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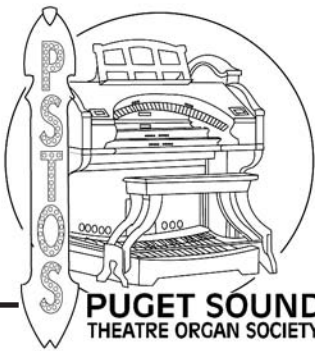
PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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. PSTOS is a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Volume 18 No. 1 and 2

January-February 2007

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society



You'll have a great time at the PSTOS

**Pipes and Hearts in West Seattle at
Kenyon Hall, Home of the Mighty Wurlitzer**

Featuring master musician

LOU MAGOR

*Entertaining you at the grand piano
and Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ*

Plus...

Short silent movie • Open Console

Old fashioned Ice Cream Social

Build your own sundae from the Topping Table!

Cookies & beverages included

Admission \$10 per person

Includes entertainment and refreshments

Saturday, February 10, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Kenyon Hall

7904 35th Ave. SW • West Seattle

PLEASE RESERVE with Barbara Graham

206-525-7859 or email barbara@pstos.org

If you don't reserve, there may be no ice cream for you!

Deadline for reservations Wed., February 7



©Natalie Fobes, 2006

On Saturday, February 10, at Kenyon Hall in West Seattle, we'll be treated to a show by one of the area's musical treasures, Lou Magor. Lou will present a program of songs and stories from his life as a pianist, organist, accompanist, conductor, and singer. And what a varied career he's had! He prepared the San Francisco Symphony Chorus for performances and recordings with the symphony in the 70s and 80s. In 1985 he toured Russia, Poland, and Hungary as director of the San Francisco Boys Chorus, a position that found him backstage at most San Francisco Opera productions. At the same time he served as musical director and accompanist for Broadway legend Mary Martin, which led to conducting the Atlanta, Milwaukee, and Tony Awards orchestras, as well as a performance in the East Room of the White House in 1988.

Lou moved to Seattle in 1990 to conduct the Seattle Bach Choir, and soon helped found the venue in West Seattle that has come to be known as Kenyon Hall. He also teaches at Tilden School in West Seattle, and directs the choir at Wallingford United Methodist Church. When he's not performing at the hall, he teaches Kindermusik there to 80 families.

As you can imagine, this varied career has led to some interesting and funny situations, and Lou is a master storyteller, as well as a first class musician. He'll share these stories and songs with us, and will also entertain at the hall's Mighty Wurlitzer. This is a show you won't want to miss.

NOTE: If you wish to participate in Open Console and would like a stoplist, please contact Tom Roughton at t_roughton@msn.com

Drive Directions to Kenyon Hall—From I-5 take Exit 163 to the West Seattle Bridge. Cross the bridge and drive up the hill to the first lights at 35th Ave. SW. Turn left at the lights. Drive south about 30 blocks. Kenyon Hall is at 7904 35th Ave. SW, just south of Kenyon St. and 35th, on your left. The #21 Metro bus from 1st Ave. stops in front of the Hall. Park on the street or in the church lot directly across the street.

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 NE 191st ST
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

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.

OFFICERS

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Past Pres.—Clint Meadoway, 1-877-843-0953
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Nat'l Magazine Reporter—Jo Ann Evans

LIAISONS

AMICA & POF—Carl Dodrill • Haller Lake Comm.Club—Bob Zat
Paramount Theatre—Tom Blackwell • Wash. Center—Andy Crow

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.

Joining Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is quick and easy! For a one year membership, send a \$20 check payable to PSTOS together with your name(s) as you would like them to appear on your name badges, your address with complete 9-digit ZIP code, and your email address (optional) to:
Norman Miller, Treasurer, 2644 NW Esplanade,
Seattle, WA 98117-2527.

PRESIDENT'S Message

Happy New Year Everyone!

Those who attended our annual Holiday Party on December 6th got a healthy dose of information about what your new 2007 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs have planned for the coming year. There are a lot of great things happening in many areas and plenty of opportunity to get involved.



