



PUGET SOUND
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Be sure to visit our website at www.pstos.org

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Published monthly by Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society, a non-profit organization
furthering the appreciation, preservation and use of the Theatre Pipe Organs of yesteryear

Volume 13 No.4

April 2002

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Over \$900 raised to benefit HLCC building upgrade fund....and a great time was had by all!

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Four top theatre organists to perform for grand event on famous Atlanta Fox Moller Theatre Organ.

Olympia's Washington Center Wurlitzer will be "reintroduced" with great fanfare on April 14th. Your attendance is encouraged!

PSTOS Board Member and long time theatre organ enthusiast, Les Lehne, is one of the stalwarts behind installation of the Wurlitzer in Olympia's *Washington Center For The Performing Arts*.

Unfortunately, the February 2001 earthquake did massive damage to the instrument. Les has been a moving force to accomplish the repair. Your Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society contributed generously to the repair fund to assure the instrument's survival and continued exposure to the public—this being one of the primary goals of our Chapter. Zollman Pipe Organ Service (PSTOS members, Ed & Patti Zollman) was given the contract to repair the instrument, reinstalling it in such a way as to assure its stability in case of another earthquake.

Now, over a year later, repairs have been completed, and the organ will be "reintroduced" to the theatre organ community at a big public concert on Sunday, April 14, at 3:00 PM. Featured artist will be the internationally renowned Barry Baker.

Barry is one of the world's most accomplished theatre organists, and this event will be well worth the drive. (Barry played for PSTOS at Tacoma Pizza & Pipes in November, 1993.)

Your Board urges you to support this event. Tickets are \$13.50 and open seating tickets may be purchased at the door. Reserved seating tickets may be purchased in advance online at www.washingtoncenter.org

If you wish to drive, directions are: Washington Center is located in downtown Olympia at 512 Washington St SE, in the block between 5th and Legion. From areas north or south of Olympia, take I-5 to Exit 105, City Center. Proceed through the first traffic light, through a short tunnel, and then turn right at the next light onto Capitol Way. Proceed eight blocks on Capitol Way to the third light, and turn right on Legion Way. Proceed one block, and turn left on Washington Street. Washington Center is the large beige building on the right.

For more information about Barry Baker, please go to "Other Events" on page 3.

PSTOS to sponsor informational booth at AKCHO Expo (Association of King County Historical Organizations) on May 25-26

AKCHO numbers among its members nearly all the history-related organizations within King County. PSTOS is one of them, with Jackie Cedarholm serving as our official representative. The group fosters communication between the various sub-groups, serves as a platform for sharing of ideas, furthers appreciation of local history, and at the moment is actively engaged in King County's sesqui-centennial celebration.

Among AKCHO's many activities is an annual Expo at which each member organization is invited to set up a table and publicize its particular area of interest. Last year the

event was held at Seattle Center and although we had no display, several PSTOS members attended.

At the March Board meeting, it was decided that PSTOS will participate in the 2002 event to be held at the Maritime Heritage Center at the south end of Lake Union on May 25-26 during the Folk Life Festival.

We're working on plans for a kiosk housing a computer with access to the PSTOS website, an endless-loop video of theatre pipe organ performances, and a working organ pipe display, all to generate interest among attendees, and to promote membership in PSTOS.

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a non-profit organization furthering the appreciation, restoration, and use of the historic Theatre Pipe Organs of the 1920s, through education.

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Listing of non-PSTOS events in the Pipeline

PSTOS, upon request, will list non-conflicting non-PSTOS theatre organ events in the "Other Events" column of the two Pipelines immediately preceding the event, providing Pipeline editors receive sufficient prior written notification. Venue, artist, type of event, date, and contact information will comprise the included information.

Advertising in the Pipeline

Classified-type ads for member-owned electronic, electric, or pipe organs, and/or pipe organ parts, will be published at no charge. Please limit copy to include brief description, contact name and phone number. Prices will not be listed. Ads may be edited for content and length. Mail ad copy to address above. Other advertising is not accepted.

President's Message

As I write this message winter is turning to spring and there is snow on the ground—go figure. The budding flowers think

it's spring so I guess we should too.

WOW!! Did we have a special St. Patrick's Day celebration? 149 people attended our PSTOS/HLCC joint Saint Patrick's Day event—91 from PSTOS, 58 from HLCC. The proceeds, over \$900.00, will go to HLCC for their Elevator & Handicap Restroom Fund. Many thanks to those who attended. I know you had a wonderful day.

