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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. 4

April 2007



A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

Coming May 19 to entertain you with the great toe-tapping music of the '20s, '30s, and '40s! The one and only...

★ Jim Riggs ★

At the world-class 4/48 WURLITZER

***Gig Harbor's spectacular
WURLITZER MANOR***

Sat., May 19, 2:00 PM

For over 25 years, JIM RIGGS has been the San Francisco Bay Area's most visible—and most listened to—purveyor of music on the “Mighty Wurlitzer” pipe organ. Having regularly appeared at every major Bay Area movie house equipped with one, Riggs has entertained well over one million toe-tapping patrons. It's no wonder local media and emcees call him the “Wizard of the Wurlitzer”.

Riggs is now in his eighteenth year as House Organist at the fabulous Paramount Theatre in Oakland, an internationally acclaimed Art-Deco masterpiece and National Historic Landmark. (Please see www.paramounttheatre.com for more information.) He appears frequently at the Golden State

Theatre in Monterey CA and the Fox Bob Hope Theatre in Stockton CA. He has appeared previously at Oakland's Grand Lake Theatre, the Castro Theatre in San Francisco and at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto.

Riggs' music features mostly Classic American Pop—the music produced between the wars. His programs highlight the great tunes of Gershwin, Porter, Berlin, Kern, Arlen, Warren and many more. His musical stylings often evoke dance orchestras and big swing bands.

Riggs has several recordings released, with the latest—featuring unique duets with the Wurlitzer and vintage Ampico reproducing piano rolls—coming out in 2007. His music has been heard on National Public Radio in the USA and the BBC in the UK. Riggs



was featured in the Public Broadcasting System's television documentary, “Pulling Out All The Stops—A History of the Pipe Organ in America.”

Jim lives in Pleasant Hill, California where he spends time with his two daughters. He enjoys cooking and entertaining and collects vintage fountain pens and pencils, 78 rpm records, vintage autographed movie star photos and sheet music from the 1920s, '30s and '40s.

Seating limited to 90. Admission by donation. Suggested minimum \$35 per person, please.

Age 16 and under free when accompanied by adult. Use enclosed Reservation Form to reserve.

Questions? Phone Tom blackwell at 206-784-9203 and leave a message.

To check for other members in your area interested in carpooling, send an email to discuss@pstos.org



The Lavines once again invite PSTOS members and their friends to a private benefit concert at their beautiful home. Their generosity and enthusiasm for musical causes is so much appreciated! Proceeds from this special concert will help fund PSTOS scholarship students' attendance at the 2007 ATOS Theatre Organ Adventure at Wheaton, Illinois July 20-23.



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Published monthly by
Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 NE 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.

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



We're looking forward to the upcoming Jim Riggs concert at Raymond and Barbara's beautiful Wurlitzer Manor. It's been a few years since Jim has played for PSTOS and those who have heard his music know it as fun and up tempo. The proceeds from this event will go toward sending one or more of our PSTOS Scholarship students to the new ATOS "Theatre Organ Adventure" Summer Camp. This top-notch event is being held in Chicago July 23-25 and will feature primary instructor Jonas Nordwall with assistants Jelani Eddington and Donna Parker. Many of you know that Jonas and Donna are from the Northwest (Portland) and both are members of PSTOS! There will also be a theatre organ history and technical session provided by Jeff Weiler, editor of the ATOS Theatre Organ magazine and recently released 700 page Wurlitzer history book. This is sure to be an incredible opportunity for our scholarship students. See details on page 3. More information is available on the ATOS website: www.atos.org

Many of you received your ATOS Board of Director's ballots in the mail recently. Your PSTOS Board feels it is very important to get the right people involved in the leadership of ATOS to build on the momentum started with the leadership changes last summer. Although all eight candidates are great theatre organ supporters, your Board has specific knowledge of the contributions for the following four individuals, their commitment and dedication to improving and strengthening ATOS as an organization: Jelani Eddington, Bob Evans, Michael Feltenzer and Allen Miller. If, after reading their statements included with the ballot, you agree that these four are uniquely qualified to lead ATOS, we encourage you to cast your vote accordingly.

Don't miss the upcoming series of Harold Lloyd silent comedies at the Paramount starting Monday, April 30 and continuing for the first three Mondays in May. The final show will be **Friday** evening May 25th. All shows are accompanied by PSTOS member Dennis James and start at 7:00 p.m. This will be your last chance for silent movies at the Paramount in 2007. No fall series is planned this year. Your PSTOS organ crew will be working throughout April to prepare the instrument for these shows. Be sure to stop by the PSTOS table in the lobby. Hope to see you there!

