

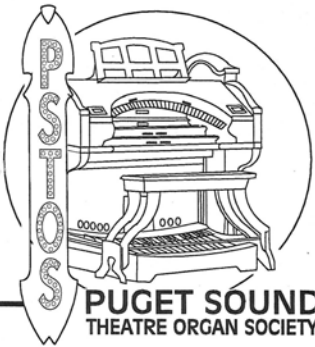
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PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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 14 No. 11

November 2003



PUGET SOUND
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



Sunday, Nov. 9, 2:00PM

At Gig Harbor's fabulous

Wurlitzer Soundview Manor

215 - 27th St. NW, Gig Harbor

Seating is limited to 300.

**At press time, less than 50 remain—
ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

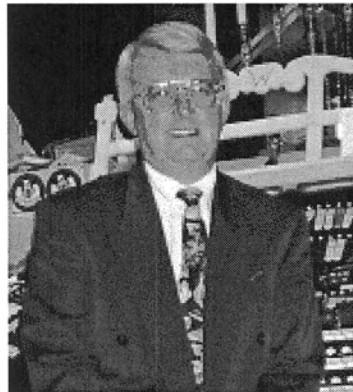
A foot-tapping, hand-clapping afternoon of music featuring
BOB MILNE, America's virtuoso of Ragtime and Boogie Woogie piano
AND JONAS NORDWALL, internationally acclaimed theatre organist!



Dazzling! Intoxicating! Virtuoso! Words critics have applied to **BOB MILNE**, known as one of America's top ragtime/boogie-woogie pianists. He is a master pianist, playing many varied styles portraying a wide spectrum of emotion and feeling to the great delight of his listeners.

Initially trained at Eastman School of Music, Bob's expertise and artistry have made him one of the busiest concert performers in the country. Since 1998 he has played

more than 200 performances a year across the country as well as for cruise lines and in Japan. A gifted child prodigy, he has recorded 10 solo piano recordings and is a prolific composer and author.



JONAS NORDWALL is no stranger to PSTOS and certainly not to the beautiful Wurlitzer in Gig Harbor! With his unique talents he is internationally recognized as a master organist, adept at all styles of music. Audiences around the world applaud his broad range of offerings from Bach to Boogie, to Broadway, to Ragtime. He is a major contributor to the Renaissance popularity of the theatre

organ as an entertainment instrument and has produced numerous recordings. He looks forward to sharing this program with Bob, and to the duo numbers they will perform together!

RAGMATAZZ featuring Bob Milne & Jonas Nordwall • TICKET ORDER FORM

Wurlitzer Soundview Manor • Gig Harbor, WA • Sunday, November 9, 2:00 pm

Benefiting Children's Home Society of Washington, and Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society Scholarship Program

Please mail ticket(s), a stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed

Will pick up ticket(s) at the door

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP+4 _____

Phone _____

IMPORTANT—We're unable to process phone or credit card orders. Orders received without a self-addressed stamped envelope will be held for pickup at the door. DRIVING DIRECTIONS will be included with all ticket orders.

ALL SEATS \$20

Here's my order for:

____ Tickets @ \$20 = \$_____

Please make checks payable to:

RAGMATAZZ

Mail to:

RAGMATAZZ Tickets

c/o Barbara Graham

2823 NE 105th St.

Seattle, WA 98125-7722

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society

6521 N.E. 191st St.

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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

Felix Hell was not just bright (Hell means "bright" in German), he was brilliant. There were lots of PSTOS folks at both concerts enjoying classical organ music as it should be played!

The next brilliant performance for PSTOS will be on the Wilcox Wurlitzer with Jonas Nordwall and the Yamaha piano with Bob Milne. Tickets for Ragmatazz are going fast.

Our Pipes with Pizza event was lots of fun. The Mighty Wurlitzer was freshly tuned by Bob Zat and assistants, there were several kinds of pizza, dark and light draft beer, salad, cookies, sodas, and authentic military style coffee. Andy played an outstanding "by request" program in addition to a Laurel and Hardy film we haven't seen in a long time. It was a real crowd pleaser.

