



PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Volume 29, Nos.11-12 • Nov.-Dec. 2018

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Annual festive holiday celebration

"SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS"

Music • Singalongs • Carols • Movie

Holiday desserts & beverages

Fun for all!



Haller Lake 3/10 Wurlitzer

Featuring



JAMIE SNELL
Piano,
Wurlitzer



JO ANN EVANS
Wurlitzer



GARY JANG
Vocals

SUN. DEC. 2, 1:30 PM

Haller Lake Community Club
12579 Densmore Ave. N. • North Seattle

ADMISSION \$10 per person

To cover hall rental and refreshments
16 & under free with adult

Important!

**A head count is needed for food and seating. PLEASE RESERVE by
Thurs., Nov. 28th at joann@pstos.org or at 425-485-5465, leave message**

A brief annual membership meeting with election and installation of 2019 officers will precede the festivities

Drive directions

Northbound I-5: Use Exit 174 onto NE 130th St., turn left over freeway one long block to 1st Ave. N.E. Turn left (south) one block to 128th. Right on N.E. 128th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore, club-house is on the right. Parking both front and rear. Handicapped entry with parking and an elevator at rear of building.

Southbound I-5: Use Exit 175 onto N.E. 145th, turn right one block to 1st Ave. N.E. Left (south) continuing through N.E. 130th to N.E. 128th. Right on N.E. 128th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore, club-house is on the right. Parking both front and rear. Handicapped entry with parking and an elevator at rear of building.

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Published by
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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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!

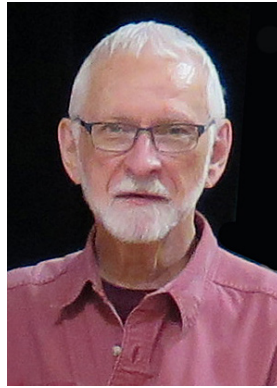
<http://www.pstos.org/membership/new-member.htm>



PRESIDENT'S Message

Greetings PSTOS members and friends.

We're heading into the holiday season during which we get the opportunity to interact with many individuals in a variety of circumstances who may or may not share our enthusiasm for the history, music and



general pleasure of (gasp) organ music, let alone (gasp, gasp) theatre organ music, where pizza parlors and skating rinks come to peoples' minds first. The generation of humanity who remembers going to an actual theatre to see and hear an instrument specifically designed to entertain an audience and "perfume the air" with music during a silent movie is dwindling and with it goes the stories and remembrances of those very special times.

You can help keep the stories alive and more importantly help keep the remaining organs playing by inviting your friends, neighbors, and family members to attend the programs and other events PSTOS presents.

Why should I join PSTOS and what are the benefits? First and most important, family membership annual dues of \$25 will help PSTOS keep the existing theatre organs in our care alive and playing so we can share them with you. Also, when you attend events you will be in the company of like-minded individuals who have a passion for this instrument and its music. You will receive the Pipeline, the Chapter newsletter, with information about coming events and other newsworthy stories. You will be "in the know" about additional opportunities to attend member-only events. You'll enjoy "Pages from the Past," a treasure trove of articles and pictures about organs, organists, and installations of times gone by. These are just a few benefits of a family membership.


December is annual renewal time, so please help us keep the music and organs playing by renewing or becoming a member today.

I wish you all well during the coming holiday season.

Bob Zat, President

PSTOS Coming Events

What's coming in 2019?

 Your PSTOS program team is hard at work planning a fun and musical year for your enjoyment!

SAT., MARCH 16

Theatre Organ Pops at CCA
 "Chasin' the Blues Away"
JONAS NORDWALL

MAY at Haller Lake

Variety show featuring our own PSTOS talent.
 This just might be a pizza party!

SAT., JULY 13

Theatre Organ Pops at CCA with everyone's favorite **DAVID GRAY** from Scotland

SUN., AUGUST 11 BRETT VALLIANT

plays the Evans 3/18 Wurlitzer in Kenmore

OCTOBER

Theatre Organ Pops at CCA
 Artist will be finalized soon

SUN., DECEMBER 8

Annual Christmas program at Haller Lake Community Club
<http://www.pstos.org/events>



A warm welcome to new members...

