

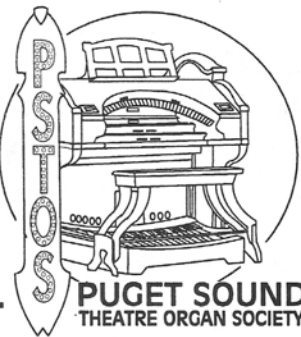
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PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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

Volume 12 No. 11

November 2001



Last call! Order your tickets now for this exciting event...

Internationally recognized

Jonas Nordwall



In an exciting program of your Theatre Organ FAVORITES

on the fantastic Leif & Bonnie Johnson
4/48 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Johnson Mansion, Gig Harbor, WA
Saturday, Nov. 10, 2:00 PM

JONAS NORDWALL, a native of Portland, possesses unique talents as a concert organist. At home playing either classical or popular music, he rarely needs printed scores, improvises freely without losing the identity of the music, and is truly a master organist. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in 1970 from the University of Portland and has served as organist at First United Methodist Church in Portland for thirty years. He is also organist for the Oregon Symphony Orchestra.

A contributor to the renaissance in the popularity of the theatre organ as a recital instrument, he has recorded over 15 albums. For 10 years he was the senior staff organist for the Organ Grinder Restaurant in Portland. He has been a featured artist for numerous national ATOS conventions and in 1987 was chosen ATOS organist of the year. Regarded as one of the nation's top theatre organists, Jonas' creative arrangements and clever stylings always entertain and impress!

It's been a year and a half since the lovely Johnson home has been available to PSTOS for a concert. Leif and Bonnie Johnson have graciously agreed to a benefit event for the PSTOS Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to the Johnsons, as well as to caretakers DeWaine and Dovie Hodge, for making this very special day possible.

Paid PSTOS Members \$12 • All others \$15

Seating is limited at this home. To avoid overbooking, all ticket sales will be handled by mail, with no door sales. For last minute ticket inquiries, please contact Russ or Jo Ann Evans at rj.evans@verizon.net or 425-485-5465

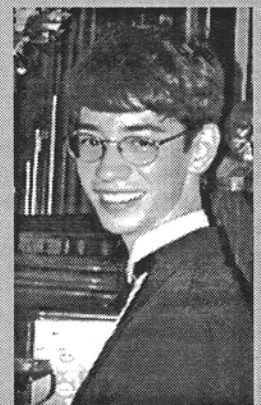
Tickets are still available—order TODAY!

Please use the ticket order form on page 6.
Drive directions will be mailed with your tickets.

*Extra added
attraction...*

OWEN CANNON, our PSTOS Scholarship recipient, will join us for the Jonas Nordwall concert.

Jonas has invited him to perform a number in each half, and we're looking forward to hearing him in person once again. We're sure everyone will agree our scholarship support is going to a talented and deserving young lad!



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Vol. 12, No 11 – November 2001

Published monthly by

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society

6521 N.E. 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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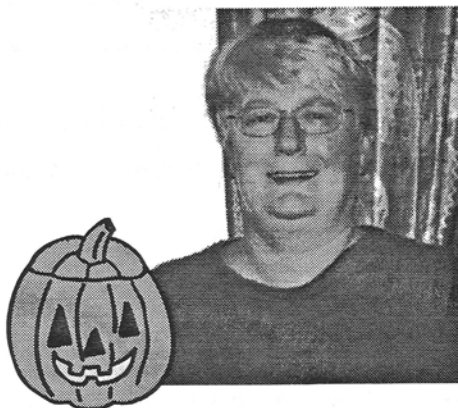
**Listing of non-PSTOS events
in the Pipeline**

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.

President's Message



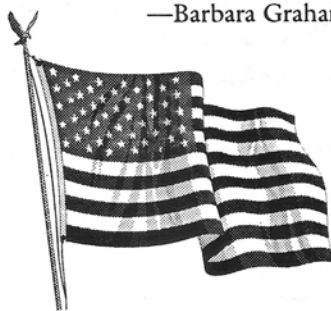
Boo! and Happy Halloween. Where does the time go? It can't be October already - July was just last month wasn't it?

We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to again hear a concert on Leif and Bonnie Johnson's spectacular pipe organ. And, with Jonas Nordwall at the helm - well, it doesn't get much better than that! November 10th is fast approaching and tickets are dwindling so order your tickets TODAY!

An 'absolutely fabulous' Christmas Party is being planned for Sunday, December 2nd. You won't want to miss it. We'll have lots of varied entertainment, good food (thanks to our members' 'finger food'), devil's and angel's punch, and dessert. You can't ask for more. We'll also see work in progress as Haller Lake Community Club adds an elevator and proceeds with other renovations.