Dan Warner presented our new 2006 volunteer recognition awards with twenty members receiving an "Ancient Order of the Armature" award certificate for contributing 50 hours or more in the last year. This includes work in concert/event setup, organ maintenance, concert promo, history & archives, scholarship program development and Board service. The awards were great fun and something we plan to continue in 2007.

I also had the privilege of presenting a special Honorary Life Member award. This award is presented to members who have made an extraordinary contribution over a period of many years to support Northwest theatre organs and PSTOS. Past recipients include: Thelma Barclay, Bill Bunch, Andy Crow, Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Bill Hale, Clyde & Adeline Hook, Don Myers and Eddie Zollman. This year, your PSTOS Board voted unanimously to present the award to Bob Zat. Many of you know that Bob served as PSTOS President in 1995, '96 and '97, Secretary from 2000 to 2004, Board member in 2005 and 2006, History & Archives Committee Chair in 2006 and Haller Lake liaison and organ maintenance crew chief since 1994. He has also served in countless other "behind the scenes" roles including: Paramount organ crew member, audio/video archivist for Gig Harbor, not to mention expert video editor extraordinaire in support of PSTOS events and promotions. Without fail, Bob is a cheerful and dependable presence at PSTOS events and has given to our organization in so many ways beyond the normal call of duty. Before the award was presented (which was a complete surprise to Bob by the way), we

enjoyed seeing some of his handiwork in the form of the terrific eight minute video about the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer restoration project. At 60 years young, Bob is a bit less senior than our past recipients. But the Board felt that the type of commitment and dedication displayed by Bob was exemplary and worthy of immediate recognition. Way to go Bob!

Many thanks to exiting Board member Mark Baratta for his great service in 2005 & 2006. Mark served as Organ Restoration & Maintenance Committee Chair and was an active member of at least four different organ crews: Haller Lake, Mt. Vernon Lincoln, Bremerton Masonic and the Seattle Paramount. Fortunately for PSTOS, Mark plans to continue his active role on several organ maintenance crews.

New to the PSTOS Board in 2007 are Ray Harris and Bob McCutchin. Many of you know that Ray is manager of the Shoreline Prosser's Piano & Organ store. He and his wife Tonya have a new Allen 324 in their home dedicated in 2005 with a concert by none other than Lyn Larson. Ray is a huge theatre pipe organ fan and it's great to have his business and marketing savvy on the Board. Also new to the Board is Bob McCutchin. Bob has been a long-time keyboard music supporter in the Puget Sound area, operating his own music retail store. He also served as a PSTOS Board member many years ago and is definitely an enthusiastic theatre organ booster. Welcome aboard Ray & Bob!

Paramount update! It's been inspiring to see donations continue to roll in for the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer restoration fund. Last month, more than two months after our October 8th program, the theatre received another \$500 donation bringing our total up to \$12,197 for the year. Our efforts to provide education about the organ, its unique historical significance and the need for restoration work are really paying off. We are hopeful these informal fund-raiser concerts featuring a variety of international artists will become an annual event.

Speaking of the Paramount, don't miss the final "Silent Movie Monday" in January featuring German Expressionist film *Asphalt* on January 29. The film will be accompanied by Dennis James on the theatre's original Mighty Wurlitzer. If you missed the Paramount silent films in 2006, be sure to attend in 2007!

Deadline for March Pipeline

Please submit on or before February 15th all articles of interest, program and event details, news items, letters to the editors, for sale postings and/or other items for publication in the combined March issue. If

submitting by email, Word attachment is preferred, but email text is OK. Email to: joann@pstos.org

Or send printed materials by standard mail to:
Pipeline Editors, 6521 NE 191st St., Kenmore WA
98028-3453. Phone: 425-485-5465

Other NW Theatre Organ Events

◆ Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

Latest news can be found at:
kenyonhall@earthlink.net or on the
web at www.kenyonhall.org

◆ Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon

Hear the Wurlitzer every Mon/Tue at
7PM & Fri/Sat/Sun at 5PM.

