



PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Volume 29, Nos. 7-8 • July—August 2018

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Hear
Merlyn Johnson's
3/30 Wurlitzer-Morton



**BRETT
VALLIANT**
plays your favorite pops

Saturday, August 11, 2:00 pm

Merlyn Johnson residence
1314 So. Mountain View Ave • Tacoma

Brett Valliant is in demand for his ability to perform many different genres of music on the instrument he loves. Whether at a church organ on Sunday morning, a mighty Wurlitzer in a theatre, or a Hammond B-3, Brett is right at home.

Inspired by the organ at church when he was just three years old, he soon excelled at the piano. But that early love of the pipe organ propelled him to his position as a full time church musician at the First United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas, a post he has held since his teen years. He has been a featured performer on National Public Radio's Pipe Dreams as well as the National Bible Broadcasting Network where his imaginative hymn arrangements are heard daily throughout the United States.

At fifteen, he played his first Wurlitzer, showing a natural talent for the popular music loved by fans of theatre organ. He has been a featured performer at national conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and has toured extensively as a solo artist abroad and throughout the United States. He resides in Wichita.

ADMISSION

PSTOS members \$10

Non-members \$12

Age 16 and under FREE

Tickets available at the door

**Spread the word...
invite a friend!**

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

From I-5 Take EXIT 132 to merge onto 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.

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

PRESIDENT'S *Message*

Vol. 29, Nos. 7-8, July-August 2018

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
10002 Aurora Ave N, Suite 36 #516
Seattle, WA 98133-9329

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a 501(c)(3) 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 Co-Editors—Jamie Snell, jamie@pstos.org
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**JOINING PUGET SOUND
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY IS
FAST AND EASY!**

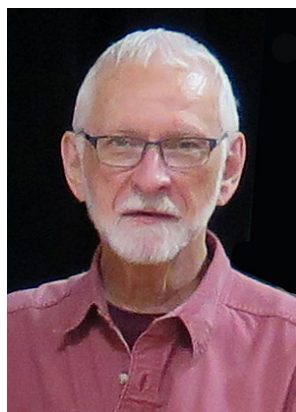
Simply click on the link below and select your preferred level of membership.

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

<http://www.pstos.org/membership/new-member.htm>



Greetings PSTOS members. I want to thank you all for your continued support of the chapter and hope to see many of you at the upcoming events during the remainder of 2018.



I have stated in the past that PSTOS is a membership driven organization and it is because of the membership dues that we are able to offer an assortment of musical events. A few years ago the board decided to move to an annual billing cycle as opposed to the monthly reminders that used to be sent. I'm sure this switch has caused some confusion. Membership renewals were due in December 2017 for the 2018 year. If you have not paid as yet, we've made it quick and easy to renew online at:

<http://www.pstos.org/membership>

If you prefer to pay by check or money order, send your payment to:

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
10002 Aurora Ave N, Suite 36 #516
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Dues are an important part of the equation for keeping the organization alive and moving forward. We rely on event ticket sales, concert sponsorships, and people renewing at levels above the basic membership fee. We have also initiated a program making it easy for members to sign up online for monthly contributions to the organization. A big thank you to those who are doing so now!

The board would also like to encourage constructive "letters to the editors." Feedback is very much appreciated, and if you would like to help out at one of the upcoming events please let one of the board members know. For those attending the ATOS convention in Pasadena in July, please make a list of your favorite artists and share them with a board member or me. This will help us determine artists for future events.

Bob Zat, President

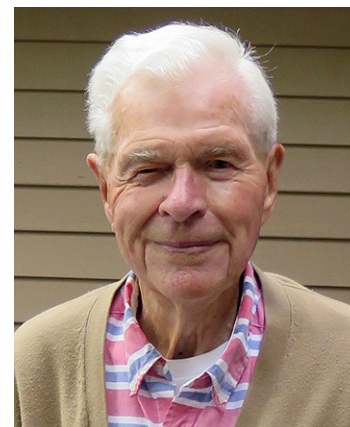
In Memoriam

Jack Becvar
1933 – 2018



Jack passed away at home after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was an active PSTOS member for over 50 years, serving as president during the 1980s. He and Mary Lou often welcomed members into their Kent home to enjoy their special music room, 3/19 Wurlitzer, player piano, Hammond organ and many clocks. Jack played a key role in PSTOS for many years, and will be sorely missed.