We had a great volunteer crew who made the event move like clockwork. Ticket sellers were Norman Miller, John McFalls, Diane Whipple and Claudia Deibert. Yolanda Gordon collected the tickets in the food line. Betty Chang, Cynthia McFalls, Jo Ann Evans, Carl Dodrill and Halie Dodrill served the pizza and salad. Bob Zat drew the brews while Bob Franklin and Ernie McKibben kept the beverage service going. Russ Evans and Bob Zat led the set up crew. Dan Warner, Kathy Swedberg and Francis Riley helped with the clean up after the party. Jo Ann Evans and Betty Chang got all of the food and Norman Miller took care of the financial end of things. There were others who pitched in and helped whose names I did not get. We thank you all!!

BOB ZAT should be voted the most willing worker. He tuned the organ, uncovered the console, set up the sound system and the projector, ran the microphones, and on and on. *Bob, we appreciate you more than you know.*

Our next Haller Lake get together will be on December 7. Put it on your calendar now.

—Clint Meadway, President

PSTOS Coming Events



with

**Ragtime Pianist BOB MILNE &
Organist JONAS NORDWALL
at Gig Harbor.**

A benefit program for both PSTOS and
Children's Home Society of Washington.
Sunday afternoon, November 9

**Annual PSTOS Christmas Party
Sunday, December 7**

Leap Year Special Event

Enjoy a once-every-four-years Leap Day
special fun event. Details yet to come!

Sunday, February 29, 2004

Home Party

Another fun home event. Details still in
process. Stay tuned.

Sunday, March 28, 2004

Tony Fenelon Program!

Another wonderful afternoon of theatre
organ pops at Gig Harbor! Aren't we
fortunate to have this outstanding
performer return! Tony is looking
forward to once again seeing all his good
friends in PSTOS. This will be a bangup
event. Make it your Mother's Day
celebration.

Sunday, May 16, 2004

Dave Wickerham Program!

We're excited to announce Dave has
been booked for a terrific organ pops
program at Gig Harbor in Sept. of 2004.
A midwest U.S. organist, Dave has just
completed a tour of Australia and N.Z.
to rave reviews. Stay tuned!

**More fun events are being
planned by your Program
Planning Committee.
Watch this column!**

From The MAILBOX

PSTOS members, Joe and Diane Ferluga of University Place (Tacoma) recently enjoyed a 30-day trip to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Russia, where they saw many "humungous and beautiful church organs." They came home with a recording by Harald Rise at the Wagner Organ in Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim. [See photo] This cathedral presented a summer-long program of weekly organ recitals by world-famous classical organists. Though having very few theatre organs, Europe is blessed with many fine classical organs and outstanding organists.

Many thanks to the Ferlugas for sending these interesting photos. Space prevents publishing ALL of them!



ABOVE: Wagner Organ in Nidaros Cathedral



LEFT: Oslo Dom Kirke, Itove Dorgel / Main Organ; Ryde & Berg 1998; Fasade Lambert Daniel Karston, 1727

Other Northwest Theatre Organ Events

Parmount Theatre Silent Movie Mysteries in October

Oct. 13, 7PM, The Cat and The Canary, (1927) starring Laura LaPlante

Oct. 20, 7PM, Pandora's Box, (1929) starring Louise Brooks

Oct. 27, 7PM, The Phantom Of The Opera, (1929) starring Lon Chaney

Accompanied by Dennis James at the Wurlitzer.

WALLY STEVENSON at the Wurlitzer plus U. S. Amateur Ballroom Dancers at Bellingham's Mount Baker Theatre, Sunday October 12, 2PM —MBTOS

ROB RICHARDS at the Elsinore Theatre, Salem OR, Nov. 9, 2PM —CROC, Info at 503-665-6633

CARLO CURLY in concert at All Pilgrims Christian Church. Nov. 16, 4pm

Corner of Broadway and Republican on Capitol Hill. For more information visit www.allpilgrims.org or call 425-869-6651.