◆ Columbia River Organ Club

For info and latest news go to
www.croonline.org

◆ Special AGO event at Port Ludlow

The Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the
AGO will celebrate its 20th anniversary
with a program at Dr. Schladetzky's
lodge in Port Ludlow on Saturday,
January 20. PSTOS members are invited
to participate in an open console
between 12:30 and 1:30. Cake and
ice cream will be served. The organ is
basically Kimball with an Austin console,
3/27 and growing.

Please RSVP to Clint at 877-843-0953.

Theatre Organ Recordings Preservation Project

Do you have an interest in vintage The-
atre Organ recordings? Have a turntable,
reel-to-reel or cassette deck and a comput-
er? The PSTOS Archives has a number of
fine recordings of Northwest theatre organs
and organists and we'd like to make them
available on our website. If you have an
interest in audio and some time to help out,
please contact Tom Blackwell at tom@pstos.org
or call (206) 784-9203. If we can get
several of us converting these recordings,
we will have a nice collection available for
all to enjoy.

WANTED for the PSTOS Archives:

ATOS *Theatre Organ*, *Tibia* and *Bombarde*
magazines, especially from the 1950s and
'60s. Also old *Console Magazines* and PS-
TOS Pipeline newsletters from the 1960s
and '70s.

Contact Tom Blackwell, tom@pstos.org, or
by cell phone at 206-778-2724.

From The MAILBOX

An interesting exchange from
discuss@pstos.org

Hi Tom & others,

In the early '70s I had lessons from Nancy
Ramsbeck, a very talented Hammond organ
teacher, whom I'm 99% certain had been
taught in her teenage years by Ed Zollman
Sr. Ed was extraordinarily gifted, and played
in the theatre in Centralia at the time. She
adored him and remained lifelong friends with
his family. Ed Zollman Jr. was employed at
Big Bob's Pipe Dream in Burien while learn-
ing his trade. Patti Simon had been teaching
at Bob McCutchin's store up north and be-
came a part-time organist there, possibly the
beginning of her performing career?

One night Nancy and I went there with
the now defunct Renton Organ Club to hear
Bob White, another of her close friends,
and through her friendship with Eddie, we
were allowed to stay and play the organ after
business hours – an immediate life-changing
experience for me! It was from the Seattle
Coliseum Theatre, and I fell totally in love
with it! ...Diane Whipple

Hi Diane & all,

Believe I recently came across Nancy
Ramsbeck's Hammond. Received an inquiry a
few months ago from a very kind gentleman,
Mel Andreason, (sp?) interested in selling his
piano and organ. Upon arrival, I saw a BC (?
it's been a couple months...), covered in dusty
velvet cloths, one for the manuals, one for the
bench, and one for the pedal board. After the
lifting the cloths (and giving flight to years of
dust), I had to ask why the organ was covered
in a light wood colored (peeling) laminate.
Mr. Andreason recanted he purchased it from
his teacher some decades back, and she had
played this organ professionally. I'm confident
he said the teacher's name was Ramsbeck.

My real surprise came when powering
it up. Of course it didn't want to run, but
persistence finally convinced the start mo-
tor to engage. Then I hit the run switch and
nearly had a heart attack! The keyboards lit
up BLUE and PINK. I thought the organ
must be on fire! How many Hammonds have
I started over the years? Not a single one had
back-lit keyboards! It is quite an effect—and
bright enough to be possibly visible from
space.

Long story short, I gave Mr. Andreason
the name of Chuck Snyder and Bob White
for potential purchase. After thinking for a
moment, he concluded it was Bob White who
had done the "modifications" to the organ
years and years ago.

I had asked a few folks in the "circle"
about Nancy Ramsbeck to no avail, so it's nice
to hear a little about her. ...Ray Harris

Centralia Fox Wurlitzer update

We have the installation of our Wurlitzer
about one third finished in the Centralia Fox.
We have been on the job three weeks and an-
ticipate the organ will be playing for a Christ-
mas program. We are donating the organ
plus all the hardware to make it work and the
installation to Opera Pacifica, the nonprofit
organization that owns the theatre.

