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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 20 No. 6

June 2009

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

Coming June 28 – Annual Benefit for the Paramount Wurlitzer Restoration Fund

MUSICA CURIOSA

A Presentation of Amazing Musical Instruments of the Past, the Present, and possibly the Future!

WITH DENNIS JAMES and DAVID PECKHAM

In a Duo Program Featuring the Paramount's Wurlitzer and Unique Musica Curiosa Instruments

THE MUSICA CURIOSA COLLECTION of over fifty music instruments emphasizes the vitality of conservation and modern-day reuse of historical cultural artifacts plus the celebration of dynamic new musical inventions. The collection includes devices that represent both failure and success during the last four centuries of music instrument development. Examples range from the Medieval psalter to Don Buchla's late 20th century inventions, the Lightning and Thunder. Also included are forgotten instruments now being subject to current international revival, such as Benjamin Franklin's 1761 Glass Armonica and the Theremin, the 1919 Soviet electronic instrument played by waving one's hands in the air. There are also instruments that have not yet been placed within the confines of either success or failure, such as the Baschet Brothers' Cristal (the 1950s avant-garde glass & steel sound sculpture from Paris, France) and Leopold Rollig's Orphika (the 1815 Viennese miniature fortepiano).



DENNIS JAMES has made a performing career out of the delight in discovery by taking up obscure and challenging musical instruments that have fallen into disuse but for which there remains a viable repertoire. Emerging as a "curious musician with curious instruments" on the international scene in 1991 with over fifty music festival appearances that year, he has since developed a concert, recording, and lecture career that keeps him traveling over two-thirds of the year. He is a graduate of Indiana University with both bachelors and masters degrees in organ performance. He currently has seven solo record albums and three solo compact disc issues, plus has many appearances on various other recording artists' projects to his credit.



DAVID PECKHAM has been resident organist at the Clemens Center in Elmira, New York since its opening. Hearing theatre organ music even before he was born, David was fortunate to grow up in a home packed with a modest theatre organ and all sorts of automatic musical instruments. David's formal musical training has all been in the classical realm. His unique programs are the result of his constant search for new music to play on the theatre organ, whether a recent pop chart or an old forgotten melody. David balances his weekly church position with the family pipe organ service business and a busy concert schedule, and we are delighted to welcome him to the Paramount as part of Musica Curiosa.

Sunday, June 28, 7 PM

Paramount Theatre

9th & Pine, Seattle

\$20 General Admission

**Proceeds will benefit the
Paramount Theatre's
MIGHTY WURLITZER
RESTORATION FUND**

**All donations over \$20
are fully tax deductible.**

**Avoid the line!
Order tickets now
from:**

**Tom Blackwell
Musica Curiosa Tickets
9717 Dayton Ave N.
Seattle, WA 98103**

Please make your check payable to "Seattle Theatre Group" and include "Organ Restoration Fund" on the memo/comments line of your check.

You **MUST** include a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to receive your tickets in advance. Orders received after June 20 will be held for pickup at the door.

For questions or large group sales, contact Tom Blackwell at (206) 784-9203, leave message or e-mail tom@pstos.org

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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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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:

Bill Keller, Treasurer, 9914 Hampshire Ct. SE,
Olympia, WA 98513-4241.

PRESIDENT'S Message

The May-June issue of Theatre Organ Journal published an article by President and Chief Executive Officer Ken Double regarding the legal ramifications of recording performances at conventions. For those who are American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) members, you are already aware of the concerns expressed in the Journal.



Copyright law is designed to protect the intellectual property of people who have shared their musical gift with us. For many years people have recorded, for their personal use, performances of various artists at various venues. Some of these recordings have been quite significant events: the last performance of an organ in a venue, or the last performance of a legendary organist. These archived events have emotional impact on everyone.

