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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 19 Nos. 3-4

March-April 2008

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

**Reserve
NOW!**

Seating is limited for this outstanding event at Gig Harbor!

Donna Parker

At the world-class 4/48 WURLITZER

***Gig Harbor's spectacular
WURLITZER MANOR***

Sunday, April 13, 2:00 PM



DONNA PARKER, a Los Angeles native, began playing organ at age seven and was soon introduced to theatre organ. At thirteen, she began classical organ instruction with Richard Purvis, Organist at San Francisco's famed Grace Cathedral.

Establishing a name for herself on the

concert circuit as a very capable performer for one so young, she made her first recording at 15, was appointed first official organist for the Los Angeles Dodgers, and toured Southern California as a product specialist for Conn Organ Co.

She has been a featured performer at numerous pizza restaurants including Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix, Roaring 20s in Grand Rapids, Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, The Organ Grinder in Portland and Uncle Milt's in Vancouver.

She has conducted master classes nationally and abroad, and has worked with public school districts to incorporate this all-American art form into their music history curriculum. She serves on the national board of directors of the American Theatre Organ So-

ciety, has headed the scholarship committee, is presently Public Relations chair and chair of the Mentor Program. In 1996 she was named ATOS Organist of the Year.

She has numerous recordings to her credit including her latest release, "The Lady Elsinore." Her concert performances have taken her across the United States as well as Canada, Austria, Japan, Australia and Canada.

The past two years, Donna performed at the Tropicana Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City, where she provided daily holiday concerts in The Quarter. She recently returned from a successful 45-day concert tour in Australia and New Zealand, and is currently touring the United States in concert, including performances at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood for the Walt Disney Company.

Seating limited to 90. Admission by donation. Suggested minimum \$38 per person.

Age 16 and under free when accompanied by adult. Use enclosed Reservation Form to reserve.

Questions? Phone Tom Blackwell at 206-784-9203 and leave a message.

To check for other members in your area interested in carpooling, send an email to discuss@pstos.org

The Lavines again invite PSTOS members and their friends to a private benefit concert at their beautiful home. Their generosity and enthusiasm for musical causes is so much appreciated! Proceeds from this special concert will help fund the PSTOS rebuild of the Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer. The Paramount is part of Seattle Theatre Group, a nonprofit performing arts organization dedicated to operating Seattle's historic Paramount & Moore Theatres, presenting diverse programming and maintaining extensive education & community programs, including the long-standing Silent Movie Mondays, utilizing the historic 1928 Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ.



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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

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AMICA & POF—Carl Dodrill • Haller Lake Comm. 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 \$20 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 Everyone!

Where Do My Annual PSTOS Membership Dues Go?

I thought it might be interesting for some of our newer members to get an overview of where your \$20 annual membership dues go:



- 1) Maintenance and repairs to our PSTOS Chapter 3/11 Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed at Haller Lake Community Club. This instrument is owned by PSTOS and is used for PSTOS programs, Haller Lake Community Club events such as the Haller Lake Arts Council meetings, the annual Chili Palooza event and also available to all PSTOS members for their practice;
- 2) Printing and mailing of your fantastic Pipeline newsletter, one of the best newsletters in all of ATOS!
- 3) Your PSTOS annual website (www.pstos.org) hosting fees and domain name registration;
- 4) Insurance covering our pipe organ;
- 5) Other expenses related to running the chapter including, financial systems, book-keeping, etc.

ATOS Mid-Year Meeting Report

I had the opportunity to attend the ATOS (American Theatre Organ Society) mid-year Board meeting in Chicago the weekend of Feb 8-9. As many of you know, PSTOS is a local chapter of ATOS, and one of the oldest in the nation. It was COLD in Chicago! A lot of great progress is being made at ATOS. An important activity is committee re-organization. ATOS currently has 35+ committees and they are looking to consolidate under seven top-level committees similar to what we did in PSTOS two years ago: Programs & Events, Scholarship, Organ Restoration & Maintenance, History & Archives, Promotions & Media Relations, Development & Grant Writing, and Membership & Volunteers. In other exciting news, PSTOS member Jonas Nordwall will head up the 2008 Summer Youth Camp which builds upon the highly successful event launched in 2007 attended by PSTOS & CROC scholarship recipients Tyler Pattison and Nathan Avakian. Finally, many of you know that I maintain the ATOS website (www.atos.org). We will be

PSTOS Coming Events

◆ Piano, Pipes & the Roaring 20s and Ice Cream Social

Ray Harris and Jo Ann Evans pair up to bring you an afternoon of swinging piano-organ duos from the 1920s at Haller Lake Community Club.

Reservations please! See page 6.