I wish us all a Happy Thanksgiving, too. We are so fortunate to be Americans! Life for us will be different from now on but, through tragedy, we've become closer and share a common goal. God bless America!

—Barbara Graham



Joining Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is quick and easy! For a one year membership, send a \$15 check payable to PSTOS together with your name(s) as you would like them to appear on your name badges, your address with complete 7-digit ZIP code, and your email address to Norman Miller, Treasurer, 2644 NW Esplanade, Seattle, WA 98117-2527.

PSTOS Coming Events

Jonas Nordwall at the Johnson Mansion

Once again PSTOS will sponsor a concert at this beautiful venue! Tickets are for sale now....don't delay! Order TODAY!
Johnson home, Gig Harbor, WA.
Saturday, Nov. 10th, 2PM

Annual PSTOS Christmas Party

Another happy holiday event with great entertainment and marvelous food.
Haller Lake Community Club.
Sun., Dec. 2, 2 pm

Valentine's Party

A fun February event. Special entertainment! Plus organ music.
Date and venue TBA.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Jointly sponsored by PSTOS and HLCC.
Haller Lake Community Club
Tentatively set for March 17th

Summer Social

Another summer music event at the home of Russ and Jo Ann Evans.
Saturday, July 20, 2PM

England's Chris Powell

The only U.S. concert for Chris' 2002 world tour! A great young organist. More details forthcoming.
Venue and time TBA.
September 8, 2002

Halloween Party

Haller Lake Community Club
Sunday, Oct. 27, 2002

Annual Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2002

OTHER*Events of Interest***Paramount Theatre
To Feature International
Silent Movie Series**

Wurlitzer accompaniment by Dennis James

Nosferatu

Celebrating Halloween with a symphony of terror. Germany, 1922.
An AGO chapter event, open to all.
October 29, 7PM

Blackmail

Great Britain, 1929.
November 5, 7PM

Man With A Camera

USSR, 1929
November 12, 7PM

Madame DuBarry

Germany, 1919
November 19, 7PM

Metropolis

Germany, 1927
November 26, 7PM

Hokum Hall November eventsDetails & reservations: www.hokumhall.org**Fund Raiser Event**

Dinner, drinks, an evening of great music by Louis Magor and friends. By reservation only.
Fri., Sat., Nov. 2-3, 8PM

Ballard Sedentary Sousa Band

Annual salute to Sousa's birthday
Sun., Nov. 4, 3 PM, and again on
Tues., Nov. 6, 7:30PM

Monday Morning Madness

Hokum W. Jeebs, Louis Magor, Gloria Swanson, plus a hilarious silent movie
Mon., Nov. 5, 10AM

Laurel & Hardy Laughathon

Part 3. Andy Crow at the Wurlitzer
Fri.-Sat., Nov. 9-10, 8PM

The Three Ragtimers

Dan Grinstead, Hokum W. Jeebs, Eric Shoemaker, four big performances!
Nov. 16-17, and 23-24, 8PM



Get ready for a great time
at the annual
Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2PM

Haller Lake Community Club

12579 Densmore Ave. N., Seattle

**Featuring ...**

- Tacoma's famous "Ladies In Red" musical group!
- Additional surprise entertainment!
- Great food!
- Angel's and Devil's Punch!
- Sweets supplied by PSTOS
- Drawing for valuable gifts



Please bring a plate of **non-sweet** finger foods for our famous Holiday Feast! Beverages and dessert will be furnished by PSTOS.

Put this event on your calendar now. See the upgrades-in-progress at HLCC, catch up with your friends, and launch your holidays with an enjoyable celebration.



Admission \$5 per person .
Admission includes five tickets for the drawings.
Additional tickets may be purchased.

Drive directions will be printed in the December Pipeline.

A letter from the past... part 3



The September 1965 issue of *Console* magazine carried a lengthy article entitled, "Seattle, Cradle of the American Theatre Pipe Organ." Former Seattleite Dick Simonton, [shown left holding a 16' Vox Humana pipe, circa 1960's] one of the founders of ATOE [now ATOS], immediately upon reading the article, wrote a fascinating 12-page letter to the *Console* editor in which he shared numerous recollections of and interesting trivia about Seattle theatres and organs during the early years. A third segment of Dick's letter is reproduced here for your enjoyment. —From the Wm. Bunch archives.

It should be realized that there was a difference in attitude between the use of the organ on the West coast and on the East coast during the silent picture days. The reason why Seattle can be considered the birth place of the theatre organ is because it was used as an instrument in its own right, and not as a substitute for an orchestra. In New York and other large eastern cities, the organ was only a poor man's substitute for an orchestra and most of the Broadway theatres in presenting the first run of the major films scored them with an orchestra of various size. This involved elaborate scoring and conducting and allowed very little flexibility for the ingenuity of the musician and actually far better musical accompaniment could be provided by some of the early day theatre organists such as Oliver Wallace and Henry Murtagh because of their great ability to improvise.

