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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 17 No. 2

February 2006

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

Two exciting young Northwest organists will entertain you on the Kenyon Hall WURLITZER! Come for Sunday lunch and a great afternoon of music!

PIPES with PIZZA

TYLER PATTISON



Tyler, at 14, has a fine classical piano background, and is now studying theatre organ. A student of Don Wallin, he is also coached by Jonas Nordwall.

NATHAN AVAKIAN



Nathan is a promising young Portland musician, who studies Theatre Organ with Donna Parker. Just 14, he already is wowing listeners with his playing.

Please show your support for these talented and hard working young organists. We're so lucky to be able to cheer a new generation of performers! BE THERE!

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2:00

Doors open 1:30, food served 2:00

7904 35th Ave. SW in West Seattle

ADMISSION \$12 per person

Includes pizza, salad, beverages, sweets and an afternoon of entertainment!

A REAL BARGAIN!

Seating is limited to 75. Reserve NOW!

RESERVATIONS are ESSENTIAL for food catering.

Those with reservations will be served first. If you arrive without reservations, we'll do our best to serve you, but it may take awhile. So don't delay, make your reservations no later than Tuesday Feb. 14 by phone at 425-485-5465 or by email at rj.evans@verizon.net

Drive directions on Page 6

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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6521 NE 191st ST
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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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Nat'l Magazine Reporter—Jo Ann Evans

LIAISONS

AMICA & POF—Carl Dodrill • Haller Lake Community Club—Bob Zat
Paramount Theatre—Tom Blackwell • Wash. Center—Andy Crow

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 \$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 9-digit ZIP code, and your email address (optional) to:
Norman Miller, Treasurer, 2644 NW Esplanade,
Seattle, WA 98117-2527.

PRESIDENT'S Message

Hello folks -

Last month I pointed out that PSTOS is one of the most active ATOS chapters in the country. We've also been told that our Pipeline newsletter, www.pstos.org website and Scholarship program are among the best as well! PSTOS is alive and kicking, thanks to you.

Given our obvious enthusiasm for the theatre organ, it's clear we have "The Right Stuff" to do even more to help preserve instruments and assist young organ students. Seven new member-run committees are forming now: Grant Writing, Scholarship, Events & Programs, History & Archives, Organ Preservation & Maintenance, Volunteer Coordination and Promotions & Media Relations. We'll be featuring a different committee each month. This month you'll find an overview of the Scholarship Committee on Page 3.

If you are interested in any of the committees, contact me at tom@pstos.org or (206) 784-9203. After last month's Pipeline, I received several calls from members interested in organ maintenance and programs. Keep 'em coming. Giving of yourself for a worthy cause is so rewarding and I hope you'll seriously consider it.

I'm happy to announce a new way for PSTOS members to communicate. Discuss@pstos.org is a new e-mail group list designed to encourage discussion of Northwest theatre organ topics: organs, organists, program suggestions, organs for sale, news items and generally anything PSTOS or Northwest theatre organ related.

Any PSTOS member can join up by simply e-mailing webmaster@pstos.org and asking. PSTOS officers, board members and committee chairs are already signed up. We want to hear from you! We launched this group informally last month and have already learned of the endangered Wurlitzer at the Egyptian Theatre in Coos Bay Oregon along with several other interesting and important topics. Please consider joining.

Remember to get your tickets early for the February 19th show at Kenyon Hall. Two fabulous young Northwest organists, Nathan Avakian and Tyler Pattison, will be performing for us, followed by open console. Hope to see you there!

...Tom Blackwell, President



PSTOS Coming Events

**NATHAN AVAKIAN &
TYLER PATTISON featured
at Kenyon Hall**

These two talented young organists will delight and entertain you with their organ prowess. Enjoy a full *Pipes with Pizza* afternoon!

Sunday, February 19th, 2 PM

**PSTOS members invited to
a special private party and
fund raiser featuring JELANI
EDDINGTON at Gig Harbor's
Wurlitzer Manor**

Barbara and Raymond invite PSTOSers to a special party to raise funds for our Scholarship Program and pipe organ preservation projects. By invitation only.

Sunday, March 26, 2 PM

**HOME PARTY at the Kent home of
Jack & Mary Lou Becvar**

The Becvars welcome PSTOS members once again to their very interesting home to hear their 3/19 Wurlitzer. A special guest artist will perform.