Norm Sammons
1917 – 2018



Norm left us at age 101! A longtime enthusiastic PSTOS member, he faithfully attended almost every event. In 2017, at the summer social event at the Evans home, PSTOS celebrated his 100th birthday complete with an appropriate song, "Makin' Whoopie," and a birthday cake. We'll miss his smiling face and happy attitude at PSTOS events. He was an inspiration as an active happy centenarian.

PSTOS

Coming Events

2018 series

THEATRE

ORGAN POPS

Calvary Christian Assembly

DAVE
WICKERHAM
Sat., Oct. 6, 2PM



More 2018 events

Special Bonus Event Sat. July 22

Carpool to the Leavenworth home of DAVID JOHNSTON. See/play his restored 2/10 Kimball from Seattle's Embassy Theatre, and explore an amazing collection of memorabilia. *Limited to 20!*
Reservations - joann@pstos.org



Sat., Aug. 11
BRETT VALLIANT

Returns to the Pacific NW to play Merlyn Johnson's Tacoma Residence
3/30 Wurlitzer-Morton

Sat., Sept. 8, 1:30PM
MARTIN ELLIS

Returns to West Seattle's KENYON HALL and its 2/17 Wurlitzer



Sun., Dec. 2
Holidays at Haller

Annual festive Christmas celebration
Food! Fun! Music!
Details coming soon



Reserve your spot now for Sunday, July 22

A Day Trip to Leavenworth

Join a carpool to the home studio of David & Jennifer Johnston near Leavenworth • Hear Dave's 2/10 Kimball See his mini-museum of train and organ memorabilia, antique clocks, and more

FREE! LIMITED TO 20 - RESERVATIONS NECESSARY!

Pack a sack lunch and join a carpool to Leavenworth to visit the Johnston's fascinating home studio. Enjoy the beautiful scenery over Highway 2. Hear and try out Dave's 2/10 Kimball from Seattle's Embassy Theatre (now the Triple Door), later moved to a Presbyterian church, then to the Shawver residence in Edmonds. Explore Dave's collection of fun memorabilia. Plan NOW to join this special excursion!



Schedule

- 10:00 AM**– Join a carpool in north Seattle for departure
- 12:30**–Arrive at Johnston's. Enjoy your brown bag lunch picnic style in the Johnston garden. Beverages and dessert compliments of the Johnstons.
- Afternoon**–Open console, peruse Dave's restored antiques
- 3:30 PM**–Depart for Seattle.
- 6:00 PM**–Arrive Seattle after a wonderful day!

RESERVE at
joann@pstos.org
425-485-5465

Leave name and phone #
Carpool and other details when you reserve

Scott Foppiano Wows

Review by Jamie Snell, photo by Jeff Snyder



Defying the appeal of June 23's luscious afternoon sunshine, an audience of about 100 assembled for an afternoon of luscious music on the CCA 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer, provided by organist Scott Foppiano of Charlotte, NC. Foppiano has concertized on the theatre organ all over the US, held several house organist posts, received the American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year award in 2007, and played at a number of ATOS conventions, including the one hosted by PSTOS in 2010. He is also a respected classical and church musician, having held a number of prestigious organist-choirmaster positions and taken three choirs on European tours.

Foppiano opened the concert with a rousing rendition of "Good Morning," popularized by Judy Garland in the 1939 film *Babes in Arms* – but not before sneaking in a brief excerpt from Dvorak's *New World Symphony*. That was followed by another Garland song, "Our Love Affair," from the 1940 film *Strike Up the Band*. Then, for a change of pace, came the artist's transcription of the

song "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's opera *Turandot*, one of the best-known tenor arias in the opera repertoire. Returning to pops, we heard the classic 1931 song "Dancing in the Dark," famously played by Artie Shaw's big band, and sung by Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, Sarah Vaughan, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Ella Fitzgerald, Barry Manilow, and Diana Krall, among others; this was an ideal choice to show off the organ's luscious lower registers. Then came Hoagy Carmichael's equally legendary 1941 song "Skylark," with its haunting melody and surprising harmonies, in Foppiano's exquisitely smooth arrangement. Rounding out this group of big band numbers was "These Foolish Things," composed by the Englishman Jack Strachey and popularized in America by Benny Goodman's band and by many singers, notably Billie Holiday.