I want to especially thank Bob Zat for readying our Pipe Organ and sound system; Bob Zat and Tom Blackwell for setting up the video so we had words for our sing-a-long and could show the movie; Russ Evans for blacking out the windows, ticket-taking and sharing the movie with us; Bob Schladetzky for loaning us his video projector; Adeline Hook for collecting food tickets; Doug and Terir Owen for greeting and ticket-taking; Ellen Sullivan for decorating the hall and her kitchen expertise; Clint Meadway for an outstanding job as MC; Betty Chang, Marilyn Schrum and Loretta Moore for serving the pizza and salad; Doris Harkness for ticket-taking and handling the money; Jack Crawford for leading our sing-a-long; JoAnn Evans and Charlotte Blackwell for a wonderful musical program; and Tom Blackwell for his very responsible page-turning expertise.

Honorable mention, too, to HLCC people Jo and Warren Dawson, Karen and Bud Okeson, and Doris Harkness (yup, Doris is a member of both PSTOS and HLCC).

Thank you to all who helped to set up and take down all the folding chairs and tables too. Not a small job!

Based on the outcome of this event we may plan future PSTOS/HLCC events.

—Barbara Graham

PSTOS Coming Events**Summer Social**

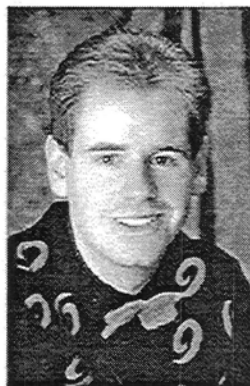
Another summer music event at the Kenmore home of Russ and Jo Ann Evans. Artist to be announced.

Saturday, July 13, 2 PM

Summer Picnic

Home of Bill Keller near Olympia with music on his exciting custom 3-manual Allen Theatre Organ. Watch for more details.

Saturday, August 10

CHRIS POWELL Concert

Exciting theatre organist from England will finish a world tour here for PSTOS.

Time and venue to be announced.

Sunday, Sept. 8

Big Autumn Event

Harvest Festival? Halloween party? Fall Fun Fest? What would YOU like? Put it on your calendar and be prepared to be surprised!

Haller lake Community Club

Sunday, October 27

Annual Christmas Party

Our big annual holiday fun get-together with lots of music, food, and fun.

For Sale Organ stuff

Gulbransen Rialto I console organ with a single Leslie. Beautiful tone. Downsizing to move into an apartment. For more information, please contact

Howard and Jean Kraft

1231 Colchester Drive SE

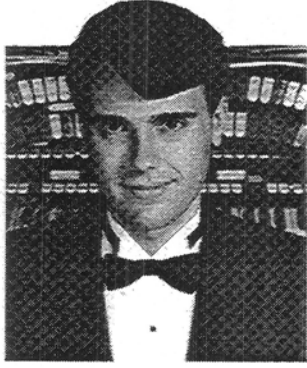
Port Orchard, WA 98366-8540,

1-360-871-8540, or email to

hkraft@krl.org

OTHER Events of Interest

BARRY BAKER comes to Olympia's Washington Center for the Performing Arts



For the past ten years, Barry Baker's publicly-attended solo concerts have been popular and numerous. In 1999, Barry was named "Organist Of

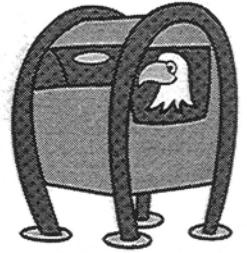
The Year," an honor awarded by the American Theatre Organ Society. Presently, he is a frequent performer at the major organ venues from New York to Los Angeles, and has presented international concert tours of cities in England, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand, and in Australia: Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Adelaide. Barry was the only American organist invited to perform a concert for the 1996 Australian Theatre Organ Society's National Convention, held in Sydney. More recently, he performed at Walt Disney's El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, California on the former San Francisco Fox Wurlitzer. Barry is an inventive and highly experienced organist, who plays a great variety of music, and pleases audiences worldwide. This is a MUST concert! For more information, check the website www.washingtoncenter.org Sunday, April 14, 3 PM

CROC Presents LEW WILLIAMS at the Elsinore Theatre in Salem

Direct from the Organ Stop Pizza restaurant in Mesa, Arizona, Lew is coming to Salem to entertain and please his many fans in the Pacific Northwest. For information phone Shirley Clausen at 503-665-6633.
Sunday afternoon, May 19



From the Mailbox



Dear Editors,

'Always enjoy the newsiness of the Puget Sound Pipeline! I am sure there are members who would be interested in news of classical organ venues also. I visit Morelia and Guadalajara and Puebla each May/June for their organ festivals.