Saturday, June 24

**ATOS National Convention
will be held in Florida in May**

The national American Theatre Organ Society convention will be earlier than usual in 2006. Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, it will run from May 23 through May 30.

Central Florida and Manasota Chapters will co-host the affair with the Afterglow on May 30th hosted by Orlando Chapter.

You'll have the chance to visit places and hear organs you'd not likely see on your own. Plus it's a perfect chance to visit Epcot Center and other Florida attractions. Begin making plans now!

FOR SALE Organ Stuff

Rodgers "22E" with two large Leslie speaker units, horseshoe console, all in good condition. Contact PSTOS member Cal Campbell at 360-668-2521

Other NW Theatre Organ Events

◆ Paramount Theatre Silent Film Series Bonus

Mon., Feb. 6
THE SCAR OF SHAME

In honor of Black History Month, STG presents this 1926 silent film classic

◆ Kenyon Hall in West Seattle **Fri., Sat., March 24, 25, 8 PM**

Revered Los Angeles organist Bob Mitchell, at 94 one of the few remaining first generation theatre organists, accompanies silent films at Kenyon Hall in West Seattle. Reservations: (206) 937-3613 or kenyonhall@earthlink.net or on the web at www.kenyonhall.org

◆ Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon Hear the Wurlitzer every Mon/Tue at 7PM & Fri/Sun at 5PM.

◆ For the latest Columbia River Organ Club news, go to www.croconline.org

◆ Olympia's Washington Center Presents "Larger Than Life," the silent films of Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. accompanied on the Wurlitzer by Dennis James.

Mon., Mar. 27, 7 pm
THREE MUSKETEERS

Mon., Apr. 3, 7 pm
ROBIN HOOD

Mon., Apr. 10, 7 pm
THE GAUCHO

For info 360-753-8585 or on the web at www.washingtoncenter.org

◆ Mt. Baker Theatre, Bellingham

Australia's outstanding NEIL JENSEN in a wonderful afternoon of Wurlitzer Pops. This will be well worth the drive! Mark your calendar NOW!

Sun., May 28

Scholarship Committee has expanded goals, active 2006 program ahead. YOU, too, can help make it happen!

As mentioned in last month's Pipeline, PSTOS has formed seven new member-run committees. We'll be featuring a different committee each month. This month is Scholarship, and since this committee is just forming, this is a chance for you to be involved.

The primary objective of the Scholarship Committee is to encourage young people to learn to play and eventually master the organ, as well as to develop a specific appreciation for the theatre organ.

Some of the functions performed by the Scholarship Committee are as follows:

- Administer the PSTOS scholarship program and develop new student programs.
- Review and develop scholarship program materials (e.g. program information, paper and electronic application forms).
- Raise awareness of the scholarship program through ongoing contacts with schools, colleges and music teachers.
- Evaluate scholarship applicants and make recommendations to the PSTOS Board concerning the award of scholarships.
- Cooperate with organizations such as American Guild of Organists and Pipe Organ Foundation in sponsoring student Pipe Organ Encounters workshops in the greater Seattle area.
- Review existing scholarship programs periodically to ensure they are targeting promising and worthy students.
- Establish fund-raising goals for PSTOS Scholarship programs.

You might be interested to know that PSTOS has provided over \$10,000 in scholarships for young organists over the last eight years, and PSTOS members such as Col. Norman Miller, Bill Keller, and others have done a great job of moving this effort forward. We have worked closely with Seattle Theatre Group to develop educational programs surrounding the Paramount Theatre's Wurlitzer organ and silent films. We also provide organ demonstrations at many "First Saturday" theatre tours at the Paramount as well as

About your invitation to an afternoon of Musical Magic with Jelani Eddington at Wurlitzer Manor

Many many thanks to Barbara and Raymond for inviting PSTOS members to share such a delightful Jelani Eddington afternoon at their magical home. It will indeed be 'an affair to remember!'

Barbara and Raymond strongly support the arts and are eager to share their beautiful home and magnificent Wurlitzer to raise funds for the PSTOS Scholarship Program as well as important pipe organ restoration efforts. Your donation will benefit these very worthy causes.

A few notes about the day:

- Tickets will not be issued for this party. Your reservation will be added to a Reservation List and checked off when you arrive.
- No street parking please! All vehicles will be parked in the Lavine's private parking area limited to about 40 vehicles. Thus car pooling is strongly encouraged.
- Limited parking means attendance must be very restricted, making this an intimate party indeed!
- Construction of the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge means access has changed. You will need new drive directions, which will be supplied when your reservation is received.