PSTOS Coming Events

◆ JIM RIGGS at Gig Harbor's Wurlitzer Manor

It's been a long time since we've had the chance to welcome Jim to a console here. He'll send you away tapping your toes! Don't miss this event. Use enclosed Reservation Form to reserve your seat(s) now!

Sat., May 19, 2:00 PM

◆ PSTOS Member Cameo Extravaganza at the Jack & Mary Lou Becvar Home

Featuring Ray Harris, Jo Ann Evans and others at Becvar's 3/19 Wurlitzer. Enjoy "make-your-own" strawberry shortcake, cookies and beverages on the deck. More artists and details coming soon.

Saturday, Aug 11, 1:30 PM

More events are ahead!

YES!

Your Program Committee is busy finalizing venue and artist details for several more fun events during 2007. Watch this column for the latest news each month!

Are you a metal machinist? The Paramount Wurlitzer needs special music rack supports.

If you have experience with metal machining, we need your help on a special project for the Paramount Theatre. You must have access to a milling machine and other metal working tools to create some special steel brackets for the Mighty Wurlitzer's new (reproduction) music rack. This rack is an exact copy of the original glass & metal rack. The brackets must be designed to allow the stage crew to easily remove the rack without damage when they stow the console in its garage under the stage. Contact Tom Blackwell by e-mail at tom@pstos.org or phone 206-784-9203.

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
7 PM & Fri/Sat/Sun at 5 PM.

◆ Columbia River Organ Club

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

◆ Paramount Theatre *Silent Movie Mondays* to feature Harold Lloyd Retrospective Series

All accompanied by Dennis James at the
Paramount's original 4/21 Wurlitzer

Monday, Apr 30, 7PM

Grandma's Boy and *Dr. Jack*.

Monday, May 7, 7PM

Why Worry and *Hot Water*.

Monday, May 14, 7PM

Movie Crazy

Monday, May 21, 7PM

The Kid Brother and *Speedy*.

◆ Jeff Fox to play at Lincoln Theatre

Jeff will present the Mt. Vernon Lincoln's
original Wurlitzer in a program of
favorites. The public and PSTOS
members are invited. Admission by
donation, to cover use of the facility.

Saturday, May 26, 12:30 PM

◆ Mark Andersen will play at Wenatchee Museum

Mark will play a concert followed by
the silent film, *The General*, for which he
wrote his own score when in N.Y.

Saturday, May 26, 7:00 PM

◆ HLCC 3rd annual Chili Palooza

Chili cookoff and entertainment,
including PSTOS organists at the
Wurlitzer. Haller Lake Comm. Club.

Saturday, June 23, 12-5 PM

Daniel Goltz and his teacher, Dr. Kraig Scott, will perform at St. Mark's Cathedral April 22

Our scholarship student, DANIEL
GOLTZ, along with his organ instructor,
DR. KRAIG SCOTT, are coming to St.
Mark's Cathedral in Seattle to present an
unusual program—a quick tour of music
for two organs beginning and ending in El
Excorial, Spain.

The concert will be held in St. Marks'
Thompson Chapel and will feature the
newly installed Fritts Pipe Organ and a
Portative organ.

Suggested donation is \$10.00. This
should be an exciting event. You will hear
two outstanding organists and be proud of
our scholarship student!

Mark your calendar now and be sure to
attend this unusual event.

St. Mark's Cathedral

Sunday, April 22, 2:00 PM.

Member Jack Becvar recognized for his many years of volunteer service in the Kent area



A recent article in *The Kent Reporter* gives special recognition to PSTOS member Jack Becvar for his many years of volunteer service. Having lived in the Kent area since he was

young, Jack finds it personally rewarding to now be able to spend a significant part of his time serving his community.

Since retiring from Boeing in 1990, Jack's major area of volunteer focus has been the Kent Historical Society, of which he was a founding member and former director. He is presently a member of both the Kent Downtown Partnership and the Kent Arts Commission. His volunteer activities include working with MaryLou to support the Kent Food Bank. Jack says what he enjoys most about volunteering is meeting different people and giving back to the community. Jack was first employed as an airplane mechanic at Boeing, and was later promoted to a management position. He was part of the team that rolled out the 707, Boeing's first commercial jetliner. One of his fond memories was meeting Howard Hughes.

Congratulations, Jack!

Thanks to Diane Whipple for sharing this information.

First-ever ATOS "Theatre Organ Adventure" planned in Illinois in July, 2007

A brand new program for the benefit of young organists, the *ATOS Theatre Organ Adventure* will provide young enthusiasts the opportunity to study and learn the art of the theatre pipe organ through lectures, master classes, and private instruction. The primary instructor for the event will be Portland's Jonas Nordwall, with teaching assistance from Donna Parker, Jeff Weiler, and Jelani Eddington, pictured below.

