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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 25, No. 8

August 2014

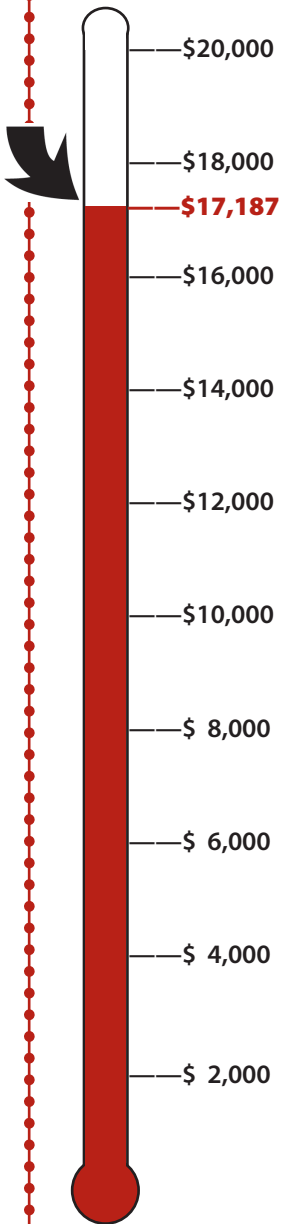
**PUGET SOUND
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**

A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

CCA Organ Fund Drive

We're getting close!

To donate, visit
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Coming Saturday, September 13! TWO Special Events with

JONAS NORDWALL

At Merlyn Johnson's outstanding

3/21 Wurlitzer/Morton/Kimball Theatre Pipe Organ

Morning workshop, 10:30 to noon

"THE RIGHT SOUNDS FOR THE RIGHT NOTES"

- What sounds are best for ballads with single note melodies?
- What kind of sound accompanies that melody?
- What sounds are best for rhythmic pieces playing chords in the right hand?
- Then, what should the left hand do?
- Matching the pedals to the above.
- Do all the above without using pistons.

AND MORE!



Afternoon concert, 2:00

One Jonas! Three manuals! Twenty-one ranks!
All in top tune and condition! The stage is set for an awesome musical afternoon.

Don't miss it!

ADMISSION

WORKSHOP		CONCERT	
Members	\$20	Members	\$20
Non-members	\$25	Non-members	\$25
16 & under	\$15	16 & under free w/adult	

We suggest workshop attendees bring a sack lunch to enjoy on Merlyn's lovely deck.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Merlyn Johnson Residence

1314 Mountain View, Tacoma 98465

Workshop limited to 20 • Concert limited to 50

Reserve your seats now by phone or email

rayh@prosserpiano.com • 206-546-8959, leave message

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

VOL. 25, NO.8 –AUGUST 2014

Published monthly by

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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Haller Lake Community Club—Bob Zat
Paramount Theatre—Phil Hargjiss
Washington Center—Andy Crow
Calvary Christian Assembly—Jeff Snyder
AGO—David Locke

JOINING PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY IS QUICK AND EASY!

For a one year household membership, send a \$25 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, your email address, and your phone number to:

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

OR...you may now securely join PSTOS or renew your membership ONLINE!

Go to: www.pstos.org
Click on "Join PSTOS."
Secure!

No checks!
No stamps!
A few clicks and it's done!



PRESIDENT'S Message

I hope you have been having a wonderful summer. We have sure enjoyed beautiful weather and some outstanding theatre organ music.



This spring and summer we've had a focus on music at home events, first at the Becvar's, then Bill Keller's and the Evans' with Merlyn Johnson hosting in September. A huge thank you to each for sharing your home and instrument with us and for all the work that goes on both before, during and after a PSTOS event. In October we'll be switching from private venues to public venues.

The work on the organ at Calvary is progressing well. Greg Smith and Russ Evans recently installed the new stop rail and continue to finish all the necessary wiring. "Defining" the organ with the new Uniflex relay will begin soon. The board is working on details for the rededication concert with Dave Wickerham.