Sunday, March 9, 2:00 PM

◆ Donna Parker

Donna will appear at Gig Harbor's Wurlitzer Manor in a program of your favorite popular music. This will be a very special day at this wonderful private home. Don't miss it! Seating is limited at this venue—return your Reservation Form now.

Sunday, April 13, 2:00 PM

embarking on a complete redesign of the site to refresh the image and improve the overall navigation.

Volunteers Step Up!

Thanks to several of you who telephoned me last month offering to help with the Paramount Wurlitzer restoration work and planning activities associated with the 2010 ATOS Seattle convention being hosted by PSTOS. It is encouraging to see that there are PSTOS members who have never volunteered before who are inspired to get more involved! We need even more volunteers for these projects, and others, so please give me a call at (206) 784-9203 or e-mail tom@pstos.org

PSTOS Committee News

New Board member Dave Luttinen will take on leadership of the Promotions & Media Relations committee. Thanks to Clint Meadway for heading up this committee over the past two years. Bob Zat has agreed to head up a new Membership committee focusing on ways to grow our membership and get members involved. Watch for an update on committee progress in a future Pipeline.

Tom Blackwell, President

Other NW Theatre Organ Events

◆ Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

Latest news can be found on the web at www.kenyonhall.org or by email at kenyonhall@earthlink.net

◆ Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon

Hear the Wurlitzer every Mon/Tue at 7PM and Fri/Sat/Sun at 5PM.

◆ Columbia River Organ Club

DAVID PECKHAM at Salem's Elsinore Theatre

Sunday, Feb. 3, 2 PM

For info and latest news go to www.croconline.org

PSTOS Financial Operations Report for 2007

INCOME

Events Income	\$6,080.00
Membership Dues	5,595.00
Scholarship Contributions	1,250.00
HLCC Organ Contributions	1,377.00
Misc income	925.00
Donations	377.00
Interest Income	<u>1,122.07</u>
Total	\$ 16,726.07

EXPENSES

Artist Fees/Travel	\$ 3,537.10
Venue Rental Fees	1,450.00
Event food/deco/misc	1,936.10
HLCC Organ Maintenance	1,866.57
Insurance	1,174.00
Paramount Video Project	680.00
Website	362.13
Pipeline	647.31
Postage/mailing	409.19
Pattison lessons	275.00
Business license renewal	10.00
Accounting software	337.23
Donation to STG	250.00
Misc expenses	<u>551.25</u>
Total	\$ 13,485.88

ASSETS

Checking Account Balance , 12/31/2007	\$ 6,972.07
Money Market Funds	11,499.65
Certificates of Deposit	21,453.25
Scholarship Fund	10,345.00
HLCC Organ Fund	4,761.14

Norman D. Miller, Treasurer

Paramount Wurlitzer Restoration Update

At the beginning of February, we received final approval from the Paramount Theatre to begin our restoration work in the lower house-left or "String" chamber. Although no events using the organ are scheduled until the June silent movie series, the organ will remain 80% playable during the work with just the three Main-side string voices and Vox Humana being unavailable. Our goal is to have all the work completed by the end of May. Major work items include:

- Releathering of the manual windchest, offset windchests and swell motors
- Releathering of three regulators
- Re-wiring of all windchests to meet current electrical code
- Plaster repairs and re-painting of walls
- Addition of new electrical outlets and work lighting*

So far, work completed includes: plan/schedule development, theatre management communication and approval, String chamber parts labeling and photography. Additionally, Russ Evans built five nice pipe trays to store and protect the pipes while the work is occurring. These trays have been moved up into the String chamber and the pipes will be placed into them before the end of February.

Former PSTOS member Bob Otey will be releathering the three regulators. Many of you know that Bob does all the regulator releathering work for Ken Crome Pipe Organs of Reno, Nevada. He does a beautiful job.

If you previously volunteered to help out and/or attended the PSTOS organ maintenance "Boot Camp" in 2006, we have your names and will be contacting you shortly to discuss next steps! Some of the work will happen at the theatre but much will occur in the shops at Russ & Jo Ann Evans' home in Kenmore and Tom Blackwell's in Seattle. If you are interested in helping out, you can contact me at (206) 784-9203 or by e-mail at tom@pstos.org.

* Work performed by the theatre's Facilities/Operations staff.

—Tom Blackwell

Jonas Nordwall to dedicate rebuilt organ at Portland's First United Methodist Church Sunday, April 20, 2:30 PM

This will be one of the most exciting concerts of 2008! Over the past year, Jonas has overseen a complete rebuild of this fabulous organ. The work was done by Ed and Patti Zollman, and together they've made this a truly outstanding instrument. Jonas has served as organist at this church for 35 years.

