they were disappointed, they all graciously acknowledged that this was the best possible outcome for the organ and that they were happy to have the complete instrument saved.



Over the next few weeks, PSTOS members Phil Hargiss, Mike Wallace, Jonas Clark, Jamison Colagrossi, Felicity Rose and Tom Blackwell, together with Sawyer's friend, Hans Riebeling, worked with the owners' general contractor to disassemble the instrument and prepare it for transportation to Jonas' home in Renton.

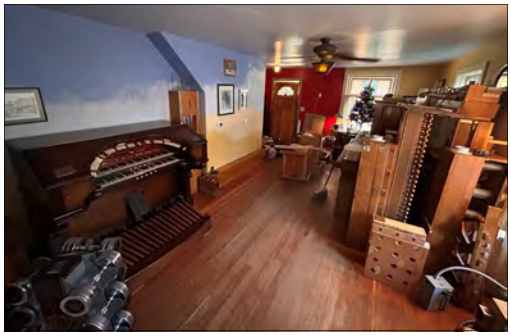
On the day of the final push, Hans arranged for a large rental truck, and the crew gradually extracted parts from the home, most of which had to go out the front door and down a flight of stairs. The Wurlitzer console and Moller Artiste player unit were quite heavy for the crew of six to manage, but the 10-foot-wide electro-mechanical relay (beautifully-wired by PSTOS member Walt Cook many years ago for his home pipe organ) was the most challenging to extract at over 500 pounds! Phil devised a way to essentially fold the relay in half and extract it from the house on dollies without having to cut any cables!



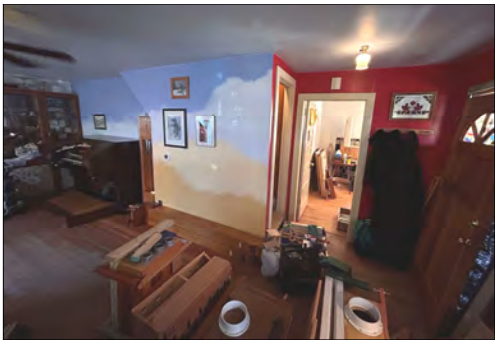
The following day, a subset of the crew met at Jonas' house to move items from the truck into the house. The weather held both days and nothing got rained on in the process.

Sawyer will be assisting with the design and installation of the instrument in Jonas' house. A front bedroom will become the pipe chamber, with the console in the living room. Most everything from Wallingford will be re-used for the new instrument and some additions are planned. Hopefully Jonas will provide an update on his project in a future Pipeline newsletter.

Jonas' house



Jonas' living room



Jonas' front bedroom. Future pipe chamber.

Become a PSTOS Sponsor!

Sponsor one of our 2026 Concerts!

Sponsorship levels:
Bronze - $100
Silver - $300
Gold - $500

Experience the joy of helping bring quality theatre organ music to the Pacific Northwest!

Thank you to our first Sponsor—Terry Perdue who sponsored Dave Wickerham's concert

Maybe you would like to join him in that sponsorship!

If you know friends, family, or a corporation who would also like to be a sponsor, feel free to give them this information.

PSTOS is a 501(c)3 organization.

Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Yes, I would like to Sponsor a 2026 Concert!

☐ Ken Double ☐ Ben Forsthoffer ☐ Dave Wickerham

At this level: ☐ Bronze ☐ Silver ☐ Gold

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or donate online on our website: pstos.org *THANK YOU!*

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

AGO Programs

Sunday, May 3, 2 pm
Twelfth Night Ensemble presents a concert of works by Handel, Vivaldi, Rameau, Marais, J.S. Bach and Destouches. Town Hall Seattle, 1119 8th Ave., Seattle 98101. Tickets $48/ $43.

Sunday, May 3, 4 pm
Joseph Adam in concert on the Wech organ at Queen Anne Lutheran Church, 2400 8th Ave. W, Seattle, 98119. $20 donation or pay what you can.

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

Friday, May 15, 7:30 pm
All-Bach Concert on the Flentrop organ, St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E., Seattle, 98102. $25/$20.

Saturday, May 16, 10am
Organ masterclass at the Flentrop organ of St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E., Seattle, 98102, with Renee Anne Louprette.

Saturday, May 16, 4pm
Choral Evensong at Ascension Episcopal, 2330 Viewmont Way W., Seattle, 98199.

Sunday May 17, 10:10pm
Organ by Night, informal mini-concert on the Flentrop organ of St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E., Seattle, 98102. This concert follows the Compline Service which starts at 9:30pm.

Friday, May 29, 7:30pm
Wyatt Smith at the Fisk organ at Plymouth Church, 1217 6th Ave, Seattle, 98101.

Sunday, May 31, 5pm
UW student Tyleen Stults will present a recital at Plymouth United Church of Christ, 1217 6th Ave. Seattle, 98101.

Sunday, June 7, 3pm
Choir & Organ. The choir of Blessed Sacrament, 5050 8th Ave. NE, Seattle, 98104 presents works for the solemnity of Corpus Christi.

Sunday, June 7, 3pm
The Seattle Bach Choir will present a concert featuring Florence Price's masterwork "Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight" at Trinity Parish Church, 609 8th Ave., Seattle, 98104. $25 suggested.

Monday, June 8, 7pm
The Seattle Chapter of AGO will host the annual Young Organists recital at Our Redeemer's Lutheran, 2400 NW 80th St, Seattle, 98117. Open to the public. Free. Ample free parking.