David Di Fiore, Seattle organist at University Temple Methodist Church and St. John Parish, has been invited to give a concert, May 23rd, 2002, on the monumental Walcker organ in the Cathedral of Morelia for the XXXVI International Organ Festival in that city. He is at present in the Slovak Republic and Czeck Republic giving concerts in festivals there. His newest disc, "The Grand Organ of the Castle Church of St. Catherine in Kremnica," is being released while he is in Kremnica.

The Morelia Organ Festival opens May 14th with Zigmunt W. Strzep, Polish virtuoso organist and Robin Lynn Braun (his wife), violinist. Two days later, on May 16th, the Mexican organist Jose Suarez and Horacio Franco, well-known Mexican flautist, will perform. The following week, on May 21st, Roberto Bertero of Italy will give a concert. After David Di Fiore's concert on the 23rd, the closing concert in the Festival will be on May 28th by Abraham Alvarado, Mexican organist with a brass quartet. All concerts are at 9 PM in the cathedral and last generally one hour to one hour 15 minutes with a reception following for the organist.

In November of 2001, David Di Fiore gave a brilliant concert in the Cathedral of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, as part of the V Cultural Festival.

The International Organ Festival of Morelia is the oldest organ festival in the Western hemisphere, having been founded 36 years ago by Dr. Alfonso Vega Nunez, Cathedral organist.

All the best to you, Jon Bish
[PSTOS member from Hillsboro, OR]

EDITOR'S NOTE: PSTOS members will remember David DiFiore as the outstanding organist featured in two wonderful "Town Hall Concerts" at University Temple Methodist Church during the past several years. David's overseas concert schedule is impressive, indeed!

Congratulations, David!

PSTOS Scholarship recipient Owen Cannon recently went to Boston to audition at the New England Conservatory of Music. Later this spring he will interview at Eastman School of Music and at Oberlin. Last fall he had a lesson with David Higgs at Eastman where he has the possibility of receiving a scholarship. Additionally Owen has been offered a scholarship at Walla Walla College. He reports below on his trip to Boston:

Dear PSTOS Members:

My trip to Boston went well. I enjoyed being able to stay in the city for five days, and being able to take myself wherever I wanted with the subway system. There were many good organs in the area, including the Fisk and Noack instruments in the NEC practice facilities, and the ones at All Saints Ashmont, where I may have a job as an assistant, and the one at Old West Church, where I auditioned. The facilities themselves were very good. They were in a downtown campus on Huntington Avenue so I can easily get to places like Symphony Hall and some very nice restaurants, although there are also many convenient stores for mundane things.

I haven't received a note from the office of admissions about my admissions status yet, but I received an email from the organ chair saying that the news would be good because of my "strong audition." I'm glad that it turned out well.

Thanks again for your help for this event. See you soon!

—Owen Cannon

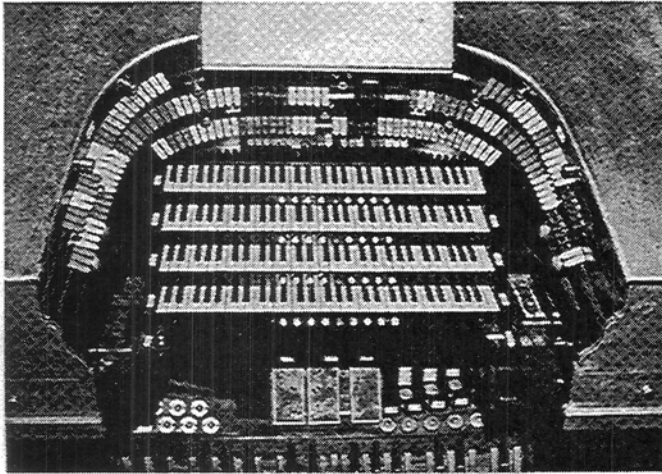
Theatre Historical Society Annual Convention to be in New York City

The Theatre Historical Society (THS) will hold its annual conclave in New York City in July. Lots of interesting theaters, including Radio City Hall, will be visited. For information, please call/email Doug Owen at (253) 566-6734 or keofirst@attbi.com

Pages From The Past...