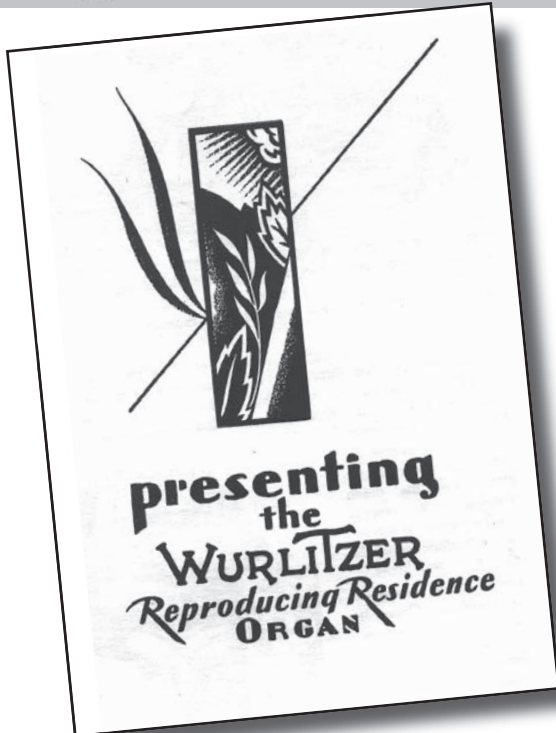


The majority of the classes and sessions will take place at the outstanding 4/26 Robert Morton theatre organ at the privately-owned Wheaton-Fox Studio in Wheaton, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. Other featured instruments include the 4/17 Barton at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, Illinois, and the 5/80 Wurlitzer at the Sanfilippo Victorian Palace in Barrington, Illinois.

The Adventure is open to all participants up to 25 years of age. Registration per student is \$250, which includes all tuition, meals and transportation to and from the venues during the event. Special accommodations are being made for out-of-town students to stay at the conveniently-located Holiday Inn in Carol Stream, Illinois.

This will be an outstanding opportunity for all young organists to learn from and be coached by our top professionals. If you know of a young organist who you feel might benefit by attending this event, please contact tom@pstos.org for more information. More information is available directly from ATOS Summer Camp Committee Chairperson, Michael Cierski at m.cierski@atos.org, online at www.atos.org, or by phone at 708-785-4985.

Pages From The Past... mid-1920s



Few folks are aware of the many Wurlitzer Reproducing Pipe Organs built from the mid-1920s to 1936. These instruments operated much like a player piano, using punched rolls.

Although most of them were installed in the homes of the wealthy, a number were sold to a variety of businesses including fur salons, architects' exhibits, cemeteries, hospitals, mortuaries and hotels.

These pages are reproduced from a brochure originally published by W.A. Crowle Ltd., the Australian Wurlitzer Representative in Sydney.

Success for Mr. Crowle demanded diversification—he also represented such unexpected items as fire trucks!

*Fulfills a
cherished dream*

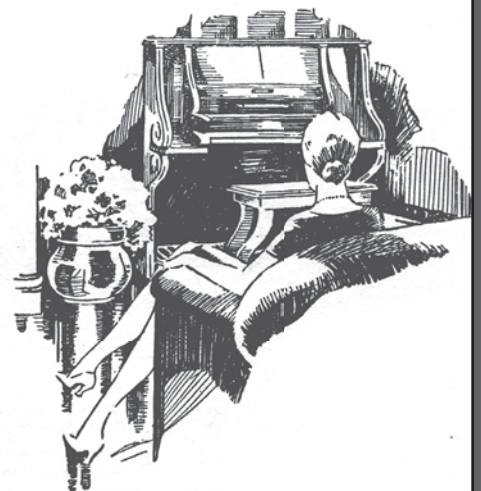


ASSOCIATED always with grandeur, with the most sublime and exquisite tonal effects ever created and mastered by human hand, the organ is the acknowledged king of musical instruments. Always in cultured homes, where music is naturally considered a necessary complement of happiness, there has slumbered the desire to own a pipe-organ, a desire until now often difficult of fulfilment because of the size, and perhaps the expense, of the peer of all instruments.

It remained for the seventh generation of Wurlitzer craftsmen to surmount the last difficulties which have stood in the way of individual pipe-organ ownership. In the new Wurlitzer Reproducing Residence Organ is presented a *pipe-organ conformable to your home*.

The console requires but little more space than a piano, and the organ chamber is so compact that its location is usually arranged quite easily in even a modest home.