If you'd like additional information about the day, please phone Russ or Jo Ann Evans at 425-485-5465. If they cannot answer your inquiry, they'll get the info for you!

SCHOLARSHIPS, continued

historical lectures and special presentations for school groups.

If you have a background in education, music or just like working with young people, please get in touch with Carl Dodrill, Scholarship Committee Chair at carl@pstos.org or 206.236.3492. Our challenge is great and we need your help in filling out this committee and in moving this program forward.

Pages From The Past..

The Federal Way **BIG BOB'S PIZZA PARLOR** story

As written by Ed Zollman, Jr., and published in *The Console*, January, 1970

Up here in Washington we have pizza served with a pipe organ, and both are quite enjoyable to patrons of Big Bob's Pizza Parlor located in the Seattle suburb of Federal Way. As part of Bob's Pizza presentations, there are extra attractions furnished on various occasions. One of these was the appearance of Australia's Tony Fenelon during his recent tour of the U.S. He played two nights and his programs consisted of informal jazz and popular music.

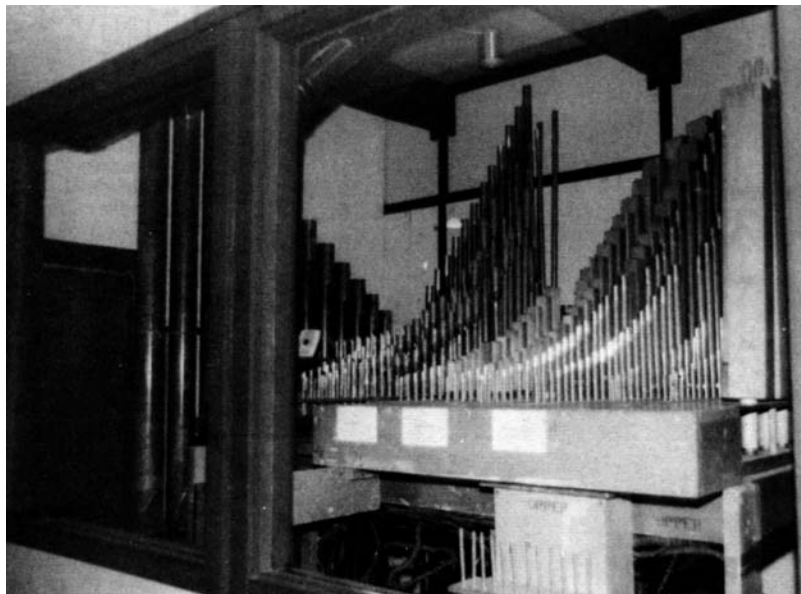
Officially opened February 2, 1969, the organ in the restaurant is played seven days a week with Tom Kaasa, Brad Miller and Ron Barnett featured on different nights. On opening night, the Morton was given a workout rather late in the evening. Puget Sound Chapter ATOS held a concert at the downtown Paramount with Don Isham at the console. After the show members and guests gathered at Big Bob's for pizza and a chance at the console.

First installed in the Dream Theatre in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in 1924, it was removed about 1935 and went to Portland where Balcom & Vaughan installed it in the Highland Baptist Church. It was played in the church until officials decided a new instrument was needed and a Rodgers plug-in was selected as a replacement.

The Morton, a two-manual five-ranker with chimes, came to the attention of Dennis Hedberg, who knew Bob Koons was looking for a medium to small size instrument for his contemplated pizza parlor to be built in Federal Way, and notified him that the organ was available. Ranks were: diapason, concert flute (large scale), vox humana, violin and violin celeste.

The Morton was purchased for \$1,000 and soon thereafter removed from the church by Koons and helpers from Portland and Seattle—the author was one of the buffs from Seattle who helped remove it.

Within a matter of a few weeks the instrument had been



Pipework of the Robert-Morton organ installed in Big Bob's Pizza can be seen clearly through the plate glass windows that serve as one wall of the organ chamber. Swell shades are at top of chamber area.

reinstalled in the new restaurant, completely wired and was playing in the rough. Installation work was supervised by Lee Bauscher, who owns the former Omaha World Theatre Wurlitzer.