This will be a memorable event, one you'll surely want to attend if at all possible. The church is located at 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. To learn more:

<http://www.fumcpdx.org/>

A great learning opportunity! Donna Parker will accept a few organ students in the Seattle- Tacoma area.

Donna, who lives in Portland, will begin coming to our area on a once-a-month basis to teach our PSTOS scholarship students. She will accept a few additional students, and this is a wonderful opportunity to work with an outstanding teacher-coach.

Donna enjoys teaching and helping people of all ages and at all experience levels. She teaches a number of students in the Portland area ranging from beginners (both adults and kids) to professionals wanting coaching. Some of her students want only to play for their own enjoyment, and others want to perform.

She says her students all seem to find their own style, that she doesn't want them all sounding the same, nor should they.

She has found many adults are wanting to get back to the piano or organ lessons abandoned earlier in life. Donna says it's a skill requiring a little work and practice, unlike so many things in this era of immediate gratification with little-to-no effort. Some folks are looking for something a little more substantial, something to accomplish, and yet they want to have fun in the process. Music is a great field to delve into!

Some of Donna's students come to her not being able to read at all, and others read very well. She enjoys working with all levels, just as long as they love music!

To learn more, you may contact Donna by email at donna_parker@comcast.net or by phone at 503-642-7009.

Pages From The Past..

HARMONIOUS INDUSTRY

No Pipe Organ So Small or So Old or So Large It Cannot Be Fixed

Reprinted from a Seattle Times article published April 7, 1947

Written by Dave James

Glass and clay bricks fronting the crammed quarters of Balcom and Vaughan, pipe organ fixers, conceal Seattle's most harmonious industry.

Passersby on the street see nothing of the musical magic being performed within on pipe organs which Earl (Sandy) Balcom, 48, and his partner, E.L. (Pop) Vaughan, 55, bring here from all over Washington, Oregon and Idaho to repair or rebuild.

One step within the front door lands visitors in a strange wonderland of polished console shells, English lamb skin, sperm oil, sugar pine and poplar lumber, confusing sprawls of electric wiring and stacks of organ pipes ranging in tone from fiddle strings to the hum of a human voice.

The pipe which gives the tone of a deftly-stroked violin resembles the tubing connected to a kitchen faucet. Trumpets, clarinets and vox humana (the human voice) are equally odd in appearance.

The plant's basement and main floor are jammed with organs under repair. The repair schedule in the workshop reads like a roll call of the state's churches.

Organs being fixed last week, for instance, included Fifth Church of Christ Scientist of Seattle, First Baptist Church of Olympia, Trinity Methodist Church of Tacoma, Seventh Day Adventist Church of Chehalis and several others.

"We have between 300 and 400 church organs under care in the area between Blaine, Boise, Idaho, and Klamath Falls, Oregon," explained Balcom, a husky, genial organ expert, who insisted on frequent discussions of steelhead fishing, his favorite sport.

"But that's only part of the business. We work on organs from residences, radio stations, theatres, recording studios and schools.

"One might think such business would be casual, but we've been swamped for years. Even during depression years there was no



Clarke Rush adjusting church organ. The last tuner touched it in 1902.

let-up. We're receiving emergency calls day and night. Around Christmas and Easter the cries for help are terrific."

A call came even as Balcolm spoke. It was from a local church.

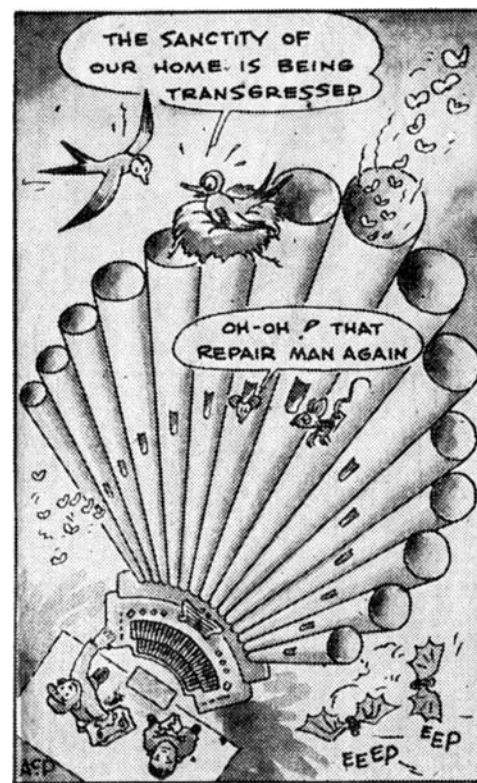
"Send a man over quick," the church pleaded. "Our organ's listing and it might fall during the church service."

Balcolm gave the call to his helper of the past 21 years, Clarke Rush, who wanted to know whether the organ's list was "to port or starboard."