With the advent of the internet, a few of these recordings have been posted for others to enjoy. The artist does not receive monetary benefit of the royalties usually due for broadcast. Nor do they have an opportunity to exercise quality control on recordings usually made with devices that often do not deliver the high quality sound nor high quality video they desire.

The composers and arrangers of music are also entitled to royalty through performance of their works. If a person arranges a piece of music, they have to pay for the right to make an arrangement. Isn't it appropriate that they receive something in return for their investment?

Artists also have to pay fees for the right to play music where they receive compensation for their performance. The same applies here.

Copyright laws are being enforced at a much greater level than they used to be. The Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is as much responsible for copyright violations by illegal recordings as the ATOS, so I believe it is important to exercise personal responsibility by not jeopardizing our Chapter by recording, even for personal use, any performance where PSTOS is involved.

PSTOS Coming Events

◆ MUSICA CURIOSA featuring DENNIS JAMES and DAVID PECKHAM

An entertaining show combining the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer with a variety of unique and interesting musical instruments from the Musica Curiosa collection. This is the annual benefit for the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer restoration fund. Put it on your calendar now!

Sunday, June 28, 7 PM

◆ DONNA PARKER will entertain at a SUMMER WURLITZER PARTY



Another fun summer getaway with lots of music on the 3/18 Wurlitzer at the Kenmore home of Russ & Jo Ann Evans. Enjoy an afternoon of your favorite music on

the Wurlitzer and munchies on the patio! Mark your calendar now. Limited to 60. Early reservations at 425-485-5465, or rj.evans@verizon.net

Sunday, July 19, 2 PM

◆ SIMON GLEDHILL at Gig Harbor's Wurlitzer Manor

Known worldwide to theatre organ fans, this will be Simon's first visit to our area. Don't miss it!

Sunday, November 22

According to Mr. Double's article, the financial penalty may be up to \$150,000 per song.

While PSTOS does not currently have a written policy regarding this issue, it is on my agenda to have one drawn up at the next Board meeting so that our Chapter is protected. It is my experience with members of this Chapter that you will do the right thing and not use recording equipment during any performance of any artist at any venue under the auspices of PSTOS.

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 & Fri/Sat/Sun at 5PM.

◆ Columbia River Organ Club

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

◆ Bellingham's Mt Baker Theatre

Mt. Baker Theatre Organ Society presents ANDY CROW at the original Wurlitzer. Donations welcome, 18 and under free.

Sunday, June 7th 3:00 pm.

◆ Spokane's First Nazarene Theatre Organ Society

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month and feature the historic and newly refurbished 1914 Seattle Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer. Check events calendar at www.sfnatos.org

◆ Paramount Theatre Silent Movie Mondays June Series

All movies accompanied by Dennis James at the Paramount's original 4/21 Wurlitzer

Monday, June 8, 7PM

Flesh and the Devil, with Greta Garbo and John Gilbert

Monday, June 15, 7PM

Romola, with Lillian and Dorothy Gish with John Gilbert

Monday, June 22, 7PM

Cecil B. DeMille's *The Godless Girl*

Monday, June 29, 7PM

Seventh Heaven, with Janet Gaynor

◆ City Museum, Wenatchee, Silent Film program

The Kid, with Charlie Chaplin
Accompanied by Dennis James at the Wurlitzer

Sunday, June 7, 8 PM

◆ ANDY CROW to accompany a Laurel & Hardy comedy at Haller Lake Community Club

Saturday, June 20, 7 PM

Kat Brightwell one of two young organists honored by ATOS with paid trips to the Cleveland national convention in July

Go, Kat!

The American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) has announced that Kat Brightwell and Jonathan Gradin have been selected as the 2009 George Wright Memorial Fellowship winners.



Kat Brightwell is 16 years old and hails from Seattle and is an active member of the Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society. She first heard a theatre organ at the Seattle Paramount during a silent film presentation and immediately fell in love with the instrument. In addition to studying the theatre organ [with Donna Parker, funded by a PSTOS scholarship], Kat plays trumpet in the Garfield High School concert band.