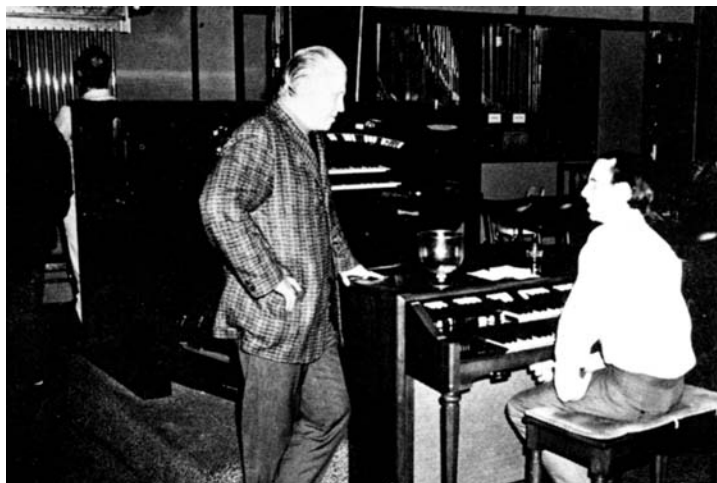
In the following months percussions were added from Koons' own large Wurlitzer pipe organ. These included glockenspiel, xylophone, sleigh bells, and traps, including snare drum, bass drum and complete toy counter. It is hoped to add many more percussions such as a marimba harp, chrysoglott, and possibly even a Steinway player piano.

As for additional pipework, there will be a tibia, of course, and a trumpet and kinura, the latter unenclosed is being considered for the organ.

Bob Koons is a well known organ buff in Seattle and owns the former Seattle Coliseum Wurlitzer which is a duplicate of the former Liberty instrument in Portland. It was first erected in the large downtown theatre in 1918. It is interesting to note that Bob paid \$1 for this large organ. In the year 1951 the Coliseum was being remodeled and the organ had to come out. The owner of the theatre also owned the television station where Bob worked for many years and the charge of \$1 was to make a legal contract.

He has spent the last 5 years slowly removing the behemoth music maker and has also bought and swapped other parts and ranks for his home installation. The main part of the Wurlitzer will remain essentially the same. Bob has built a large annex to his home. The chambers, Main and Solo, are unusual—they are over 20 feet high, and floor space measures 12 feet by 12 feet. Construction is of concrete.

Another unusual feature of the installation is the swell shade openings. They are at the very top of the chambers. Most of the instrument will be installed at the low floor level. It is hoped the



Organist Tom Kaasa consoles organist Brad Miller while he plays on one of Kaasa's off nights on an electronic substitute. The Morton was out of order for a few days due to bad starter brushes in the blower motor.

Pages From The Past...continued



Owner Bob Koons drops in at off hours to check on business and talk to patrons. He is standing at left beside organist Tom Kaasa.

empty area at the top of the chambers will give the organ a live sound, so many times not heard in a home project.

The instrument must be completely releathered. We have just started on this job—and there are 26 ranks to do. WOW!

EDITOR'S UPDATE—Unfortunately, the organ and restaurant were lost in a fire in December 1975. A few percussions were salvaged but the restaurant and most of the organ were a total loss.

Wanting to expand, Bob Koons had already acquired the Burien Theatre and developed it into a 300-seat pizza restaurant, Big Bob's Pipe Dream, opening in 1975. His home organ project was abandoned when that instrument went into the new restaurant.

Bob Koons became ill in 1978 at which time the restaurant was sold and renamed. He passed away in 1979.

The organ was later sold to Milt Kiefer of Vancouver, WA, who had plans to add pizza parlors to his growing business. The expansion venture did not materialize and the organ was sold to Dennis Hedburg of Portland. Parts of the organ went into the Organ Grinder Restaurants in both Portland and Denver. Years later Dennis had a huge sell-off of surplus organ parts, some of which most surely were from the Seattle Coliseum Wurlitzer.

Brad Miller, shown in the photo with Tom Kaasa, now lives in Spokane, teaches school, plays regularly for a local church and occasionally plays the Wurlitzer in the Spokane First Nazarene Church. This is the 1914 Wurlitzer from the Seattle Liberty Theatre which was located in downtown Seattle at First & Pike until 1955.

But that is another article!

For more photos and information, go to the PSTOS website, www.PSTOS.org, and click on SEARCH. When the options come up, type in Big Bob's Pizza Restaurant.