Friday, June 12, 7:30pm
Joseph Adam in concert at St. James Cathedral, 804 9th Ave., Seattle, 98104.

Friday, June 19, 12:10 noon
Third Friday concert at Christ Episcopal, 310 North K St., Tacoma, 98403. Free-will donation at the door.

Sunday, June 21, 10:10pm
Organ by Night concert at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave. E., Seattle, 98102, following Compline which begins at 9:30pm. Free.

Pages from the Past

A Page from PSTOS' history at Haller Lake!

By Bob Zat

In the early days, there was a Marr & Colton console instead of the current Wurlitzer console at Haller Lake Community Club and the organ was available to PSTOS members for practice. The Marr & Colton had a coin box installed, similar to the ones that used to exist on early laundromat washing machines. It was a grey box with a rounded top, had a coin slot and a large knob that you would turn all the way clockwise once you inserted a coin, usually a quarter. With the Marr & Colton coin box, one quarter would turn on the blower and give you 15 minutes of wind to play the organ. If this was going to be a one-time situation only, the organ crew chief, Bill Exner (at that time), would greet the chapter member at the HLCC front door, let them in, open up the console, and let the individual have a go. The length of practice time would depend upon how many quarters the individual had in their pocket. After the person had finished playing, the crew chief would make sure the blower was off, box up the console, secure the building, and leave. The money generated from the coin box helped offset the cost of the electricity used. When the organ was installed, a separate power line and meter were run to the building so PSTOS could pay for its own electricity. Today, this is still true!

If the person, like me, wanted to use the organ on a regular basis, you would pay a $25 deposit and get a key for the exterior lock box that would reveal another key that would let you unlock the building front door. The lockbox access key would also unlock the protective console box. You would then remove a few sections of the box to reveal the console so you could practice. That person needed to coordinate their practice time with the HLCC rental coordinator, Joan DeGrazia, who handled all building rentals. This was a time when there was not a full-time renter so the building could sit empty for long stretches of time. A few organizations would conduct their monthly meetings in the upstairs ballroom, but those meetings were usually held in the evenings and on various nights of the week throughout the month. There were occasional renters for receptions, funerals, anniversaries, birthday parties, scheduled throughout the week and weekend.

Bob Zat at the Marr & Colton console

The PSTOS member using the organ had total access to the building but was only supposed to turn on the single light that is still mounted high up on the west wall of the ballroom and has its own light switch and is on PSTOS electricity, not HLCC electricity. The individual was not permitted access to any other part of the building except for the restrooms. There was a small note pad kept on the left key cheek of the console where the person would enter their initials, date,

Continued on page 10

Pages from the Past, continued

time-in and time-out of their practice session. Also, you were not supposed to use the organ past 10PM for the sake of the neighbors. This was the protocol established when the organ was initially installed in 1968.

There was one chapter member named Vern Rutledge, who lived a very short distance away from the club house. He used to walk over around noon with four quarters in his pocket and play for an hour, almost on a daily basis. He also confirmed his practice time with the "rental lady", Joan DeGrazia, just to make sure there were no conflicts. Sometimes Joan would be cleaning up after a rental or setting up for the next, and if Vern was playing, she would enjoy his music. Since Vern used the organ almost daily, if there were any problems such as a dead note, out of tune pipe, or an electrical issue, he would leave a note so the organ crew could fix the problem. The big plus was the organ got consistent use and didn't sit idle for months at a time

There were a few chapter members who paid the key deposit fee and played the organ on an occasional basis. On their first visit, I would meet that person at HLCC and go through the drill for access to the building, such as unlocking the exterior lock box to reveal the key that unlocked the front door, how to open up and then close the protective console box, and leave the building secured once finished practicing. However, as the years progressed, Vern passed away, and the few others either lost interest or moved out of the area, so the organ became more unused except for occasional PSTOS and HLCC functions.

When Creative Dance Company became a full-time renter, the process changed. Access to the organ became more difficult, but not insurmountable. The organ crew just needed to schedule any maintenance or practice sessions with Martha Johnson, the Administrator of Creative Dance Company, and confirm that time with the HLCC trustee who handled all of the buildings scheduled events. The organ maintenance crew consisted mainly of me, Russ Evans, and a few others over the years. As time marched on, Creative Dance Company began occupying the building from 8AM to sometimes 9PM, six days a week, with additional events scheduled for Sundays if needed. There were still a few organizations who used the building for business meetings and events on a monthly basis, and also the HLCC board would host various functions such as a cookie sale, Halloween party, Holiday party, or other activities for its membership. They would ask PSTOS to recommend or supply an organist because they wanted the instrument to be used for their function and also show members what treasure was installed in their club house.

When it was decided to replace the Marr & Colton with a Wurlitzer console from the estate of PSTOS member Ray Whelpley, that meant the coin box would go away with the Marr & Colton console along with any revenue it might generate. If someone was scheduled to play for a program and needed practice time, I would make the arrangements with Martha at Creative Dance Company and notify the HLCC trustee, handle the entry to the building, console access, and stay until they finished their session, or give them my mobile phone number so they could call when about finished, then I returned to HLCC, would close up the console, turn out the lights, and make sure the building was secure. This is the way it works today. A PSTOS representative schedules time for maintenance or practice sessions with Creative Dance Company and the HLCC trustee including all PSTOS scheduled programs, then a PSTOS organ crew member with knowledge of the entire process handles the rest.

Jamie Snell playing the Wurlitzer console while it's still in its protective console box.