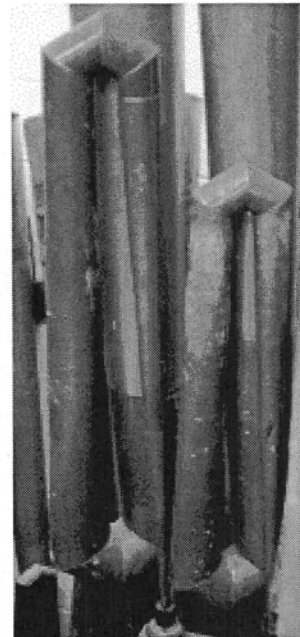
OROTHY WATSON at the Wurlitzer plus BARRY RECTOR, vocalist, at Bellingham's Mount Baker Theatre, Sunday November 23, 2PM —MBTOS

FOR HOKUM HALL THEATRE ORGAN HAPPENINGS, phone 206-937-3613, or check the web at www.hokumhall.org

PIPE ORGAN Terminology

Mitered Pipes

It is often necessary to alter the length of very tall pipes to fit them into a confined height or space. A pipe is "mitered," by cutting it at an angle into two pieces, turning one of them 180°, then rejoining the two pieces.



A physical change in the pipe's structure usually affects the tonality only slightly. Bass waves of the large pedal pipes are so strong that virtually no harm is done to the tone in the "bending" or mitering process.

ABOVE—metal pipes with several miters in each pipe. BELOW—mitered wood pipes.



Pages From The Past..

The Sad Demise Of "The Despondent Rodent"

As told by Loren Shisler, photos by Claude Neuffer. Reprinted from *Marquee Magazine*, Fall 1977

In Portland, within a matter of weeks, the all powerful "ball" brought down the last remaining theatre in the downtown area of Portland that was still in its original state (except for the Kimball 5 rank organ, which had been removed years earlier.)

At the time of its opening as the



LEFT—Interior of the Globe Theatre in 1912.

BELOW—The Capitol Theatre in 1930

Capitol in July of 1928 it had a pleasant Spanish motif with the exterior, interior and furnishings very well coordinated and of excellent design. It was about 850 seats with a small balcony.

Going back to the beginning, in 1912, a little theatre opened at 11th & Washington in downtown Portland. The name of the theatre was the Globe, and it was later taken over and completely remodeled by John Hamrick, who reopened it as the Blue Mouse on November 28, 1921.

In each northwest city, when the Hamrick chain came in and established themselves, their first house was always called the Blue Mouse. It is interesting to note the origin of the name. One story is that Mr. and Mrs. Hamrick were visiting in London and while there they attended a musical play, the title of which was *The Blue Mouse*.

They were so entranced by the play that they thereafter named their theatres Blue Mouse.

the first sound picture in Portland was presented at the Blue Mouse in 1926, the feature being John Barrymore in *Don Juan*.

About 1936, Hamrick-Evergreen

Theatres closed the original Blue Mouse. In October, 1940, Mr. Paul Forsythe reopened the theatre, presenting family films and kiddie matinees. He was rewarded with success and a host of good patrons, young and old became loyal Blue Mouse fans.

Meanwhile, the Capitol Theatre had gone through a period of second-run pictures, then pictures with vaudeville acts, then an era of striptease. It is said that the famous stripper, Tempest Storm, briefly owned and operated the Capitol. However, the Capitol had been closed

for some time when in 1958 the original Blue Mouse faced eviction when the property was sold and the building was to be torn down.

At this point Mr. Forsythe removed the Blue Mouse sign from the old house and moved it and his operation over to the Capitol in August of 1958. There was, however, one great difference in the operation of the new Blue Mouse as compared to the old situation. Whereas the original Blue Mouse had been located uptown quite close to a good middle class apartment district, his new Blue Mouse was downtown in a district of old cheaper hotels and small businesses. Consequently, some policy changes were necessary. The staff became the shepherd and confidant of literally hundreds of lonely souls and habitués of skid road. The theatre became "their" theatre and they love



Pages From The Past...continued

the staff that worked there, and they continued to support the theatre for many years.