Bradford Anderson
 Coupeville, WA

Jeffrey Connor
 Lakewood, WA

Steve & Annabelle Schertzinger
 Arlington, WA

Dave Wickerham does it again!

Reviewed by Jamie Snell. Photos, Jeff Snyder



specialties, he played the Joplin rag “The Ragtime Dance,” featured in the film *The Sting* (though not so prominently as “The Entertainer”). Next came two legendary jazz ballads: David Raksin’s “Laura,” written for the same-named 1944 movie, and “Here’s that Rainy Day” by Jimmy Van Heusen, both performed by Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, and dozens of others.

For a change of pace (and at a breakneck pace), Wickerham played the catchy novelty tune “Midnight in Mayfair” by Newell Chase, aptly contrasting a single untremmed flute for the main melody with brass for the syncopated bridge. Taking a break from pops, next came two hymns, “Great is Thy Faithfulness” and “In the Garden,” followed by a medley of some of the greatest Irving Berlin tunes: “Cheek to

Cheek,” “What’ll I Do,” “Blue Skies,” “Always,” and “Puttin’ on the Ritz.” The artist wrapped up the first half with “Yours is My Heart Alone,” from Franz Lehár’s 1929 operetta *The Land of Smiles* (famously recorded by Jesse Crawford), and for contrast, “Raiders of the Lost Ark” from the 1981 film. But just before ending, Wickerham asked the audience to find the yellow notepad in the lobby and write down requests, which he would play as a medley in the second half.

The goodies at intermission featured several flavors of mini-cupcakes, provided by the Mill Creek bakery Nothing Bundt Cakes (get it?), along with tea and coffee, served by PSTOS stalwarts Susan Buchholz, Cheryl Stuart, and Ellen Sullivan.

After opening the second half with

“Hello Dolly” and “Serenade” from *The Student Prince*, Wickerham announced the request medley. Many in the audience had witnessed one of these before and had an idea what to expect. What was not expected was that he would forget to retrieve the list from the lobby...until Bob Zat came running down the aisle waving a yellow sheet of paper. The artist briefly scanned both sides, filled with song titles, and then proceeded to improvise polished arrangements of twenty-eight of them from memory (as with the whole concert). For a small sample: “The Entertainer,” “Temptation,” “Once in a While,” “Over the Rainbow,” “Jesus Loves Me” (featuring the rear Echo chamber), “On Top of Old Smokey,” “I Love Lucy,” “Summertime,” “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” and finally the familiar “Toccata” from Widor’s *Organ Symphony No. 5*.

Comments like “He’s done it again!” and “Best ever!” were overheard as the audience departed. They could have been referring to Wickerham’s musical spontaneity, his imaginative arrangements, his varied registrations, his fluid movement from key to key, his vast memorized repertoire, or his energetic personality...or all of the above. We in PSTOS are fortunate to have him here to perform for us, and look forward to having him back soon.

Many thanks to Dave Wickerham and all who made this concert possible, including Jo Ann Evans, Bob Zat, and the entire PSTOS core; Nothing Bundt Cakes and the aforementioned refreshment staff; Jeff Snyder, Pastor Steve Pecota, Todd Lidstrom, and everyone at CCA; and notably organ caretaker Greg Smith, who made two emergency repairs and had the organ sounding better than ever.

Expectation and excitement abounded as the audience of about 120 converged for Dave Wickerham’s October 6 concert at Calvary Christian Assembly. Many had attended his memorable performance almost exactly two years earlier, and may have asked themselves whether this one could possibly equal it. They were not disappointed: Wickerham was, if anything, more energized and bubbling over with musical treats than before.