Turning to Broadway, Foppiano performed an extended medley from Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1959 musical *The Sound of Music* – ten songs, including the title one, "My Favorite Things," "Do Re Mi," "Edelweiss," "Maria," and "Climb Every Mountain." The range of songs provided opportunities to show off a wide variety of registrations, and the artist took full advantage. At the end of this tour de force, M.C. Bob Zat invited the audience to intermission with coffee and gourmet cookies courtesy of Trader Joe's.

The second half began with another upbeat and classic number, "Goody Goody," popularized first by Benny Goodman's orchestra and singer Helen Ward, and later by Peggy Lee and many others. Continuing the trend was "Walkin' My Baby Back Home," composed in 1930 by Fred E. Ahlert with lyrics by Roy Turk; this song was recorded by at least seventy vocalists, perhaps most famously by Nat King Cole in 1951. Detouring briefly to opera, Foppiano performed his transcription of the aria "My Heart at Thy Sweet Voice" from the Saint-Saens opera *Samson and Delilah*; this is the scene in which Delilah tries to

seduce Samson into revealing the secret of his strength.

From that bit of drama, Foppiano proceeded to his other Broadway medley, this one from Lerner and Loewe's 1956 show *My Fair Lady*, based loosely on G.B. Shaw's *Pygmalion*. This musical has maintained huge popularity, and it was not surprising that the audience was especially enthusiastic in its applause for these ten songs, including "On the Street Where You Live," "Lovely," "I Could Have Danced All Night," "The Rain in Spain," and "Get Me to the Church On Time." Of particular joy to this reviewer was Foppiano's rendition of "Ascott Gavotte," with its various dance sections in different keys played delicately and precisely.

Next came an unusual instrumental setup: For his one religious song of the concert, Foppiano performed Bob Ralston's arrangement of "How Great Thou Art" as a duet with himself – he played the Baldwin grand piano as the previously recorded organ part played back through the digital magic of UniFlex. Then for the final number, he played the familiar "Coronation March" from Meyerbeer's opera *Le prophète*, a grand closing for a grand concert. Following a standing ovation, Foppiano performed his transcription of "Pietro's Return," a lively march originally written for accordion by the Italian composer Pietro Deiro. The audience stood once more and applauded long and heartily.

Mille grazie to Scott Foppiano for this concert, played entirely from memory; to everyone in PSTOS and at Calvary Christian Assembly who worked so hard to make it happen; and to Greg Smith for organ preparation in the midst of a heat wave. Thanks also to the Seattle chapter of the American Guild of Organists for promotion and support; to Trader Joe's for yummy cookies at intermission; and to Horizon House and Foundation House at Northgate for making it possible for some of their residents to attend.

AGO Programs

Coming in July and August

Friday, July 13 at 7:30pm

Jonathan Dimmock, organist. Paris: Between the Wars Works by Weitz, Vierne, Alain, Widor, Messiaen, and Duruflé at St. James Cathedral, Seattle Suggested donation of \$18; available online at www.stjames-cathedral.org/music/concerts/Dimmock.aspx or at the door. Free gelato reception following the concert!

Friday July 20, 12:10 p.m.

Justin Brueggeman, organist, plays music by Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, and Mozart on the Brombaugh pipe organ of Christ Episcopal Church, 310 North K Street, Tacoma. Mr. Brueggeman is Interim

Organist, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Kingsport, Tennessee and Principal Organist, St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church, Kingsport, Tennessee. Donation at the door.

Wednesday, July 25 at 7:00pm (note early start time)

Crista Miller, organist. Program includes works by Bach, Hakim, and more. St. James Cathedral, Seattle. Suggested donation of \$18; available online at www.stjames-cathedral.org/music/concerts/Miller.aspx or at the door. Free gelato reception following the concert!

Friday August 17, 12:10 p.m.

Christopher Holman, organist, and Cynthia Holman, soprano, present this month's Third Fridays at Noon recital. Mr. Holman, a graduate of the University of Illinois School of Music and University of Houston

Moore School of Music, is currently studying early music performance practice in Basel, Switzerland on a Frank Huntington Beebe Fund for Musicians grant. Cynthia Holman is an American operatic soprano based in Basel, Switzerland. Since capturing prizes at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and Musicfest Northwest Competition, she has performed as a recitalist, oratorio soloist, and in operas in North America, Switzerland, the U.K., Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium. Join us for 40 minutes of delightful music! Donation at the door. 310 North K Street, Tacoma. www.ccptacoma.org

Saturday, August 25 at 8:00pm

The Esoterics (choir) with Cathedral Organist Joseph Adam. Leonard Bernstein Centennial. St. James Cathedral, Seattle. Passes are \$15-\$25; available online at <http://www.theesoterics.org> or at the door.