In 1977 the "blue Mouse Block" was to make way for a huge parking facility. There was a faint outcry to "save the Blue Mouse," but even if it had been a mighty roar, it was to no more avail than the "Save the Fox" cry was in San Francisco some years ago.

So the familiar Blue Mouse sign that had been a part of the Portland scene for so long came down, the building was demolished, and the unusual name no longer is a part of the world of the movie theatre. (It should be noted that the Blue Mouse in Seattle has also closed.)



ABOVE—The original Blue Mouse, converted from the Globe, which dated back to 1912. Original Globe entrance can be seen on the right. LEFT—1977 view of the Blue Mouse including a famous luncheon spot, The Tummy Tamer. BELOW RIGHT— console of the Style 210 Wurlitzer in Seattle's Blue Mouse Theatre.



The Portland and Seattle Blue Mouse Theatre Wurlitzers...

The Portland Blue Mouse originally had a 2/6 Style D Wurlitzer (opus #529) shipped from the factory in March, 1922.

Harry Quinn Mills was organist at the Blue Mouse in 1922 and Dubois Cornish was organist in 1927. According to Malcom & Vaughn records, the organ was last used for silent films in March 1928.

In 1941, the organ was moved to the Hawthorn Temple/Tabernacle (Amen

Corner) at 20th & Hawthorn in Portland.

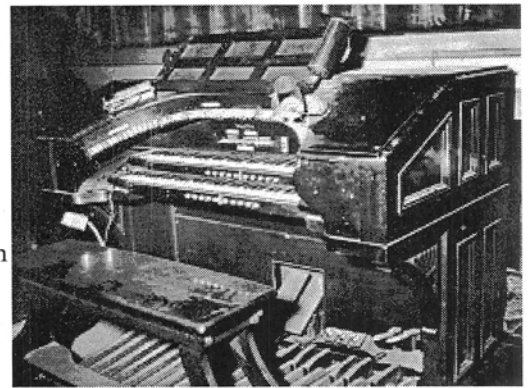
In 1964, Ed Maas of Eugene, Oregon purchased the organ and installed it in his residence.

The Seattle Blue Mouse Theatre originally had a Style 210 Wurlitzer (opus #362) shipped from the factory in October 1920. Records show that in 1927, "Buss" McClelland was staff organist and Billy Bilger played swing-shift.

In 1957, Bob Hansen of Bellevue purchased the instrument and installed it in his home.

In 1973, the instrument was sold to Jack & Mary Lou Becvar who have installed it in their home in Kent where it has been enjoyed for many PSTOS events.

The original two-manual console has recently been sold to St. Davids Church in Shelton where it will control a 2/6 Morton Balcom & Vaughan instrument there.



FOR SALE Organ Stuff

CONNTrinidad horseshoe spinet theatre style organ, model 553, walnut finish. Early 1980s, used very little. In very good condition. Very reasonable. For details please phone memberWalt Cook, 425-228-6648.

*Do you know
where your
name badge is?
PLEASE wear it to
all PSTOS events!*

**Nominations for 2004
PSTOS Board positions
needed NOW—**

Serving on the PSTOS is fun and satisfying. It takes very little time, requiring only attendance at monthly Board meetings and participation in lively discussion and decision-making about events, policies, and miscellaneous. It's important that one or two "new" faces bring their ideas to the table each year. If you'd enjoy getting involved, or know someone you'd like to recommend, please phone Barbara Graham immediately at 206-525-7859, or email her at bxgraham@msn.com

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors
6521 N.E. 191st
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming December 7—Mark your calendar!

**Annual PSTOS
Holiday Party**



- *Music and song!*
- *Great food!*
- *Much merriment!*
- *Save the date!*

Watch for all the
details in the
December Pipeline!

Sunday, December 7th, 2:00

Haller Lake Community Club
12579 Densmore Ave. N., Seattle

A brief Annual Meeting will precede the festivities, with election and installation of 2004 officers.