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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 23 No. 7

July, 2012

A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

Coming July 14...focus on youth!

Nathan Avakian

At Merlyn Johnson's newly rebuilt
3/21 Wurlitzer/Morton/Kimball
Theatre Pipe Organ

NATHAN AVAKIAN is the 2009 overall winner of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) Young Theatre Organist Competition. A six-week concert tour of Australia and New Zealand brought him rave reviews. Scholarships from ATOS, the Columbia River Theatre Organ Society, and the Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society have helped fund his lessons and trips to organ workshops in Colorado, Illinois, and Arizona. Nathan is the current ATOS Youth Representative to the Board.

As a musician, Nathan's mission is to showcase the versatility of the theatre organ by playing music from a wide variety of eras and styles. Nathan hopes to promote interest in the theatre organ among people of all ages to ensure that the instrument is kept alive for future generations.

For more information about Nathan, visit www.avakiancreativeworks.com.

Saturday, July 14, 1:00PM

Merlyn Johnson residence
1314 So. Mountain View Ave. • Tacoma

Paid PSTOS members \$20 • Non-members \$25

Age 15 and under free w/adult

SEATING LIMITED TO 65—RESERVATIONS PLEASE!

Reserve with Barbara Graham at
206-525-7859 (Please leave message w/your name, phone,
and number in your group)
or email barbara@pstos.org



Opening for Nathan will be JESSE ZYLSTRA, our PSTOS scholarship recipient. Jesse is studying both classical and theatre organ and will enter the University of Idaho to study music in the fall. We are delighted to feature Jesse in a cameo performance at this event.



DRIVE DIRECTIONS
to the Merlyn Johnson residence
1314 So. Mountain View Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98465

From I-5 Take EXIT 132 to HWY-16 West toward Bremerton. Drive 4.6 mi on Hwy 16.
Take EXIT 4 for Jackson Ave. toward University Place, turn left onto N Jackson Ave, drive .3 mile to 6th Ave.
Turn right onto 6th Ave. Drive .4 mile to S. Mountain View Ave. (The street curves.)
Turn left onto S. Mountain View Ave. Merlyn's home will be on the right.

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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.

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Pipeline Online Website—Tom Blackwell, tom@pstos.org

LIAISONS

AMICA & POF—Carl Dodrill

Haller Lake Community Club—Bob Zat

Paramount Theatre—Tom Blackwell

Washington Center—Andy Crow

Calvary Christian Assembly—Jeff Snyder

AGO—David Locke

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:

PSTOS, Clint Meadway, Treasurer
9594 1st Ave. NE #453,
Seattle WA 98115-2012

PRESIDENT'S Message

The first half of 2012 has been productive for PSTOS.

The Program Coordinating Committee has been working "overtime" and is on track to have eight concerts and events this year. The February ice cream social made for a full house to hear Andy Crow at Kenyon Hall. Well over 200 attended John Atwell's concert at Calvary Christian Assembly (CCA). Plus the Pizza & Pipes Experience with Sharon Stearnes was another full house at HLCC.

Of course, concerts can't happen without organs, so the Restoration and Maintenance Committees have done their part too. Tom and the Paramount crew finished the string chamber overhaul and other improvements in time for the Silent Movie Monday series in January (for more information see the February 2012 Pipeline). The crew for CCA removed the Klann combination action and sent it back to the factory for an overhaul. Thanks to Russ for making sure the unit was safely transported and rebuilt.

On the business side, because of the additional income from the convention, PSTOS now has to file the long form 990 with the IRS. Thus our 990 has gone from the postcard form to about 16 pages. Thanks to Clint for dealing with this much less than fun issue.

The board has reestablished dialog with Pastor Pecota and the CCA board working toward an agreement that will allow PSTOS well defined access to the Wurlitzer/Kimball organ in the future.

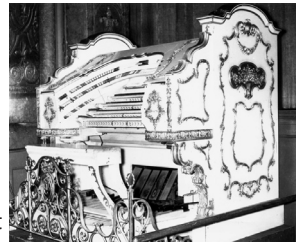
And lastly, I bring your attention to the Jim Riggs fundraiser concert at the Paramount. Membership dues cover overhead expense, largely the Pipeline. It takes fundraising activities such as the ATOS convention and other special events to get the important restoration and maintenance work done on the organs. So come listen to Jim Riggs and help fund the restoration of the Paramount Wurlitzer Publix 1!



PSTOS Coming Events

IMPORTANT NOTICE! Paramount Open Console postponed to Aug. 26

When the Paramount Theatre gives us a date for Open Console, it's tentative, with the understanding that if an event is booked for that date, we must postpone.



This has happened on August 5th, but the good news is we've been tentatively granted Sunday afternoon, August 26, as a new date.

So practice up, bring your music, and take your turn at the Paramount Wurlitzer!