PAGES FROM THE PAST...1914

An Irving Berlin "non-hit" published in 1914

Irving Berlin, perhaps more than any other composer of the first half of the 20th century and beyond, represents America and American music at its finest. Given his background it becomes even more extraordinary when one understands his contributions to this adopted country of his. Berlin also managed to stay right on the cusp of popular forms to which he was contrib-

uting, not mastering them, but certainly writing into them well. It is likely that he wrote AND published more songs than any other popular song writer in history, wrote hundreds of unpublished or unpublishable tunes as well, and likely created more pieces than any other 20th century writer as both composer and lyricist. He was also quirky, but in spite of not being a movie star in

stature, he was a true American favorite among the public and among the stars as well. From truly humble beginnings Berlin managed to build a musical empire and a legacy that is hard to match and remains with us in the 21st century.

This song never made the top ten list, but the cover and lyrics are typical of many of Berlin's nearly 40 songs written in 1914.



VERSE 1

Johnny took Geraldine out one night
to show her a wonderful time,
When they sat down in a cabaret,
He bought two cigars for a dime.
"Bring us a couple of sodas,"
Johnny cried, when the waiter drew near.
After an hour Miss Geraldine
whispered in Johnny's ear.

CHORUS

If that's your idea of a wonderful time
Take me home, Take me home!
I want you to know that I'm choking
From that five cent cigar that you're
smoking,
You came out with a one dollar bill,
You've got eighty cents left of it still.
If that's your idea of a wonderful time,
Take me home.

VERSE 2

Johnny looked foolish and said "My dear
the evening has only begun,
I'll take you down to a picture show,
Where we'll have a barrel of fun.
I know the fellow who owns the place,
I'll ask him to pass us inside.
Geraldine looked into Johnny's face,
and shaking her head, she cried:

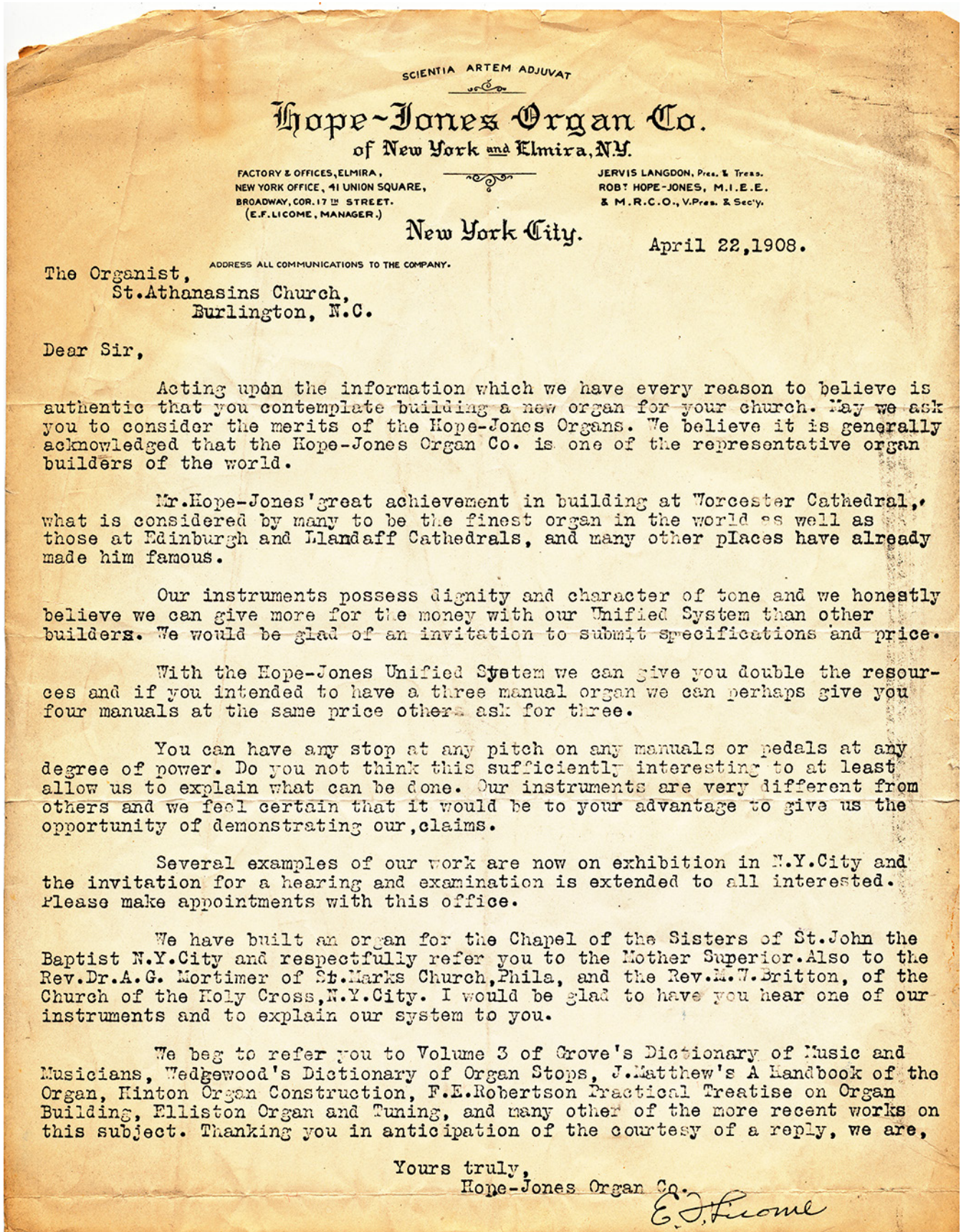
CHORUS

If that's your idea of a wonderful time
Take me home, Take me home!
I want you to know that I'm choking
From that five cent cigar that you're
smoking,
You came out with a one dollar bill,
you've got eighty cents left of it still.
If that's your idea of a wonderful time,
Take me home.

PAGES FROM THE PAST...1908

From the Wm. Bunch archives

This interesting sales letter from the Hope-Jones Organ Co. was written 108 years ago. The company existed for just three years prior to being purchased in 1910 by the Wurlitzer Company for \$15,800.00.



SCIENTIA ARTEM ADJUVAT

Hope-Jones Organ Co. of New York and Elmira, N.Y.

FACTORY & OFFICES, ELMIRA,
NEW YORK OFFICE, 41 UNION SQUARE,
BROADWAY, COR. 17TH STREET.
(E. F. LICOME, MANAGER.)

JERVIS LANGDON, Pres. & Treas.
ROBT HOPE-JONES, M. I. E. E.
& M. R. C. O., V. Pres. & Sec'y.

New York City.

April 22, 1908.

The Organist,
St. Athanasius Church,
Burlington, N.C.

Dear Sir,

Acting upon the information which we have every reason to believe is authentic that you contemplate building a new organ for your church. May we ask you to consider the merits of the Hope-Jones Organs. We believe it is generally acknowledged that the Hope-Jones Organ Co. is one of the representative organ builders of the world.

Mr. Hope-Jones' great achievement in building at Worcester Cathedral, what is considered by many to be the finest organ in the world as well as those at Edinburgh and Llandaff Cathedrals, and many other places have already made him famous.

Our instruments possess dignity and character of tone and we honestly believe we can give more for the money with our Unified System than other builders. We would be glad of an invitation to submit specifications and price.

With the Hope-Jones Unified System we can give you double the resources and if you intended to have a three manual organ we can perhaps give you four manuals at the same price others ask for three.

You can have any stop at any pitch on any manuals or pedals at any degree of power. Do you not think this sufficiently interesting to at least allow us to explain what can be done. Our instruments are very different from others and we feel certain that it would be to your advantage to give us the opportunity of demonstrating our claims.

Several examples of our work are now on exhibition in N.Y. City and the invitation for a hearing and examination is extended to all interested. Please make appointments with this office.

We have built an organ for the Chapel of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist N.Y. City and respectfully refer you to the Mother Superior. Also to the Rev. Dr. A. G. Mortimer of St. Marks Church, Phila., and the Rev. M. W. Britton, of the Church of the Holy Cross, N.Y. City. I would be glad to have you hear one of our instruments and to explain our system to you.

We beg to refer you to Volume 3 of Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, Wedgwood's Dictionary of Organ Stops, J. Matthew's A Handbook of the Organ, Hinton Organ Construction, F. E. Robertson Practical Treatise on Organ Building, Elliston Organ and Tuning, and many other of the more recent works on this subject. Thanking you in anticipation of the courtesy of a reply, we are,

Yours truly,
Hope-Jones Organ Co.

E. F. Licombe