After introductory comments by PSTOS President Bob Zat, the artist launched the program with two wake-up numbers: “Another Op’nin’, Another Show” from Cole Porter’s *Kiss Me Kate*; and “This Is It (On With the Show),” the theme from the original Bugs Bunny animated TV series. Turning to ragtime, one of Wickerham’s



Many thanks to Nothing Bundt Cakes, located in Mill Creek and Issaquah, for donating these tasty desserts for everyone’s enjoyment

Martin Ellis entertains an appreciative audience at Kenyon Hall

Reviewed by Jamie Snell. Photo, Jeff Snyder



Phrases like “What a hoot!” were overheard as the audience of about fifty gathered on Sept. 8 for a concert by Martin Ellis at Kenyon Hall in West Seattle. There is no venue quite like it, with its table seating, vaudeville-style stage, the console, giant wooden pipes right out front on the main floor, and tuned percussions and “toy counter” in plain view. And the 2/17 Wurlitzer, in top condition thanks to loving care by Bob White, has many unusual features that make it ideal for concerts full of fun.

After Kenyon Hall proprietor Lou Magor’s welcome comments, the day’s artist opened with a snappy version of “Love Is

Sweeping the Country” from the Gershwin brothers’ 1931 musical *Of Thee I Sing*. That was followed by “On a Spring Note” by the great British theatre organist Sidney Torch, a rousing rendition of “Man of La Mancha” that aptly showed off the organ’s percussion section, and Jerome Kern’s luscious “Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man” from *Show Boat*. Shifting genres, Ellis then demonstrated his classical chops with two up-tempo tours de force: “La Danza” from Rossini’s song collection *Les Soirées Musicales*, and de Falla’s “Ritual Fire Dance” from the ballet *El Amor Brujo*. Switching to more modern genres, he closed the first half with “Colors of the Wind” from the Disney animated film *Pocahontas* and Barry Manilow’s rock classic “Copacabana.”

The intermission featured tasty cookies with coffee and tea, and a chance for the audience to take a closer look at the organ. That up-close look prompted a request to the artist, which he honored: Following his opening with Nacio Herb Brown’s “Love Is Where You Find It,” he gave a brief explanation of the organ – manuals, stops, pedals, pipes, ranks, chambers, shutters, etc. Judging from the applause, this was much appreciated, especially by audience members not familiar with pipe organs. Ellis continued the program with the title song from the film *Mamma Mia!* and the classic Erroll Garner song “Misty,” followed by “My Heart Will Go On” from the 1997 film *Titanic*. He closed the planned program with a substantial transcription, overlapping pops and classical: “Slaughter on 10th Avenue,” a multi-section piece adapted from the 1936 Richard Rodgers ballet of the same

name. After a standing ovation, Ellis played as an encore “I Love to Hear You Singing,” the Haydn Wood song, authentically arranged in the style of Jesse Crawford.

Martin Ellis is a church, concert, and theatre organist, and was the first-ever winner of the ATOS Young Organists Competition in 1986. He has held several prestigious positions, including house organist for the Sanfilippo Palace de Musique in Chicago, and Staff Arranger and Orchestrator for the Indianapolis Children’s Choir and Youth Chorale. He resides in Portland, OR where he is organist for Rose City Park Presbyterian Church as well as resident accompanist for the Gresham High School Theatre Arts Department.

Many thanks to everyone who made this concert possible, notably Lou Magor, Bob White, Jo Ann Evans, Cheryl Stuart, Jon Beveridge, and of course Martin Ellis. We look forward to future events at Kenyon Hall!



AGO Programs

Coming in November and December

Tuesday November 6, 12:10 PM

David Bowen, organ; Chris Zaleski, recorder and Linda Melstad, violin present a noontime concert at Trinity Episcopal, 609 8th Ave, Seattle 98104. Donation at the door.

Friday November 9, 7:00 PM

Organ recital by Skye Hart, on the three manual Burton Tidwell organ at St. Philomena Catholic Church, 1790 South 222nd Street, Des Moines, WA 98198. Ample free parking, Free admission.