Thank you to everyone who has given to the Calvary Organ Fund Drive. We are getting close to our goal. If you haven't given, please consider helping us finish this project.

Once the Calvary project is completed, work will begin on the Haller Lake organ. In June, through much careful planning (and a little lost sleep), Ray Whelpley's console and relay were removed from the Whelpley home and brought to Haller Lake Community Club. We look forward to hearing a "new" HLCC instrument in 2015. The Marr & Colton console was removed and is for sale and would make a great console for anyone wanting to make a virtual organ. More information can be found on page 3.

I hope to see you at Merlyn's in September. Be sure to reserve your seat early!

PSTOS Coming Events

▶ JONAS NORDWALL at the Merlyn Johnson 3/19 Morton in Tacoma



What a combo—Jonas and Merlyn's magnificent Robert Morton!

PLUS—Saturday morning workshop for all players, "The Right Sounds For the Right Notes!"

Great opportunity!

Saturday, September 13
Workshop 10:30, Concert 2:00

▶ DAVE WICKERHAM returns by popular request

The CCA organ will be back online and sounding better than ever. Can't wait!

Sun., Oct. 19, 2PM

Calvary Christian Assembly



▶ PSTOS Christmas celebration at Calvary Christian Assembly Church



PETE EVELAND
at the console.

Sun., Dec. 7, 2:00
Annual Meeting, 1:00

A Sneak Peek at 2015!

▶ WALT STRONGY initiates our exciting 2015 "Organ Pops" series!

Sun., Feb 8, 2:00

Calvary Christian Assembly

▶ DONNA PARKER at Kenyon Hall

This will be a first for Donna at Kenyon.

Sun., April 19, 2:00

Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

▶ Catered Italian dinner with PETE EVELAND at the HLCC Wurlitzer plus RAY HARRIS and his accordion.

Sunday, July 26, 5:00PM

Haller Lake Community Club

Indianapolis Convention a Grand Success. . . review by Jamie Snell

The 59th annual ATOS convention, July 4-9, based in Indianapolis, was a grand success by any standard. Here is a compact summary; visit www.atos2014.org for details.

This was the sixth to be hosted by the Central Indiana Chapter (the last being in 2008) and they certainly have it down to a science. There was scarcely a snag the whole week. The convention hotel, the Hyatt Regency, was fine overall and there were plenty of eating places and adequate time to eat everywhere. The venues, instruments, and performances were excellent, and several downright breathtaking. Richard Hills played an exquisite opening concert at the Hilbert Circle Wurlitzer, including Reginald Porter-Brown's cute "Cheeky Chappie" and a medley of Burt Bacharach tunes. His compatriot Simon Gledhill likewise delighted, with no fewer than three medleys: Anthony Newley, "The Sound of Music," and Henry Mancini, invariably with the lightness, precision, and taste that distinguish the best UK players; the 12-rank Page was no handicap for him. In between, Scott Smith and Justin Stahl at the Warren Performing Arts Center maintained a high standard, notably with Smith's "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" and Stahl's medley from "Guys and Dolls."

Young Artists' Competition

The three finalists in the Young Artists' Competition were Ryan Hardy (16), Andrew Van Varick (17), and Dan Minervini (20). It was a very close competition; in the end the judges settled on Van Varick as the winner, with all three receiving financial prizes from multiple sources. Justin Lavoie, last year's winner, ended the event with a brief concert, a highlight of which was Michel Legrand's "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?"

A convention highlight was Nathan Laube's concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. One would not expect theatre organ buffs to be awestruck at a concert of classical works in a church, but it happened this time! Laube's sheer ease and solidity playing the overture to "Die Fledermaus" were breathtaking. His Overture to "William Tell" was fresh and engaging even in the over-familiar final "Lone Ranger" section.