The Wurlitzer Reproducing Residence Organ is well within the means of the family of moderate income. As the world's greatest builders of organs, Wurlitzer is able to produce this marvellous organ at a price heretofore thought impossible.



*Summon at will
the world's great
organists*

COMFORTABLY ensconced in your favorite chair, you may now command world-acclaimed organists to play for you whatever you wish, be it your favorite ballad or the most exquisite symphony. On the new Wurlitzer Reproducing Residence Organ, the greatest compositions of the ages are superbly, magnificently played—all at the touch of a button.

As perfectly appointed for recital work as for music roll reproduction, this beautiful pipe-organ will make your home a musical centre. The sheer beauty of its performance will prove an unending source of enjoyment to you, your family, your artistic and music-loving friends.

Money cannot measure the value of the pleasure, the inspiration, you and every member of your family will gain with a Wurlitzer Reproducing Residence Organ in your home. Through the charm of this wondrous instrument, the children will be inspired to a new enthusiasm for musical education. With melodies that soothe and relax, the organ will banish the fatigue of your day's work. Your friends will never tire of the matchless and varied entertainment this organ affords.

You can select no more distinguished instrument for your home than a Wurlitzer Reproducing Residence Organ.

Pages From The Past.. continued

In this photo the player roll can be seen above the stop tabs.

Most reproducing residence organs were similar in design, with a straight stoprail. Just one typical horseshoe console was shown in the Crowle catalog.

The instrument has an impressive stop list, detailed below.



R13-14
WITH SPECIAL REPRODUCING
ROLLS
(165 Notes)

SPECIFICATION OF R. 13 TWO MANUAL WURLITZER HOUSE ORGAN With Reproducing Player Attachment

Pedal

Compass 32 Notes	
Bass	16 ft.
Bourdon	16 "
Tuba	8 "
Diapason	8 "
Tibia Clausa	8 "
Cello	8 "
Flute	8 "
Dulciana	8 "

Accompaniment to Pedal
Solo to Pedal

Accompaniment

Compass 61 Notes	
Contre Violo (Ten. C)	16 ft.
Tuba	8 "
Open Diapason	8 "
Tibia Clausa	8 "
Salicional	8 "
Voix Celeste (Ten. C)	8 "
Flute	8 "

ACCOMPANIMENT—Contd.

Vox Humana	8 ft.
Dulciana	8 "
Octave	4 "
Piccolo	4 "
Salicet	4 "
Octave Celeste	4 "
Flute	4 "
Vox Humana	4 "
Dulcet	4 "
Chryso-glott	49 notes
Solo Sub-Octave to Accompaniment	
Solo Unison to Accompaniment	
Solo Octave to Accompaniment	
Five Adjustable Combination Pistons	

Solo

Compass 61 Notes	
Bass	16 ft.
Tibia Clausa (Ten. C)	16 "
Contre Violo	16 "

SOLO—Contd.

Bourdon	16 ft.
Tuba	8 "
Open Diapason	8 "
Tibia Clausa	8 "
Salicional	8 "
Voix Celeste (Ten. C)	8 "
Flute	8 "
Vox Humana	8 "
Dulciana	8 "
Octave	4 "
Piccolo	4 "
Salicet	4 "
Octave Celeste	4 ft.
Flute	4 "
Dulcet	4 "
Cathedral Chimes	25 notes
Chryso-glott	49 "
Sub-Octave	
Unison Off	
Octave	
Five Adjustable Combination Pistons	

General

Two Balanced Expression Pedals.
One Balanced Crescendo Pedal.
Two General Tremulants.
One Vox Humana Tremulant.
Electric Rotary Blowing Apparatus.
Generator for furnishing the necessary current to operate the Electro-pneumatic Action.
Organ fitted with Automatic playing attachment so that instrument is playable by means of a paper music roll which operates the complete instrument as well as being available for hand playing.

SPECIFICATION OF R 14 TWO MANUAL WURLITZER HOUSE ORGAN With Reproducing Player Attachment

Pedal

Compass 32 Notes	
Bass	16 ft.
Bourdon	16 "
Tuba	8 "
Diapason	8 "
Tibia Clausa	8 "
Clarinet	8 "
Cello	8 "
Flute	8 "
Dulciana	8 "

Accompaniment to Pedal
Solo to Pedal

Accompaniment

Compass 61 Notes.	
Contre Violo (Ten. C)	16 ft.
Tuba	8 "
Open Diapason	8 "

ACCOMPANIMENT—Contd.