Seattle Bids Farewell To Music Hall – Robert Morton

As published 38 years ago in *Theatre Organ Magazine*, Winter 1963–1964



The 4/16 Robert Morton in Seattle's Music Hall Theatre

The last public performance of the Music Hall Robert Morton pipe organ was given on November 15, 1963, with the popular Seattle organist Dick Schrum at the console. This fine pipe organ of four manuals and 16 ranks has been sold to the Greer Motel and Restaurant in Sacramento, California, and will be removed shortly after the first of the year.

The fabulous Robert Morton organ was installed in the Music Hall, then the Fox, in 1929 by Balcom & Vaughn of Seattle, in time for the premiere opening on April 19, 1929. The organist was Jamie Erickson, who at that time was well known in the large movie palaces

throughout the West and Mid-West.

Although there are many larger theatre organs, this 16 rank Morton is probably more versatile than many through its extensive coupling and unification, and it had no trouble filling the 2200 seat theatre.

Dick Schrum is well known throughout the Northwest for his work on electronic as well as on pipe organs. He is currently playing at the Plaid Piper Tartan Room in Seattle. He also is secretary of the Puget Sound Chapter of ATOE.

The final concert started promptly at 8 pm with the playing of "California, Here I Come," as the console rose from the pit. From then on,



Dick Schrum at the console of the Music Hall Organ



almost 1800 persons were treated to some two hours of theatre pipe organ music showing off every possibility of this fine Robert Morton.

Four top theatre organists to play for Virgil Fox Festival 2002...

Featuring the big Moller Theatre Organ at the Atlantic City Fox Theatre

For the past 21 years, since the death of Virgil Fox in 1980, the Virgil Fox Society has scheduled a Memorial Concert. The 2001 Virgil Fox Memorial Concert took place on the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia's Lord & Taylor on Columbus Day weekend. Beginning in 2002, when the concert will generate a festival weekend of related events, the name will change to reflect the growing success of the Society's annual commemoration of Virgil Fox's life's work: VIRGIL FOX FESTIVAL 2002.

Steven Frank, President of the Virgil Fox Society, and Len Levasseur, Festival Producer, have chosen Atlanta's 4,500-seat Fox Theatre as the site for this year's Festival. The theatre features one of America's great theatre organs, a four manual, 42 rank Moller dubbed "Mighty Mo," which was a favorite of Virgil Fox, himself.

Four well-known organists, all classically trained but who play primarily on theatre

organs will perform: **Larry Embury, Tom Hazelton, Lyn Larsen, and Jonas Nordwall.** The concert will take place on Sunday afternoon, September 1, at 3:00. The gala concert will contain elements of multimedia, as did Fox's famous 1970s all-Bach touring attraction, "Heavy Organ."

The day before, Saturday, August 31 will feature additional events related to VIRGIL FOX FESTIVAL 2002. That evening a former student of Fox, Richard Morris, will perform at Spivey Hall, Clayton College and State University, in nearby Jonesboro, Georgia. Artist-in Residence at Spivey Hall, Richard Morris has followed in Fox's footsteps with an international concert and recording career.

Also on Saturday, at the festival hotel's Georgian Terrace Convention Center, the Virgil Fox Society will sponsor a series of sessions on entertaining and educational subjects of interest to Virgil Fox fans and

organ aficionados. Joe G. Patten, restorer and curator of the Atlanta Fox organ, will lead a session about "Mighty Mo" and the Fox Theatre. Additional sessions are being planned, and refreshments will be served.