Dueling Consoles Program

Another memorable event was the "dueling consoles" concert, performed by Mark Herman and David Gray at the Warren PAC on a digital Allen model T321Q-SP and a 3/18 Barton with actual pipes. Herman and Gray entertained superbly as a duo, as they had the previous year in Atlanta; highlights were "Roller Coaster" and Gray's rendition of "Paddlin' Madelin' Home," explicitly not dedicated to his girlfriend.

Dave Wickerham's Monday morning concert at the Embassy Theatre was enjoyable for the spontaneity and fresh variety for which Wickerham is highly regarded. Highlights included "I Met a Million Dollar Baby," "Temptation

Rag," and a medley of patriotic American songs. The evening event at the same venue, with Walt Strony accompanying the Buster Keaton silent film "The General," was thoroughly enjoyable.

Special Buddy Cole Tribute

Possibly the most memorable event was Pierre Fracalanza's tribute to Buddy Cole. The venue was a converted train station hall, impressive if not acoustically ideal for the Paramount 450 Virtual Theatre Pipe Organ sounding through an array of large speakers at the front. A finely crafted slide show on Cole's life was projected on a huge screen, including many photos, quotations, and occasional clips of Cole's voice. Fracalanza played transcriptions of many of Cole's arrangements with sublime skill, sometimes accompanying the slide show and sometimes not. The effect was dramatic, and one left with a feeling about Buddy Cole of remarkable intensity. Several attendees later commented that they would willingly pay a dear price for a DVD of the event, to be able to recreate the experience.

Clark Wilson's Tuesday morning performance on the Page/Wurlitzer at the Hedback Theatre made an upbeat start to the day, with songs including "How About You" and "I Won't Dance," and a medley from "On a Clear Day." Ken Double's afternoon concert at the Long Center in Lafayette continued the "Clear Day" theme with "Come Back to Me." Donny Rankin took the bench temporarily to accompany three films from the International Silent Film Festival. In this ongoing competition, organized by Nathan Avakian, filmmakers aged twenty and younger create three-minute films using his theatre organ accompaniments as backgrounds. The three films were all engaging, and worthwhile as examples of Avakian's innovative way of acquainting the younger generation with the theatre organ. Following the films, Double returned and sang a verse of "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter," accompanied by the organ in playback mode, after which he resumed live playing for the remainder of the concert.

Tony Fenelon 2014 Organist of the Year

Following Ken Double's concert came the cocktail reception and closing banquet with the presentation of awards. Numerous awards were presented, but perhaps the highlight was the award of Organist of the Year to Tony Fenelon of Australia, who unfortunately was not present to receive it. Besides the awards, Jack Moelmann announced that in response to his challenge earlier in the convention, pledges of \$75,000 in bequests to ATOS had been received. The complete list of award recipients can be found online at www.atos.org.

The optional encore day in Cincinnati included four other highly memorable events. First was Jelani Eddington's concert at the Wehmeier residence, featuring a cameo appearance by Justin LaVoie. Eddington was in fine form, with his medley from "Swing Time" being perhaps the high point. Audience members were understandably wowed by the presence

FOR SALE

Marr & Colton console from Haller Lake



As reported in last month's Pipeline, PSTOS was recently gifted a 3-manual Wurlitzer console and Wurlitzer replica pneumatic relay from the estate of longtime member Ray Whelpley. Because of this generous donation the chapter's Marr & Colton console is for sale.

The Marr & Colton has 3 manuals, all with IVORY key tops, and is complete with pedalboard, bench, and lighted music rack. It has a fully functioning pneumatic combination action including stop tabs.

The present specification is set up for 9 ranks of pipework, 4 percussions, full traps and drums. There are 4 toe studs and an array of pushbuttons for additional bells and whistles. The console is complete with two swell shoes plus Crescendo pedal. All wiring from the keyboards, stop tabs, and pedal board conveniently terminate at their respective junction boards within the console. Also included is a very well built moveable platform.