Friday November 9, 7:30 PM

AGO Chapter event at Trinity Lutheran of Lynnwood. Four mini-concerts by various organists, followed by open console time on the Martin Pasi organ there. No charge, open to the public, ample free parking.

Sunday, November 11, 4:00 PM

Organ concert by Johann Vexo on the Metzler pipe organ of St. Thomas Episcopal 8398 NE 12th Street, Medina, WA. Johann Vexo is Organiste de Choeur at the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Suggested donation: \$20.

Sunday November 11, 5:30 PM

An evening of German Lieder. Evan Bennett, tenor, John Sparkman, piano. Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 10021 NE 124th St, Kirkland, WA 98034. Free-will offering.

Come be carried away in an afternoon that will convince you that yes, German can sound quite lovely!]

Sunday November 11, 5:00 PM

Special Evensong at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 4805 NE 45th St, Seattle. A 3-movement setting of the Gloria by Michael John Trotta, which is scored for Choir, Organ, brass quintet, and percussion. Christopher Howerter will play the 2 manual, 44 rank Bond tracker action pipe organ.

Monday November 12, 7:30 pm

Joseph Adam performs on the Watjen concert organ built by Fisk. Benaroya Hall, Seattle. \$19 - \$32.

Friday November 16, 12 noon

Organ concert by Michael Kleinschmidt on the Brombaugh organ of Christ Episcopal Church, 310 North K Street, Tacoma. Donation at door. Works by Bach, Byrd, Rossi, Buxtehude and Alain. Mr. Kleinschmidt is Canon Musician at St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle.

Sunday November 18, 4:00 pm

Organ concert at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 911 Stewart St, Seattle 98101. Mark Brombaugh presents the first recital to follow tonal updates to the Fritts Opus 6 organ as part of a new concert series at the church. Admission: \$18 general / \$10 seniors and students / free under 12.

Friday November 30 - Organ at Noon

Wyatt Smith presents a program of Christmas Music and Carols on the Fritts organ in Kilworth Chapel. No

charge. University of Puget Sound. Tacoma, WA.

Sunday December 2, 4:00 pm

Welcoming the Light. An evensong service at Advent Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 10021 NE 124th St, Kirkland, WA 98034. Lead by Lorica vocal quartet and congregational musicians. Revel in a wide variety of music welcoming the season of Advent.

Tuesday December 4, 12:10 pm

Sr. Jo Baim presents a noontime concert on the three manual Marceau pipe organ at Trinity Episcopal, 609 8th Ave, Seattle 98104. Donation at the door. Free parking in the Skyline Tower garage. Enter garage on Columbia St. between 8th and 9th avenues.

Friday December 14, 7:30 pm

Cathedral choirs, brass and organ present a service of readings and carols, St. James Cathedral, Seattle

Sunday December 16, 7:00 pm

An evening of music celebrating the Advent & Christmas season. Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 10021 NE 124th St, Kirkland, WA 98034. HSLC’s Chancel Choir and soloists offer Dan Forrest’s ethereal choral work for Advent, Lux: the Dawn from on High with the community’s Jubilee Orchestra. The program will include seasonal offerings from handbell choirs of all ages and other instrumental selections.

Sunday December 31, 11 pm

New Year’s Eve Gala concert with choir and orchestra. St. James Cathedral, Seattle.

PAGES FROM THE PAST... Part 2, Wurlitzer story

The Historic Barrel Organ Factory of North Tonawanda (Wurlitzer Building) From a 2016 article about the building's current use



The Wurlitzer Building serves as the gateway to Niagara County. Approximately 34,000 vehicles travel past it on Niagara Falls Boulevard daily. The building's grand tower is a beacon of the past, present, and future, and it marks the building as a familiar and beloved landmark.

The sprawling complex began as the North Tonawanda Barrel Organ Factory. The Wurlitzer Company purchased it in 1908 and put it on the map as a producer of world-class theatre organs.

Today, [2016] with this rich historical background, The Wurlitzer Building is home to retail and office spaces, as well as Platter's Chocolates.