Here's how it will work:

- Put your name on the Play List ;
- You may play ten minutes;
- You may sign up again.

Many thanks to Tom Blackwell and the Paramount team for making this possible. Don't miss it!

Sunday, August 26 2:00

Editor's note: The possibility of our being preempted by a paying group should have been mentioned last month. We apologize for any disappointment this oversight may have caused!

▶ NATHAN AVAKIAN at Merlyn Johnson's home

Nathan, an ATOS Young Organist Competition winner, will play across Australia this summer!

Opening for Nathan will be our very own PSTOS Scholarship recipient **JESSE ZYLSTRA**.

Sat., July 14, 1:00

▶ "RIGGS ROCKS THE PARAMOUNT!" A benefit for the Wurlitzer restoration.

Enjoy the Paramount Wurlitzer in a theatre organ program. Don't miss it!

Sunday, July 29, 2:00 PM

▶ JONAS NORDWALL CONCERT and WORKSHOP at Bill Keller's home

Plan to attend a workshop from 10:30–noon, then enjoy a full concert at 2:00, all on Bill's fantastic 5–manual Allen! Watch for details.

Saturday, September 15

▶ Annual PSTOS HOLIDAY PARTY with Portland's MIKE BRYANT at Haller Lake

Our annual holiday extravaganza! Music! Food! Fun! A great time for all.

Sunday, December 2, 2012

Volunteers needed to staff the PSTOS lobby table at the Paramount for the new matinee shows

The matinees are Mondays: July 9, 16, 23 & 30. You and a guest get free admission to the matinees and would need to arrive by 11:30am. The table will be setup and ready for you. Because the matinees (new for 2012) are expected to draw a completely new lunchtime crowd, PSTOS would very much like to have a presence in the lobby to answer questions about PSTOS membership, our restoration work at the Paramount and other theatre organ-related topics! As an incentive, PSTOS will cover the cost of your parking (up to \$10). More information about the films can be found here: <http://www.stgpresents.org/artists/?artist=1966>. Contact Tom Blackwell at tom@pstos.org to volunteer for one or more of the dates.

Other NW Theatre Organ News

Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

www.kenyonhall.org or email kenyonhall@earthlink.net

Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon – Wurlitzer is usually played half an hour before movies

lincolnthatre.org

Columbia River Theatre Organ Society

www.croconline.org

Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre Organ Society

www.mountbakertheatre.com

Spokane's First Nazarene Theatre Organ Society

www.sfnatos.org

Oregon Chapter ATOS, Portland

<http://www.theatreorgans.com/oregon/ocatos/ocatos2.htm>

Jeff Fox to perform at Mt. Vernon's Lincoln Theatre

Jeff will play Lincoln's original Style D Wurlitzer to which he contributed many hours of restoration effort. He can often be heard at Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre, both in concert and accompanying silent movies.

Saturday, August 25, 3:00PM

Tickets \$10 at the door, or online at www.lincolnthatre.org



The Paramount Theatre presents Trader Joe's Silent Movie Mondays with, "Epics and Opulence"

Doors open 6:00 • Movies 7:00 • Admission \$10 • (\$7 student/senior)

This all-classic film series, *Epics and Opulence*, is accompanied by live music from the historic Mighty Wurlitzer organ, one of the last three remaining organs of its kind to reside in its original environment, played by acclaimed organist Jim Riggs.

The films in this series present sumptuous worlds, tragically flawed characters, biblical adaptations epic in scale and scope, melodramatic and operatic in their vision. Join us as we present these lush gilded classics in the opulence and grandeur of the city's finest movie palace.



July 9, 7pm

PICCADILLY, 1929, starring Anna Mae Wong, a tale of ambition, desire and jealousy that casts intense glamour and enchantment into a nightclub in danger of decline.



July 16, 7PM

L'ARGENT (Money), 1928, an exposé of the destructive power of money, featuring ruthless stock-market speculators, desperate bids, ruined rivals, and sexual seduction.



July 23, 7PM

BEN HUR: A TALE OF CHRIST, 1925, the most elaborate and expensive silent film ever made, a legendary production.



July 30, 7PM

KING OF KINGS, 1927, which mixes sex and religion, turning the redemption of Mary Magdalene, a high priced courtesan and possible lover of Jesus, into a vamp. Directed by Cecil B. DeMille

NEW! Monday noon brown bag silent movie matinees, just \$5

This series of matinees begins at noon on July 9th. Bring your lunch inside the air conditioned Paramount Theatre to enjoy some great silent film shorts.

Admission just \$5. Doors open at 11:30. Family friendly!