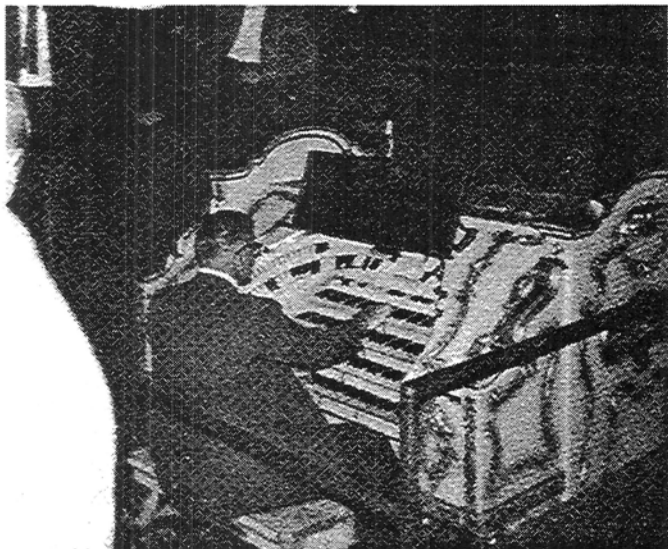
Organs in Atlanta's large selection of churches and synagogues will be highlighted throughout the festival weekend, as will many interesting historical and entertainment attractions in Atlanta. Previous Virgil Fox Memorial Concerts have drawn participants from as far away as Australia, and so special accommodations, including late night amusements, are being arranged to attract and entertain people from outside Atlanta.

For information about these concerts, as well as about other events that are planned to coincide with the festival weekend, go to www.virgilfox.com; or call 1/800 486-6628 to request a festival brochure.

Contact: Richard Torrence, 212/875-1941, jrtorrence@aol.com

Pages From The Past...continued

Puget Sound Chapter Notes from the winter of 1963-1964— 38 years ago!



DICK SCHRUM brings up the Seattle Paramount Wurlitzer



BOB JONES at the Collier Kimball



WOODY PRESHO at Collier's Kimball



Jim Tarling, Roger Johnson, Don French, Royden Morrison, socializing at the Collier barn.

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

Chairman - Andy Crow, Tacoma
Secretary - Dick Schrum, Seattle

The third meeting of 1963 was held over Labor Day weekend, with a visit to two theatres, starting out the night of August 31 at 8 PM with Andy Crow presiding at the Music hall Morton.

After a brief enjoyable concert, the organ was turned over to the membership.

At 11 pm, the meeting broke for refreshments until the late show was over

at the Paramount. A little after 1 AM, Dick Schrum brought the 4/20 Wurlitzer out of the pit and gave a short concert, followed by the members again. By this time, some of the organists around town had shown up, such as Don French and Woody Presho, and this added a spark to a rather happy but tired group. The meeting ended about 3:30 AM.

At 2:30 PM on Sunday, the meeting got under way again, this time at the Jim Collier residence, where the organ is a three manual (2 operating) 11 rank

Kimball located on the top floor of a large barn in north Bothell. The meeting opened with a fine concert by Roger Johnson, with a short business meeting following. Then all adjourned to a wonderful dinner arranged by the wives of Don French, Woody Presho, Bill Carson, Harold Shawver, Jim Collier and Dick Schrum.

Following a jam session that lasted until 7:30 PM, the crowd split up to take in the Morrison's 3 manual Marr & Colton, and Roger Johnson's Wurlitzer-Morton-Wicks combo.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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St Patrick's Day Party was a real success... A great time was had by all!



Folks enjoyed socializing while awaiting their call for the food line.

The biggest crowd PSTOS has enjoyed in over 12 years for an event at Haller Lake turned out for the St. Patrick's Day Pizza Party on March 17. There were 149 attendees. Pizza, salad, beverages and cookies were served efficiently, and in spite of the large crowd, M.C. Clint Meadway, got the program started right on schedule.

The program included harp and organ solos and duets, an Irish singalong with words projected on the screen, and two interesting movies—one a historic movie taken during the 1920s showing the manufacture of theatre pipe organs at the Wurlitzer factory in North Tonawanda, N.Y., and the other, a Smithsonian documentary about the famous "moving picture palaces" of the same era.

A benefit for the Haller Lake Community Club building upgrade fund, the event generated over \$900 toward their effort! Both clubs participated with nearly 58 HLCC attendees swelling the ranks.

The day was deemed an outstanding success, and there's talk of staging a similar event in 2003!



Mae-Louise Dopps couldn't decide which hat was best for St. Pat's Day...the solution? Wear TWO hats!



Jo Ann Evans and Charlotte Blackwell provided music for the day with harp solos, organ solos, and harp / organ duets.



Where's that food? A hungry crowd was ready!