This is a perfect console for a home pipe organ installation or a virtual Hauptwerk instrument for a take-me-home price of only \$495.00.

The console is presently located in Kenmore, WA, and help will be available for loading.

Please contact: Bob Zat, 206-972-8943, or Russ Evans, 425-485-5465

of a 4/37 Wurlitzer in a residence. Then it was only a short bus ride to the Cincinnati Museum Center, formerly a railway station and imposing in its grandeur; the giant 4/58 Skinner played under MIDI control from time to time, a little too loudly for some. Then on to the Cincinnati Music Hall Ballroom for a fine afternoon concert by Mark Herman at the 3/31 Wurlitzer. And finally to cocktails and dinner on an old paddlewheel boat on the Ohio River, complete with a calliope, stentorian in volume but tamed by Richard Hills and other volunteers.

Aside from the concert performers, two players deserve mention: Cletus Goens II, who entertained at the Hammond during opening cocktail party; and Bill Tandy, who provided keyboard music at the closing banquet. Throughout the convention, Indiana's traditional "Hoosier hospitality" was fully in evidence, and without a doubt a good time was had by all. Next year's convention will be based in Philadelphia and will include concerts on the giant Wanamaker and Atlantic City Convention Center organs...stay tuned!

THE SEATTLE SUNDAY TIMES, APRIL 7, 1912

MAGNIFICENT PICTURE PLAYHOUSE FINISHED

The Clemmer, Luxurious New Home for "Movies" and One of Finest Ever Built in West, Opens This Week.

STRUCTURE REALIZATION OF FOUNDER'S AMBITION

Varied List of Exclusive Feature Films Announced for Coming Bills in Leading Photoplay Theatres.



John Q. Clemmer

The Clemmer Theatre, Seattle's newest photoplay house to be devoted exclusively to high-class photoplays and musical talent will be opened this week. This new theatre is without question one of the finest exclusive photoplay houses in the West. It is absolutely fireproof and up to date in every respect.

In the completion of the Clemmer Theatre comes the realization of the fondest hopes of James Q. Clemmer. Ever since he embarked in the photoplay venture some five years ago, first in Spokane and later in the Dream Theatre in this city, he has planned to build an exclusive photoplay house which would compete in size, convenience and attractiveness with the legitimate show houses.

The Clemmer Theatre is located on Second Avenue just north of The Times office across the street from The Bon Marche. It is practically a new structure for nothing is left of the former four-story building except the four walls. It is built entirely of steel and concrete. Abundance of exits are provided both front and rear and the seats are arranged so that there is more than the ordinary width of aisle room.

Gold Curtain Big Asset.

From a decorative standpoint it is beautiful through its simplicity of artistic richness. From the attractive canopy over the sidewalk to the gold curtain on which are displayed the photoplays, no expense has been spared to make this the best in every way. The entrance is finished in marble with a ceiling of ornamental plastering, resplendent with many electric lights. Entering the foyer, the refreshing atmosphere, the rich curtains and draperies, carpets, tinted walls, lights, all seem to offer a most cordial welcome.

In the auditorium proper, the happy blending of art and artist is everywhere noticeable. Architecturally, the old Roman style is in vogue, with plain columns set off by flaming electric torches. These torches are decidedly unique and something new in the manner of theatrical lighting in the West. The color decorative scheme throughout is French gray with trimmings of gold and ivory, producing a soft, pleasing effect in connection with the draperies of golden brown.

The crowning feature of the interior is the massive dome, a beautiful reproduction of the faraway sky, enhanced by a circle of several hundred concealed electric lights.

Beneath the dome and around the entire auditorium is a frieze of a cleverly wrought panoramic view of Washington's noted forests with snow-capped mountains in the distance.

The walls are paneled and each one of the several panels offers a scene from nature which is unusually attractive. The top of the proscenium frame is decorated with a group of allegorical figures which is said to be one of the most beautiful ever placed in any theatre.

Great Organ to Be Installed.