▶ **July 9, 2012—3 movies—A TRIP TO THE MOON, ONE A.M., and THE IMMIGRANT**

▶ **July 23, 2012—2 movies—KINGDOM OF FAIRIES, and THE CAMERAMAN**

▶ **July 16, 2012—2 movies—IMPOSSIBLE VOYAGE, and THE KID**

▶ **July 30, 2012—RIPS' DREAM, and Buster Keaton's GO WEST**

A record-breaking turnout for Sharon Stearnes and Pizza & Pipes!



June 9 was an exciting Saturday night as organist Sharon Stearnes recreated the "Pizza & Pipes" experience to a packed house at the Haller Lake Community Club. A record-breaking 184 attendees enjoyed pizza, veggies, drinks, and dessert while listening to Sharon at the Wurlitzer, playing an eclectic mix of tunes recalled from her years as staff organist at Pizza & Pipes restaurants in the area. Selections included folk songs such as "Red River Valley," highlights from "The Sound of Music" and "Mary Poppins," the Australian ballad "Waltzing Matilda," and even J.S. Bach's celebrated arrangement of "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desir-

ing." Midway through the evening attendees were treated to the 1928 Laurel and Hardy silent film "Leave 'Em Laughing," accompanied by Sharon's deftly synchronized music and sound effects. Following the movie, the pre-school generation had a grand time as they took up drums and noisemakers of every kind and marched around the room to the Mighty Wurlitzer. Many in the audience had fun singing along with Sharon on some of the songs, thanks to word sheets that she provided. Everyone appreciated Sharon's artistry, and the success of this event leaves no doubt that she'll be back!

Pages From The Past..1926

From *The Seattle Times*, Sunday, September 12, 1926

Seattle's Fifth Avenue Theatre opened to a great fanfare in 1926. These articles tell the story.

HUGE ORGAN FOR NEWEST THEATRE

MUSIC—hand maiden of the cinema—will play an important part in the programs of Seattle's new Fifth Avenue Theatre which is soon to open. Not only will the magnificent new film house feature George Lipschultz and his splendid orchestra, but organ music of a superior quality will have a prominent place on each program.

The work of installing the giant Wurlitzer Hope-Jones organ has been under way for some time and Seattle motion picture fans may be assured of the finest organ music under the capable presentation of a master organist.

Monster Organ

The Fifth Avenue Theatre's organ compares with the finest in the country, being identical with the instruments played in Grauman's Egyptian Theatre in Los Ange-

les, the Chicago Theatre and in the recently completed Uptown Theatre in Chicago.

An indication of its capabilities may be gained by the fact that it can produce the music of a forty-piece orchestra or the soft strains of a violin solo. At the touch of a button the thundering roar of a storm is produced or the sweet notes of a delicate reed are rendered.

Hundreds of pipes, ranging in size from thirty-two feet in length affording ample room for two men inside, to a delicate unit six inches long and scarcely larger than a soda straw, are contained in the gigantic lofts. More than a hundred miles of wire and between four and five thousand electric magnets are necessary in its operation. Huge fans delivering 15,000 cubic feet of air a minute furnish the pressure to operate the pipes and effects. The pipes and instruments are contained in two concrete

lofts on each side of the stage proscenium and have been so designed that not an iota of acoustic quality is lost in delivering the music to the theatre.

Instant Change

The console itself has all the intricacies of a Chinese puzzle. The keyboard has four sets of double-touch keys and one set of foot pedals. By the double-touch key system, two different instruments or effects may be produced by touching one key. By a light pressure on a key a saxophone may be brought into play and by a heavier touch, a violin is put in operation.

Another feature of the keyboard is that by touching one button the music of a violin sextet may be changed to a brass band instantaneously. The organist has under his control more than 200 keys and foot pedals.



The 5th Avenue Theatre Wurlitzer was a four-manual, 18 rank "Special" installed in 1926. The only decoration on the standard panel-style console was a subdued Asian design on the sides.

In the late 1960s, PSTOS members hoped to begin restoring the instrument, but on March 1, 1969 the University of Washington Board of Regents announced that it had been sold to Bill Breuer of Palo Alto, California. This created a stir on the part of Seattle theatre organ enthusiasts, led by ATOE's former president, Dick Schrum. Dick stated that the Puget Sound Chapter had a contract with Fox-Evergreen Theatres to restore the organ, and that the chapter was not given the opportunity to bid on the instrument. A spokesman for the Regents said that it was not necessary to solicit bids to dispose of the instrument, valued at \$10,000 by Sandy Balcom who had maintained the organ for several years.

Bill Breuer, who operated the pipe organ-equipped "Cap'n's Galley" restaurant in Santa Clara California, removed the instrument, installing it at his Redwood City "Cap'n's Galley Pizza & Pipes" restaurant.

The console shows its age shortly before removal in 1969. Note phone/intercom on left panel.