The organ is going under the stage and
speaking through the orchestra pit with hope-
fully at a later time an echo in the balcony.
It will consist of the original Style D from
the California Theatre in Dunsmuir, CA.
Any later additions will have to be at other
peoples' expense as I am retired with limited
funds. ...Fred Beeks

In Memory Genny Whitting 1916 – 2006



Genny was a very active PSTOS member
during the 1960s through the 1980s. Folks
who frequented Pizza & Pipes will remem-
ber the adorable puppets that danced to
the music. Those were Genny's creations!
Don Myers made the mechanical parts and
Genny made the dolls. She also took on the
tedious job of replacing the gold leafing on
the Paramount Wurlitzer console, a labor of
love indeed.

Genny, a nurse by training, was an early
United Airlines stewardess and there met
her pilot husband. She later worked at
Northgate Hospital, then earned a Public
Health certificate from UW, and worked at
Harborview's Psych ward.

After retirement she began a new career
assisting with restoration and installation of
theatre pipe organs.

She suffered a debilitating stroke in 1997
and died at a care center in Port Townsend
in hospice care. She is survived by son Jeff
and daughter Connie, two grandsons and a
great-granddaughter.

Genny's many PSTOS friends send sym-
pathy and condolences to the family.

Pages From The Past..May,1922

Chelan's Ruby Theatre is believed to be the oldest running film theatre in Washington state. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

It was completed and opened to the public July 1, 1914. F.J. Potter took over management of the new theatre and named it for his young foster daughter, Ruby. Ruby's photograph is displayed in the theatre lobby.

Soon after 1919, two "modern motion picture machines," and more comfortable seats were added. The theatre originally had an organ and player piano, used to accompany the silent films. In 1922, a new photoplayer was introduced to the Ruby. It was located in the orchestra pit in front of the screen, and used music on rolls for each film, similar to a player piano. To enhance the mood of the film, the photoplayer had pulleys and ropes to operate horns and drums for special effects.

The first movie shown in the Ruby on August 29, 1914 was *Quo Vadis*, an epic set in early Rome. Tickets were 15 cents for general admission and 25 cents for balcony and the first three rows. Children's tickets were 10 cents. The cost of a matinee was 10 and 15 cents, but three potatoes were the price of admission for at least one matinee in 1914!

The Ruby has remained true to its roots as Chelan's community theatre since 1914. Recently it has hosted fundraising concerts, mock trials for attorneys' workshops, family reunions, opera, dance recitals, and the local writer's club readings. But the Ruby Theatre also continues its tradition of showing the best in modern films.

www.rubytheatre.com/history.html

Hear Our New FOTO ORCHESTRA

**Sandy Balcom Special Musicians Engaged
For Opening**

TUESDAY, MAY 30

TWO SHOWS

First Show Starts at 7.00 O'clock

Among the many mechanical changes and interior improvements in the Ruby Theatre the star feature will be the installation of a FOTO-PLAYER, the marvelous instrument which the larger theatres are installing to give their patronage the benefit of the best in film presentation.

R. A. Kelsey proprietor of the Ruby Theatre has fully realized the importance of music for the proper enjoyment of their pictures, and after critical survey of the music field the selection of the PHOTOPLAYER was made in competition with the merits of all other instruments.

What louder laughs and deeper sighs do we express when both our sense of sight and hearing are in harmony with the story on the screen!

Music has "found" itself in the movie world and one of the greatest influences of tonal interpretation is the introduction of a FOTOPLAYER, the wonderful instrument for producing an artistic performance.

**The Film Feature of the Evening
Round Three of "The Leather Pushers"**

**Herbert Ralston in
"CHEATED HEARTS"**

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Regular Prices XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Theatre organ reborn with grandeur

By Jon Hahn — Reprinted from *The Seattle Times*, July 1981

In 1981, Puget Sound Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society (Now PSTOS) sponsored the ATOS International Convention. The week-long event drew attendees from all over the U.S., Australia, Canada and England. The following article ran in *The Seattle Times* just prior to the opening concert at the Seattle Paramount Theatre.

It's like the "Phantom of the Opera." From beneath the stage floor of the old Paramount Theatre, a magnificent French Baroque theatre organ rises magically out of the dusty past.