An orchestra can play only what is on the printed sheet in front of it and there is no room left for this creativity or spontaneous inspiration such as the theatre organist could exhibit. Later Gaylord Carter came along and demonstrated this rare ability.



Gaylord Carter, one of the masters of silent film accompaniment. Gaylord lived well into his 90s, and continued to play throughout his long and colorful life.

The description of the Coliseum Theatre is most interesting and describes many things about the theatre which I didn't realize. Architect B. Marcus Priteca is famous and during my years in Seattle I heard about him but never had the opportunity of meeting him. In 1959 I was in Europe with Harold Lloyd, while he was supervising the scoring of one of his silent films, and afterwards we attended the



Oktoberfest in Munich. One day Mr. Lloyd was confined to his bed with a cold and so I was eating alone in the hotel and the head waiter asked if I would mind if another American gentleman joined me at my table, as they were quite busy, and I of course said I would be delighted. The gentleman who was seated at my table turned out to be Mr. Priteca of Seattle, and we immediately fell into a conversation about our favorite subject, theatres, and from him I learned a great many things.

He is still [1965] an active architect and is responsible for some of the leading concert halls and opera houses in the United States. I saw him recently in Los Angeles during the opening festivities of the L.A. Music Center. Mr. Priteca did all of the Pantages Theatres and for many years Pantages was his only client. We referred to him affectionately as Uncle Benny and while he is of Scotch origin, he has a phenomenal knowledge of theatre architecture and is a world authority.

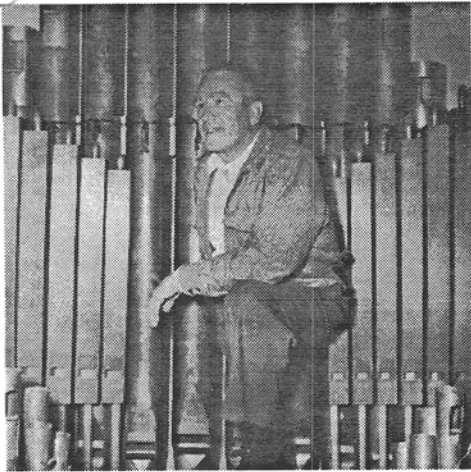
The organ pipes from the Coliseum organ which I now have and are part of the instrument in my home, were obtained from Richard Koons, and were part of a trade for a blower which he is using on his instrument. Originally the Coliseum had a DC blower and I shipped him one from Los Angeles which was AC, as there was no DC current available. The Coliseum Theatre had an extremely short throw for the projection of the picture and always presented problems. Note that the projection room is on the front edge of the small balcony and only about 50 feet from the stage. It was always a problem to obtain lenses with a short enough focal length to accommodate such a close booth.

Your article really did justice to the



Interior of the Dream Theatre, Seattle, 1910. Seated at the console of the first pipe organ in any theatre in the world is Oliver Wallace, who played many years at the Seattle Liberty. He left after the "talkies" arrived and became music director for Walt Disney, writing scores for such films as *Pinocchio*, and *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs*.

A letter from the past... continued



Harold Lloyd in a theatre's organ chamber.

under their banner.

Just prior to opening, some janitor or night watchman was fooling around backstage and pushed the buttons which actuated this huge orchestra car, making it rise from beneath the stage and roll forward. Somehow the limit switches failed to operate and the entire device crashed into the orchestra pit. You can imagine the commotion which this created, and while I didn't see it with my own eyes, I was given the descriptions of it by some of the older employees of the Paramount when I went there a number of years later with Clark Rush to service the organ. The result was that they delayed the opening of the theatre long enough to get this monstrous contraption dismantled and hauled back on stage and put back together, but they permanently disabled it so that it can never again be operated. To this day [1965] all of the mechanism is under the stage of the theatre but for no useful purpose. It was intended that this would be the show place of this new type orchestra car which was revolutionary at the time, but with this disastrous experience, none others were ever built and the idea began and ended with the Seattle Paramount.

I well remember being taken to the Paramount Theatre opening week, and how impressed I was with it. Another thing which impressed me was an Ampico grand piano in the mezzanine

lobby, all done up fancy in cream and gold and the ushers put rolls on it and kept it going while the people were waiting. I thought this was quite a touch for Seattle. Maybe this was just a notch below those famous theatres which had organs in the lobby for the entertainment of the waiting patrons.