North Tonawanda's Wurlitzer building is hard to miss when you're driving down Niagara Falls Boulevard, it's one of the tallest buildings on its little section of the boulevard, boasting not only good aesthetic, but a colorful history. Many would say the site has been under-used in recent years, but much is being done to change that and bring the facility back to life.

Rudolph Wurlitzer bought the building in 1908 and began to produce the organs the name Wurlitzer is famous for. During World War II, the factory was used to produce military equipment for soldiers, but afterward it returned to manufacturing organs, jukeboxes and other similar items. The fountain that stood in the front of the tower when the Wurlitzers owned the business has been restored as well.

In the '70s, the building was closed down and the city planned to demolish it. It was purchased by plumbing and heating wholesaler Bill Irr, who initiated the project to turn it into the business park it is today. Since then, many businesses have come and gone with the building currently home to 43 tenants of all varieties.

Even more recently, another North Tonawanda mainstay has announced plans to relocate from its current home on Oliver Street to the Wurlitzer Building. Platter's Chocolates, which got its start in a North Tonawanda basement during the Great Depression, has outgrown its current space, after expanding twice, and is looking for more production space.

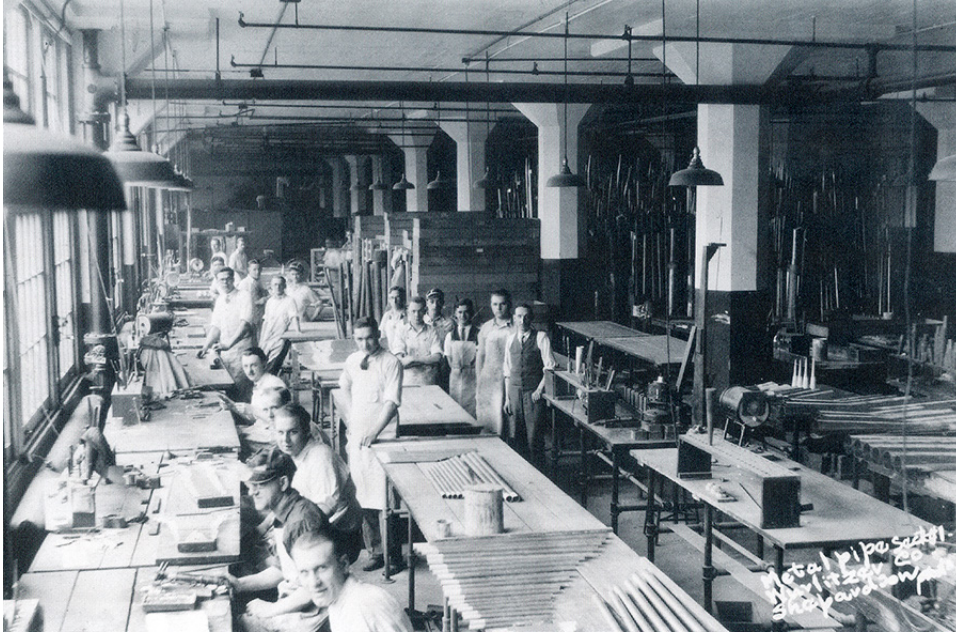


The grand Wurlitzer entrance as it appeared in the late 1940s. In 1942, organ production at the North Tonawanda factory ceased and production was shifted to the manufacture of bomb proximity fuses for World War II. After the war, normal production efforts resumed but with more focus on radios, jukeboxes, and small electronic organs for private homes.