On either side of the proscenium arch, in large specially built niches will be placed the pipes of the massive pipe organ which will be one of the largest and finest on the Coast. This organ is being built in the East, but could not be completed in time for the opening of the theatre. It will be installed within the next thirty days. Oliver G. Wallace, recognized as a genius in the interpretation of photoplays on the pipe organ and piano, will be the player.

The ventilating and heating scheme is perfect. The lighting is both concealed and open. Under the dome, the balcony and in other places concealed lights are used. On the pillars, the flaming torches. A feature which will be appreciated is that the house will be brilliantly lighted at all times without destroying any of the beauties of the photoplays.

Rest and retiring rooms for ladies are provided, with a maid in attendance, just off the balcony stairway on the right.

Splendid Seat Arrangement.

The 1,200 seats are all so arranged that everyone is given an uninterrupted view of the stage. The seats are especially wide and placed more than the ordinary distance apart. The several boxes are decidedly cosy and will be furnished with cosy moveable chairs.

The gold curtain, permanently placed at the rear of the stage, is considered by many theatrical men in the East as being the best medium for photoplay displaying, since it brings out the clearness and minute details of the photography.

The operating room is the most comfortable and best equipped in the city. It is large and roomy and with plenty of fresh air, being absolutely fireproof and equipped with automatic fire shutters at all openings. The projecting machines are of the latest pattern,

Pages From The Past...continued

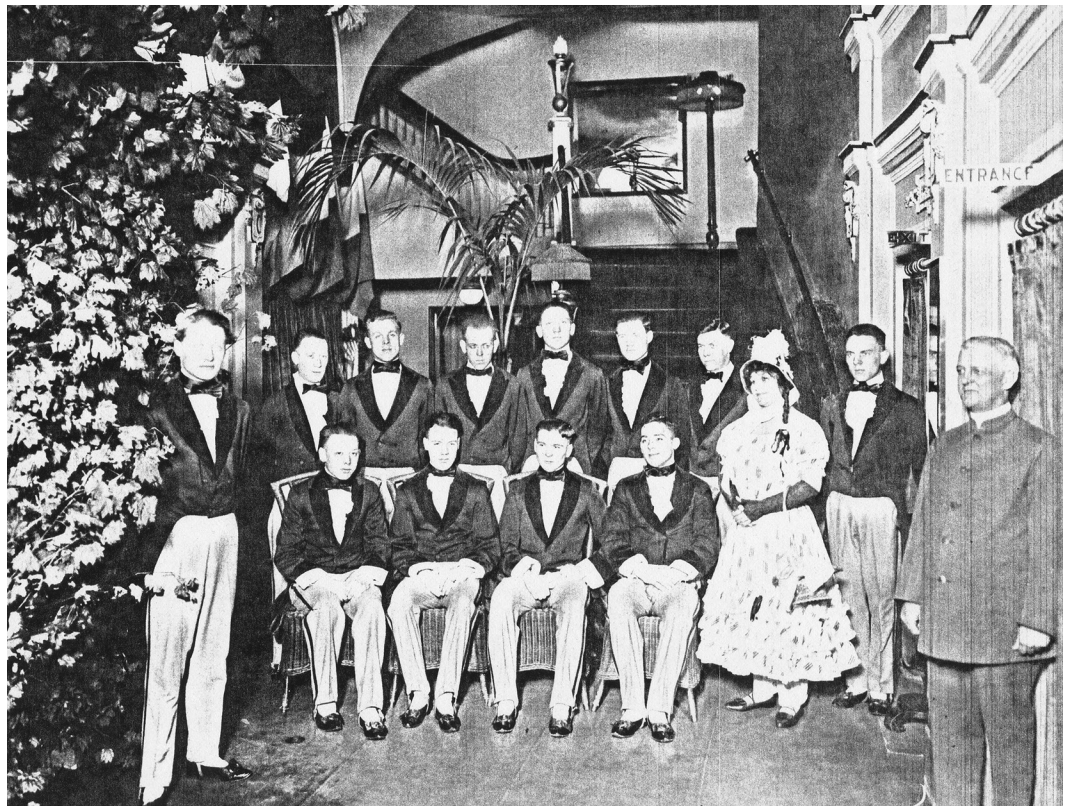
The Clemmer Theatre preceded the famous Seattle Liberty Theatre by two years.