Tibia Clausa	8 ft.
Clarinet	8 "
Salicional	8 "
Voix Celeste (Ten. C)	8 "
Flute	8 "
Vox Humana	8 "
Dulciana	8 "
Octave	4 "
Piccolo	4 "
Salicet	4 "
Octave Celeste	4 "
Flute	4 ft.
Vox Humana	4 "
Dulcet	4 "
Chryso-glott	49 notes

Solo Sub-Octave to Accompaniment
Solo Unison to Accompaniment
Solo Octave to Accompaniment
Five Adjustable Combination Pistons

Solo

Compass 61 Notes.	
Bass	16 ft.
Tibia Clausa (Ten. C)	16 "
Clarinet	16 "
Contre Violo	16 "
Bourdon	16 "
Tuba	8 "
Open Diapason	8 "
Tibia Clausa	8 "
Clarinet	8 "
Salicional	8 "
Voix Celeste (Ten. C)	8 "
Flute	8 "
Vox Humana	8 "
Dulciana	8 "
Octave	4 "
Piccolo	4 "
Salicet	4 "
Octave Celeste	4 "
Flute	4 "
Dulcet	4 "
Cathedral Chimes	25 notes
Chryso-glott	49 "

SOLO—Contd.

Sub Octave
Unison Off
Octave
Five Adjustable Combination Pistons

General

Two Balanced Expression Pedals.
One Balanced Crescendo Pedal.
Two General Tremulants.
One Vox Humana Tremulant.
Electric Rotary Blowing Apparatus.
Generator for furnishing the necessary current to operate the Electro-pneumatic Action.
Organ fitted with Automatic playing attachment so that instrument is playable by means of a paper music roll which operates the complete instrument as well as being available for hand playing.

UNIT SYSTEM EMPLOYED IN OUR INSTRUMENTS TO BE UTILISED.

Theatre Organ Going Into Centralia's Fox Theatre

Instrument donated by PSTOS members
Fred and Eva Beeks

Story and photos by Tom Blackwell

PSTOS members Fred & Eva Beeks have donated their three-manual 13 rank Wurlitzer to the Fox Theatre in Centralia. The organ was previously installed in their Skagway, Alaska home, custom-built in 1989 to house the organ. Some of you may have seen the magazine articles and *Alaska Magazine* "Extreme Homes" TV program featuring their home and organ.

The Beeks originally intended to donate the organ back to its original theatre home in Dunsmuir, California, but there were logistical issues that would have delayed installation and they were anxious to get the organ installed and playing again quickly.

Last year, Fred retired and they decided to move to Anacortes to be closer to their children. In their explorations of the Northwest, they met Bob Corl and Claudia Simpson-Jones of Opera Pacifica, new owners of the Fox Theatre in Centralia. Opera Pacifica's long range plans included re-installation of a pipe organ at the Fox and when Fred telephoned in 2005 with offer of a pipe organ and free installation, Bob and Claudia were overjoyed.

Opening in 1930, the Fox Theatre did not have a factory-installed organ but local organ builders Balcom & Provorse installed an organ that was a combination of two smaller instruments. The entire organ was installed in a single backstage chamber located high up on the stage left wall. According to those who heard it, the organ did not get out very well and the sound was muffled coming from backstage.



PSTOS members Lynn Mordick and Fred Beeks in the original backstage pipe chamber. Writing on the wall behind them says: "Special Wurlitzer Installed August 1930 by Balcom, Provorse Organ Engineers. Sandy Balcom, Lloyd Provorse, Clarke Rush"

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors
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Fred Beeks in the new backstage chamber

The Beeks organ is installed in a new under-stage chamber in an area previously occupied by dressing rooms. In addition to the huge task of installing the organ itself, Fred and Eva have done nearly all the preparatory work themselves including creating a large tone opening in the back wall of the orchestra pit, making structural modifications to the new chamber area, cleaning and painting the chamber and pit area, as well as wiring the blower. It has been an enormous task for the two of them requiring many week-long trips from Anacortes spent "camping" in their motor home parked in a nearby Elks Lodge lot.



Console of the Centralia Fox Wurlitzer



Pipework in the understage chamber

The instrument was originally installed 1925 in the California Theatre, Dunsmuir, California. After it was removed from the theatre, the new owners added a third manual along with seven pipe ranks from a Smith organ. When Fred installed the instrument in their Skagway home, he added a second stop rail to more effectively control the organ's 13 total ranks. For the Centralia Fox installation, seven ranks are planned (Style D Wurlitzer plus a Gottfried Kinura). The third manual will be retained, but the second stop rail has been removed.

The Beekses began the installation in the summer/fall of 2006 and predict that an opening concert will be sometime this summer. Way to go Fred & Eva!



Centralia Fox Theatre marquee