It is grandeur and it is guts. It needs none of the artificial electronic rock music amplifiers that have filled the old hall with cacophony in the last decade. The theatre's original 20-rank pipe organ is in its renaissance for the international convention and annual meeting of the American Theatre Organ Society, opening today, in Seattle.

"There are a lot of people who didn't even know it was here," said Terry Pennington, an Edmonds audio and electronics engineer, and one of the local theatre organ buffs who helped refurbish the gigantic instrument.

The mighty Wurlitzer is the largest original remaining theatre organ still in place, and functioning, in Seattle. And how it functions. When it opens its throat, the hall shakes. The tingle goes through the ornate hall and right up the 3,000 seats into your backbone.

Some 600 theatre organ aficionados from around the world are here to be a part of the instrument's rebirth, the fruit of some 1,000 man-hours labor of Pennington and other Puget Sound area theatre organ disciples.

Grandest of its day

"I don't think you could duplicate it today for anything short of \$250,000," said Russ Evans, of Evans Music. "In its day, it was the grandest theatre organ of many in Seattle, and it's the last still in its original setting. I'm convinced this is going to help the old Paramount turn the corner and come alive again."

Through yesterday afternoon, locals were working on the organ, clearing its throat of old theatre dust which, in its intricate innards, can produce "phantom" (accidental) notes. Don Myers, pipe organ builder for Balcom and Vaughan Pipe

Organs, emerged grease-stained from the organ's insides to greet early conventioners. "She's almost ready to go," he said, wiping his hands. "The piano (attachment) hasn't played in 16 years...and it still works beautifully!"

Cannibalized for parts

The Paramount's Wurlitzer was installed in 1927 and is one of six Washington state theatre organs still in their original halls. Its gleaming ivory-and-gilt, spotlighted console is in strange contrast to the grimy-gold walls, the battered seats and the worn, tattered carpeting. She is a grandam star making her operatic comeback in an old hall that smells not-faintly-enough like a public washroom.

That she survived at all is "a miracle," according to Ashley Miller, of New York City Radio City Music Hall fame, one of the conventioners. "So many of the great old theatre organs fell prey to what we call the "Midnight Parts Company," cannibalized for their parts. During the war (WWII), many were sold for the scrap value of their pipes...imagine! And many others disappeared from the East Coast and the Midwest when the West Coast pizza parlors-with-organs thing took hold. The comment was a gentle jibe, perhaps, at white-haired Thelma Barclay, chairperson of the local theatre organ group, who plays the almost-as-large Wurlitzer at Bellevue's Pizza and Pipes restaurant.

The theme of the convention is "Peace, Pipes & People." And the Paramount's is by no means the only Northwest theatre organ they'll see and hear. More than a dozen bus loads of conventioners will make it to Portland, to hear the Organ Grinder Restaurant Wurlitzer (with 44 ranks or separate sets of pipes which approximate distinct orchestral "voices.").

Performing artists

They also will hear artists on organs in that city's Benson High School, and in



Tacoma's Temple Theatre, Bremerton's Masonic Temple, and in Seattle's St. Mark's Cathedral, Calvary Temple, and the Pizza and Pipes restaurants in Greenwood and Bellevue.

Besides Miller, performing artists for the convention include Bille Nalle, resident artist for the Wichita Century II Wurlitzer; Fr. James Miller, a Ukrainian Orthodox priest from Saginaw, MI, who specializes in music of the '20s and '30s and contemporary jazz; Sherri Mael, a Tacoma school teacher; Andy Crow, music director for Olympia's 1st United Methodist Church; Seattle's Tom Cotner, Northwest regional manager for Conn Organ Co., and others.

Now that we've pulled out all the stops comes the blooper: The concerts aren't open to the public. But the Paramount's Wurlitzer isn't going to sit out the next year in its hydraulic-lift pit beneath the floor. "We're hoping for a public performance sometime this fall," Thelma Barclay said.

Watch for that one. It'll make those rock concerts sound like a bunch of preschoolers playing a \$1.95 xylophone.

Lost & Found at Mark Herman's Gig Harbor concert

Several umbrellas were left behind at Gig Harbor on November 19. Also, a lady accidentally went home with the wrong rain jacket, discovered because of the gloves found in the pocket.