A 1962 Seattle P-I story...
(Thanks to member Nona Larson)

'Liberty, A Parking Lot': 'Wallace Of The Wurlitzer' Back

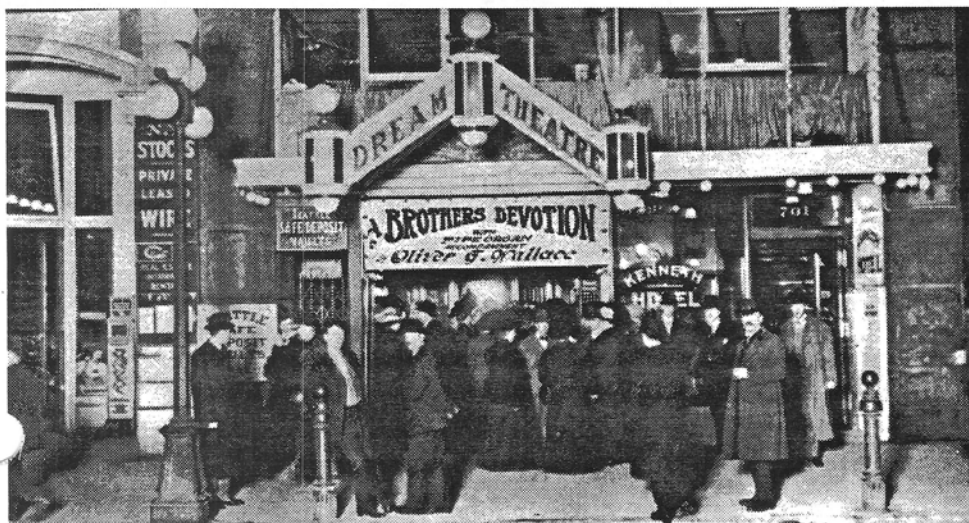


OLIVER WALLACE AND WIFE
He Filled Theatre With Music

WALLACE of the Wurlitzer returned to Seattle for a three-day stand this week [1962 World's Fair] 27 years after he left to seek—and get—fame and fortune in Hollywood. Wallace of the Wurlitzer, known today as Oliver Wallace, composer and conductor for Walt Disney productions, left Seattle in 1925, eight years after he took over the job of playing the organ at the old Liberty Theatre.

"Seattle's just not the same," Wallace said sadly. "We went to take a look at the old Liberty only to find it's nothing but a parking lot."

A mist clouded the musician's sparkling eyes as he recalled his years of accompanying the flicks on the 1,500-pipe Liberty Wurlitzer. "The Liberty is the only theater I know of which was built around the organ. We had to do some strange things for sound effects in those days. I even had a pistol, loaded with blanks, to use at the appropriate spot during Westerns."



DREAM THEATRE (1908–1912) and the Kenneth hotel, 701 first Ave. Seattle's first motion picture house, it boasted the world's first pipe organ accompaniment for silent movies.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors
6521 N.E. 191st
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

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**Nomination Committee
announces slate of
officer candidates**

The Nomination Committee presents the following slate of officer and board candidates for the year 2002:

OFFICERS...

- President—Barbara Graham
- Vice President—Clint Meadway
- Secretary—Bob Zat
- Treasurer—Norman Miller

BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

- One-year Board positions—
Bill Keller
Les Lehne
- Two-year Board positions—
Jackie Cedarholm
Carl Dodrill

Election will take place at the Annual Membership Meeting on December 2nd, preceding the Christmas Party at Haller Lake Community Club. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

**IMPORTANT
CORRECTION...**

Some of the tickets for the November 10th Jonas Nordwall concert incorrectly state the event time as 3:00 pm.

**THE CORRECT
TIME IS 2:00!**

For Sale
Organ stuff

Yamaha Electone Organ, Model 415. Walnut console, roll top cover, 3 keyboards. Excellent condition. Also available Rotosonic system Leslie speaker Model 705. For more information please phone Virgil Adams, Allyn, Wash., 360-275-2840.

TICKET ORDER FORM, Jonas Nordwall concert • Saturday, Nov. 10, 2:00 pm

Paid PSTOS & CROC members \$12 • All others \$15

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- A stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed—
Please mail my tickets **AND driving directions.**
- I will pick up my tickets at the door—please hold them for me there.

HERE'S MY ORDER FOR:

___ Member tickets @ \$12 \$ _____

___ Non-member tickets @ \$15 \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Total amt. enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **PSTOS**

Mail your order to:
PSTOS Tickets
c/o Barbara Graham
2823 NE 105th
Seattle, WA 98125-7722

**IMPORTANT
Information**

We're unable to process phone orders. Orders received without a self-addressed stamped envelope, or received within 6 days of the concert, will be held to be picked up immediately before the program. Ticket orders will be filled in the order received.