CLEMMER THEATRE
1414 Second Ave.
Seattle
1912 – 1921

Clemmer Theatre staff
for the motion picture,
"The Birth of a Nation"
1915

In 1921 the Clemmer
was renamed
the Columbia Theatre



Gene Roberson Delights at Evans Wurlitzer

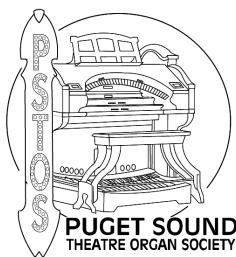
Reviewed by Jamie Snell

The warm Sunday afternoon of July 13 saw the lower level organ studio at the Russ and Jo Ann Evans residence nearly filled to hear Gene Roberson perform at their mighty 3/18 Wurlitzer. Little did they know they would get more than expected!

When Gene sat down at the console, after introductions by Ray Harris and Jo Ann, the program got off to a good start with “Open Your Eyes” and “The Perfect Song,” and some humorous remarks by the artist. Anyone would have assumed he would fill the afternoon with more favorites from the Great American Songbook. But then he moved to the piano and wowed the audience with a solo version of Richard Addinsell’s “Warsaw Concerto,” a popular short symphonic piece familiar from the film “The Sea Wolves.” Then Gene was back to the Wurlitzer for a few more hits, and then again unexpectedly, the celebrated Toccata from Widor’s Organ Symphony No. 5, played at a healthy clip and flaw-

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lessly. By this point no one was in any doubt that the artist was a proficient performer in classical as well as popular repertoire. He continued with a full program of pops, concluding with a George Gershwin medley topped off with highlights from “Rhapsody in Blue.”

The sequence of events by which Gene came to be performing that day was rather unusual. As explained in the introductions, originally Ray Harris and Jo Ann Evans had been scheduled to perform a duo program on the 20th, as they had many times before with great success. But then in June Ray injured his rotator cuff, making it impossible for him to play. Jo Ann and the program team were puzzling what to do when, out of the blue, Gene contacted Ray saying he would be in town on the 13th. Ray immediately asked if he would be willing to play a concert, and Gene agreed! The calendar and program were speedily rearranged, and presto, the concert was set.

Gene Roberson, organist, pianist, composer and arranger, has played piano and organ since the age of 5. At 10 he became the organist at First Baptist Church in San Clemente and through the years has held positions including Music Director at several churches. He currently plays at the Church of the Master in Mission Viejo. Gene has played both classical and theatre organ concerts around the globe and has been a concert artist for several organ companies including Hammond, Conn, Technics, Rodgers, and Roland. He has performed for the Los Angeles and Orange County Theatre Organ Societies, has published several books of sacred organ and piano music, and has written many choral and orchestral compositions and arrangements. He has recorded a number of CDs in all styles of music, which are available at his concerts. Gene resides with his wife, a medical doctor, in Capistrano Beach, CA. They have two children and three grandchildren, along with five Italian Greyhounds.

Following the concert the audience moved to the Evans’s comfortable patio for refreshments and mingling. Judging from the many enthusiastic remarks heard, it was clear that the audience was delighted with Gene’s playing. You can bet that we will be hearing him more in the future!

Photo courtesy Jamie Snell



ABOVE—Gene Roberson at the Evans Wurlitzer.

LEFT—Gene recognizes George, the perfectly preserved 1955 monkey with cymbals loaned by Ray Harris for the event.

RIGHT—Folks enjoyed refreshments while mingling on the patio following the program.