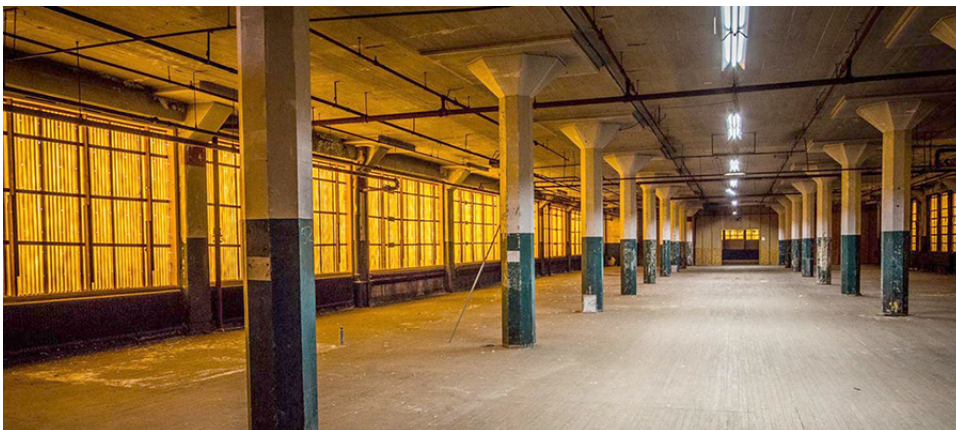


Today a busy street fronts the building. The original Wurlitzer logo topping the tower (see next page) has been replaced with this new and beautifully crafted reproduction.

PAGES FROM THE PAST... *Continued*



Metal pipe makers at work during the 1920s



Imagine this Wurlitzer factory space, as it appeared in this 2016 photo, filled with busy workers building Wurlitzer organs a century ago. Note the windows and pillars, identical in both photos.

“Tom Austin, who bought the Wurlitzer building in 1992, is doing a lot of renovations to the building and is working on trying to reposition the building from being just a bunch of different chopped up tenant spaces,” said LCDC Executive Director Michael Zimmerman, whose organization helped to secure funding for the Platter’s project. “The Platter’s project is positioning it to have more retail space, shops and other things inside.”

Platter’s popularity over the years has forced them to move into a new location but keeping with their roots in North Tonawanda, moved into the iconic Wurlitzer Building located at 908 Niagara Falls Blvd. This allows them to produce more world famous chocolate-like “sponge candy” and allow visitors to pursue their chocolate fix in a cafe and shop selling

all their products, all the while watching the chocolate being made through glass windows. The cafe does not come with a full service counter because the smells from breakfast sandwiches, etc., bleed over to the chocolate. But come for some coffee or hot chocolate – you will be impressed. Overall, plan a visit to Platter’s where history and taste come alive!

<https://www.platterschocolates.com/>

The next big goal after the Platter’s project is completed, Austin said, is to bring in a new, family owned eating establishment. He said that once a quality restaurant is found and moved into their space, it will be utilized not only by guests to the Wurlitzer Building, but also by those who have offices in the building who don’t feel like leaving the premises on their lunch break.

“We have two to three hundred people working here, and we’re in need of a good family-owned restaurant in this part of the Wheatfield-North Tonawanda area,” Austin said. “There are lots of chains, but not a lot of family-owned restaurants. That’s our focus.”

Today the building is home to a wide array of tenants, ranging from various light industrial, high technology, and commercial businesses, a dog training facility where dog agility trials are held, lawyers’ offices, and a medical billing company. The building’s current owner is in the midst of a restoration project, and has replaced the original Wurlitzer sign with a new one.

Austin said that local tour organizers are excited to have another stop to bring visitors and that giving them a glimpse of how sponge candy is made would be a unique experience for those new to the area. John DiGuissepe, Platter’s vice president of business development, etc., said he’s excited to get into the new space, which will allow them to drastically increase production in addition to giving the community and guests something new to experience.



Wurlitzer tower showing the original sign, which was replaced with a reproduction in the early 2000s, as seen in the photo on the preceding page

EDITOR’S NOTE: Bill Bunch, president of Balcom and Vaughan, recalled that in a 1954 visit to the factory, Fanny Wurlitzer said that he had tried to sell parts to organ men but that they would offer “only pennies.” Mr. Wurlitzer showed Bill the lot near the factory where surplus consoles, chests, relays and parts by the ton were hauled to be burned!