"I don't know," chuckled Balcolm, "but go prop it up."

No organ is too old or too small for Balcolm and Vaughan to repair. They particularly like to help small churches.

"This little foot-pedal job in from Clinton Lutheran Church on Whidbey Island is typical," Balcolm said. "It isn't a remarkable instrument, but it does the job in its



community. And it has a sweet tone."

"Look," grinned Rush, a University of Idaho graduate, examining a certificate under the organ lid. "It says here it was tuned in 1902."

The parts of a pipe organ are stupendous, both in size and quantity. A three-manual organ under repair yesterday contained 1,971 pipes. Repairmen were gluing English lambskin coverings on each of the 1,971 bellows (pneumatics) which control air going into the pipes.

Sperm oil, the only substance which won't rot the soft leather, is painted over each pneumatic to close leather pores. Without such treatment, the organ wheezes and fights for breath and listeners complain under their breath about the organist.

Fluttering little moths are considered the worst enemy of organs. "They eat the gas-kets and the valve leathers and munch on

Pages From The Past...continued

FIRST RADIO ORGAN HERE

Washington Woods Used in Big Instrument to Have Premiere Tomorrow Night

Reprinted from a Seattle Times article published October 24, 1939

Written by Roy Ryerson

Continued from page 4...



Earl "Sandy" Balcom and his "Violin Pipe"
Instrument resembles kitchen plumbing

felt lining," Balcom said. "Mice and rats are bad, too, with rats worse because they chew right through cables. If they find a hole and want to get through and a cable interferes, they'll nip the cable."

Leaky roofs and people who rub the pipes out of kilter with their elbows contribute to organ troubles.

No pipe organ resists modernization. Even the famed Mormon Tabernacle organ in Salt Lake City, one of the world's largest, is to be replaced by a new instrument now on order.

"Those of us in the trade are saddened by that change," Balcom said. "That is one pipe organ we would like to see remain as it is."

Concerts from the finest radio pipe organ in the west will soon be floating over the ether to Seattle homes as a regular feature of KOMO-KJR, after the premier broadcast Wednesday of the station's new three manual-and-pedal pipe organ.

The organ was previewed in studio "B" in the Skinner building last week, and is now prepared to go on the air as the latest addition to Seattle radio circles.

Built by Wurlitzer, the modernistic instrument was assembled and installed by Balcom and Vaughan, master organ builders, of Seattle. The natural finish console was constructed in Seattle of Washington woods to fit KOMO-KJR specifications, and is one of the very few organs especially built for radio broadcasting.

The console, completely different in appearance from the customary type of pipe organ, is to be mounted on wheels and made as nearly portable as a piano, except for the huge but compact pipe loft [chamber].

The completed organ contains 700 pipes, 30 different effects and 143 percussion tones, to say nothing of a maze of 14,000 wire connections in the sound chamber.

For the opening concert, over KJR Wednesday at 9:45 p.m., a program of varied musical numbers will be presented, ranging from "18th Century Drawing Room" to "The Lost Chord" to give the countless numbers of organ music lovers a chance to hear the almost unbelievable ranges reached by the new Wurlitzer.



Seated at the console of KOMO-KJR's mighty new Wurlitzer is Eddie Clifford, giving a preview of the instrument. The new organ, described as the most outstanding instrument of its kind ever built purposely for radio, was installed for Wurlitzer by Balcom & Vaughan of Seattle, and the complete installation took eleven weeks. Sandy Balcom and KOMO-KJR's Mr. Polk observe.

DRIVE DIRECTIONS to
Haller Lake Community Club
12579 Densmore Ave. No., Seattle

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, clubhouse 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 NE 130th to NE 128th. Continue where underlined above.

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

Daylight Saving Time
begins March 9—be sure
to set your clocks ahead
and don't be late!

Piano, Pipes & the Roaring 20s

and Ice Cream Social

Reserve NOW!

An afternoon of food, fun and music from the Rip-Roaring Twenties!



With
RAY HARRIS and
JO ANN EVANS
at the Piano and Wurlitzer



***Plus* All-you-can-eat 1920s**
Ice Cream Sundae Bar

Ice Cream! Syrups! Nuts! Fruits!
Whipped Cream! Cookies!

Beverages!

Sunday, March 9, 2:00 PM

Haller Lake Community Club

12579 Densmore Ave. No. • Seattle

Join the fun! 1920s attire encouraged!



Just \$10 per person, everything included! • Age 15 & under \$5 with adult

To help us plan for ice cream and goodies, RESERVATIONS are necessary!

PLEASE phone or email Barbara Graham by March 5th — 206-525-7859 — bxgraham@msn.com