ABOUT THE WRITER—Ed Zollman, Jr., together with his wife Patti Simon, owns Zollman Pipe Organ Services, providing expert installation, restoration, service and tonal finishing. They are responsible for the outstanding Wurlitzer Manor organ installation. Coincidentally, Patti was a staff organist at Big Bob's Pipe Dream Restaurant. Zollmans may be reached at 316-729-6860, or on the web at www.zollmanpipeorgans.com.

An Interesting Theatre Exhibit From the 1920s

As published in the former *Vestal Press House Organ*,
Winter 1976 issue



Interior of the EPCO MODEL THEATRE looking toward stage. Note various wall textures between the pillars on left wall.

The EPCO Model Theatre in Los Angeles was sponsored by about two dozen firms specializing in various aspects of construction and decoration, as a display of their wares and capabilities for the benefit of those contemplating construction of a new theatre or movie palace in those halcyon days of the industry.

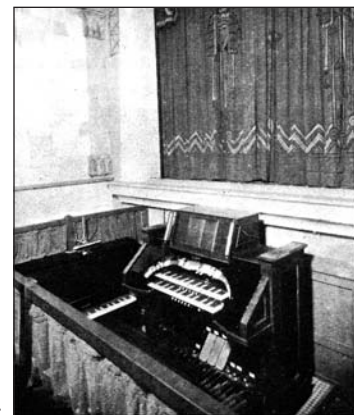
Note the different architectural treatments on the left wall.

The organ was supplied by H.H. Hicks, Link Piano Company, whose address is the same as the theatre. It is fitted with a roll-playing attachment on the top of the console, contrary to the usual Link practice of having endless rolls stacked four-high in a separate cabinet.

The architect of this place was Edward J. Borgmeyer; decoration was by Robert E. Power Studios; the cast iron marquise (sic) by the Lowith Iron Works; stage scenery by Flagg Scenic Studios; lighting fixtures by Angelus Lighting Fixture Co.; wall textures by Howard Booher of Decorative Plaster; ornamental iron and brass by Cecil Campbell of Campbell Ornamental Iron Works; switchboards by Safety Electrical Products Co.; ornamental staff by Cesare Paoli, Hollywood Ornamental Staff & Stone Co.

We wonder how many of these firms still exist? [And that was in 1976!—Editor]

Orchestra pit with organ console. A roll-playing attachment is fitted on the top of the console.



Drive directions to Kenyon Hall for the February 19th Pipes With Pizza Event

From I-5 take the Spokane St. EXIT 163A onto the W Seattle bridge, drive 2.7 miles and turn left onto 35th AVE SW. Staying on 35th, drive 2.2 miles. Kenyon Hall is located on your left at 7904 35th Ave SW. You may park on the street or in the business lot directly across the street.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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



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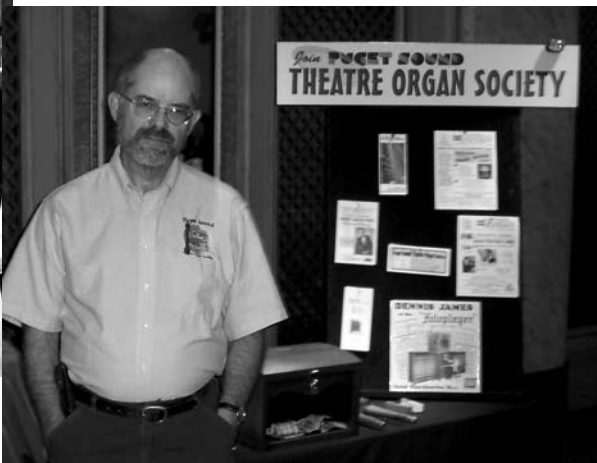
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Paramount's Silent Movie Monday series with Dennis James at the mighty 4/20 Wurlitzer always draws a large crowd, both young and old.

Kurt Morrison of AMICA (barely visible behind piano) poses with the Paramount's Knabe Ampico reproducing piano, restored and maintained by AMICA members Kurt and Ron Babb. The piano is owned by PSTOS member Marilyn Schrum and is on long-term loan to the theatre. AMICA demonstrates the piano before and after every silent movie program.

Paramount organist Dennis James at the 4/20 Publix | Wurlitzer.

A series sponsor for the last several years, grocery retailer Trader Joes offers free snacks and treats to movie goers.



Dan Warner at the PSTOS lobby table... a regular feature at all Silent Movie Mondays. Be sure to stop by the table to say "hi" and check out the special PSTOS video documentary created by member Bob Zat.