Pages From The Past...continued

On Saturday, September 25, 1926, *The Seattle Daily Times* ran this account of the the Fifth Avenue Theatre'S exciting grand opening

THRONG SEES THEATRE OPEN

SEATTLE greeted the new Fifth Avenue Theatre last night in a manner that exceeded the fondest hopes of those in charge of the grand opening. Seven city blocks were more closely packed with people, and filled with more music and color, than they ever had been before.

Free street car service over a short period early in the evening lured thousands who otherwise might not have come just to see the fun.



The job of handling the console of the giant Wurlitzer of the new Fifth Avenue Theatre is a "man-size job" agrees Miss Alma Cameron, pictured. The work of installing the huge instrument was begun several weeks ago and is nearing completion. It will be identical with the organ used in Grauman's Egyptian Theatre in Los Angeles and the new Uptown Theatre in Chicago

Four bands mingled their music with the broadcast program, and after the street filled the press of humanity became so thick that policemen operated in squadrons trying to keep everybody circulating—somewhere.

Windows in all adjoining buildings were full of persons enjoying the spectacle formed by the immense crowd, and exchanging banter with their neighbors in the street. Powerful arcs and colored lights playing on the crowd made the scene one never to be forgotten.

Through all the crush the thousands retained good nature and responded vigorously to the efforts of R.H. Vivian to conduct a community sing in its moving midst.

The first show started after 6 o'clock, with the crowd in good order and the street in front of the theatre kept clear by policemen. No trouble was experienced in keeping the lines of pleasure seekers within the roped-off lanes leading to the ticket window, and a second set of lanes leading to the doors.

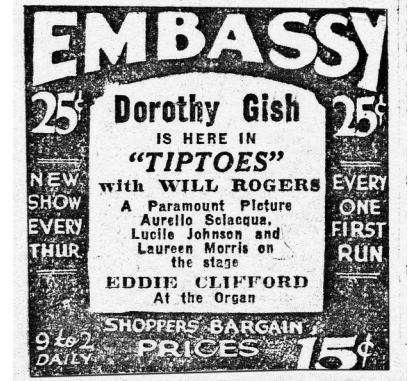
But as the evening wore on and the crowd grew, difficulty in handling the crowd increased, and only the persistent good humor

and festive mood of the throng made it possible to keep the situation in hand.

The huge crowd not only filled the places set off for it, but overflowed into the whole downtown district. Scarcely a cafe, dancing place or theatre failed to do a rushing business. It is doubtful that any Friday night in Seattle's history saw more people circulating through all the downtown streets than were here last night. The density of population in the center of the activities was such that street cars were diverted from Union and rerouted over Pine and Pike Streets in order to get regular commuters to their homes.

A line nearly a block long had formed from the theatre entrance by 3 o'clock in the afternoon and by 9:30, it extended, two abreast, north to Union Street, east to Sixth Avenue, south to University Street and again east to Seventh Avenue. In addition, crowds stood across the street waiting for an opportunity to get to the ticket window and take their place at the end of the line nearly four blocks away.

Those who reached the goal and passed through the big brass-studded doors into the theatre were amazed at the magnificence of the new playhouse and, in spite of the hilarious carnival spirit that prevailed in the street, were intensely appreciative of the splendors of the new playhouse.



The above ad appeared in the same *Seattle Times* issue. The Embassy Theatre is now the Triple Door at 2nd & Union in downtown Seattle.

PARKING

The Paramount Theatre is located at Pine St. & 9th Ave.

Free street parking is available on Sundays. The nearby Convention Center offers 3-hour parking for \$7.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors
6521 NE 191st ST
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

RIGGS ROCKS THE PARAMOUNT



...WITH YOUR FAVORITE TUNES FROM
YESTERYEAR THROUGH THE PRESENT!

FEATURING DRUMMER/
PERCUSSIONIST PAUL HANSEN

A fundraiser for restoration of the Paramount's
original Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ

JIM RIGGS pairs with drummer PAUL HANSEN in a rare opportunity to hear the Paramount's Wurlitzer in a fabulous concert!

SILENT FILM COMEDY!
"CHAMBER-CAM" view of the pipe chambers on the giant screen as the organ is played!

This is a benefit performance to help fund SOLO chamber (house right) re-leathering and re-wiring. Donations will be requested.

The Wurlitzer sounds fabulous, but much work is still needed to bring the entire instrument back to top and long-lasting condition. PSTOS volunteers have given hundreds of hours of time to the ongoing restoration, and appreciate your support!

Graphic by Becky Lucas-Blackwell

Sunday, July 29, 2:00 PM • Paramount Theatre

Tickets are \$15 pre-ordered or \$20 at the door. To pre-order, visit www.pstos.org or send a check to PSTOS at 9594 1st Ave NE #453 / Seattle, WA 98115-2012. Pick up tickets at Will Call.