Contact Jo Ann Evans, 425-485-5465 or joann@pstos.org and we'll try to get items and owners together again.

November & December in pictures

Bob Zat awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership for his numerous PSTOS contributions



“With grateful appreciation for your many years of dedicated service to PSTOS, for sharing your numerous talents and skills, for devoting hundreds of hours to the maintenance of our Chapter pipe organ, for your willingness to serve in a variety of capacities on the PSTOS Board, and for your consistent and diligent work for the good of the organization, this award is presented in recognition of your invaluable contributions toward the betterment of PSTOS.”

Ellen Sullivan recognized for her years of volunteering at HLCC



“With sincere appreciation for the untold hours you have generously volunteered over a period of many years, decorating the hall and masterminding food service for PSTOS events held at Haller Lake Community Club, this Certificate of Appreciation is presented in recognition of your dedicated service to Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society.”

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

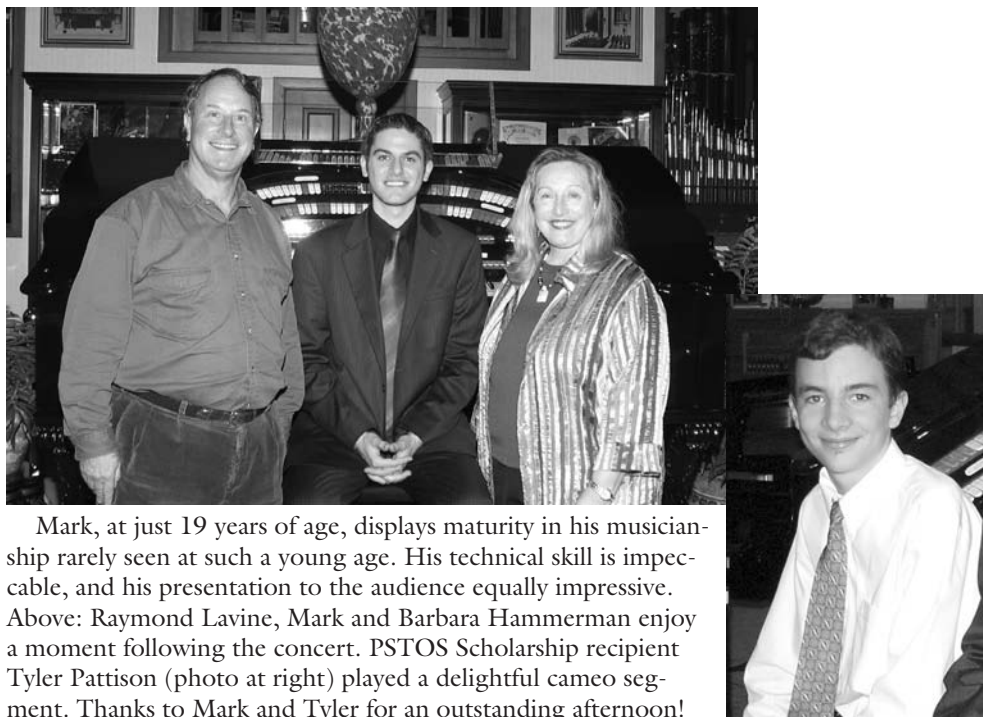
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Herman played outstanding concert at Wurlitzer Manor



Mark, at just 19 years of age, displays maturity in his musicianship rarely seen at such a young age. His technical skill is impeccable, and his presentation to the audience equally impressive. Above: Raymond Lavine, Mark and Barbara Hammerman enjoy a moment following the concert. PSTOS Scholarship recipient Tyler Pattison (photo at right) played a delightful cameo segment. Thanks to Mark and Tyler for an outstanding afternoon!

2007 PSTOS Board of Directors installed at Holiday Party



New officers and board members for 2007 were installed at the annual meeting preceding the holiday party. Left to right: Ray Harris and Bob McCutchin, Board members; Joani Roughton, Secretary; Tom Roughton, Vice Presiden: Bob Zat and Cynthia McFalls, Board members; Tom Blackwell, President; Norman Miller, Treasurer; Clint Meadway, Immediate Past President.