Jonathan Gradin is 19 years old and lives in Rathdrum, Idaho. Jonathan is a member of ATOS' newest chapter, the Spokane First

Nazarene Chapter, and has combined his keen interest in playing the theatre organ with his passion for writing. To date, he has authored biographies on Aristide Cavallé-Coll, Edwin H. Lemare, and Rosa Rio.

ATOS established the George Wright Memorial Fellowship in 2001 to enable young theatre organ enthusiasts to attend their very first convention. The fellowship has been one in a series of very successful programs ATOS has put into place to help encourage and support younger theatre organists and theatre organ enthusiasts. Previous George Wright Fellows include Zach Frame from Wisconsin (2002), Jonathan Fox from Louisiana (2003), Jesse Kohl from Oregon (2004), Sam Moffat from Canada (2005), Daniel McCollum from Sumterville, Florida (2006), Nathaniel Baker from Ohio (2007), and Glenn Tallar from Illinois (2008).

ATOS wishes a hearty "congratulations" to Kat and Jonathan, and we look forward to seeing them at the convention in July!

Project update! Paramount Theatre WURLITZER

Your PSTOS "Publix" organ crew has been working diligently at the Paramount Theatre since January. As of May 1, over 700 volunteer hours have been contributed in 2009 by the PSTOS crew. The two largest windchests in the Upper Main pipe chamber have now been fully releathered, rewired and several failing windlines have been replaced. Four swell motors have been releathered and the Artisan control system has been re-mounted on a new backboard. Electrical testing is currently underway. The pipes are scheduled to go back in Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) with tuning to follow shortly thereafter. The organ will be featured at the Paramount's first annual "DOORS" benefit/fundraiser on May 29 with Donna Parker at the console together with a variety of other musical acts. In June, the popular Trader Joes Silent Movie Mondays summer series kicks off with four films: June 8, 15, 22 and 29. Dennis James will provide accompaniment on the Wurlitzer. And don't miss the MUSICA CURIOSA

benefit/fundraiser program on Sunday May 28 at 7pm. This event will feature popular East coast organist David Peckham on the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer together variety of unique and interesting musical instruments from the Musica Curiosa collection played by Dennis James. This includes the Glass Armonica, Theremin and other unusual, rarely heard instruments. All proceeds go to the Wurlitzer Restoration Fund. To-date, we've raised nearly \$70,000 towards our goal of \$105,000 and it is hoped that this event will put us "over the top." Tickets are \$20 general admission and available on the Paramount Theatre website (www.stgpresents.org), at the 9th and Pine St. box office or by following the ordering instructions found elsewhere in this issue. The Paramount Publix crew includes Tom Blackwell, Mark Baratta, Kat Brightwell, Russ Evans, Barbara Graham, Phil Hargiss, Dave Luttinen, Clint Meadway, Larry Mayer and Bob Zat.

—Tom Blackwell, Publix Crew Lead



Bob Zat and Tom Blackwell in the chamber.



Kat Brightwell cuts leather for repairs.

Pages From The Past...1920, 1974

The following article ran July 13, 2003, in *The Seattle Times* and is reprinted with permission from Paul Dorpat.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Winter Garden Theatre, which opened as the Progressive Theater in 1920, was the home of Wurlitzer Opus 360. It was a style 210, 2-manual with 10 ranks of pipes.

Records show that JACK O'DALE was an organist at the Progressive Theatre in 1927. Well known Northwest organist ED ZOLLMAN played the Winter Garden for a few years.

In 1939 the organ was moved to the Ridge Skating Rink at N. 85th about two blocks west of Aurora. It was lost in a rink fire in 1945.

For more information about and photos of the Winter Garden Theatre, check the PSTOS website:
<http://www.pstos.org/instruments/wa/seattle/wintergarden.htm>

NOW & THEN

BY PAUL DORPAT

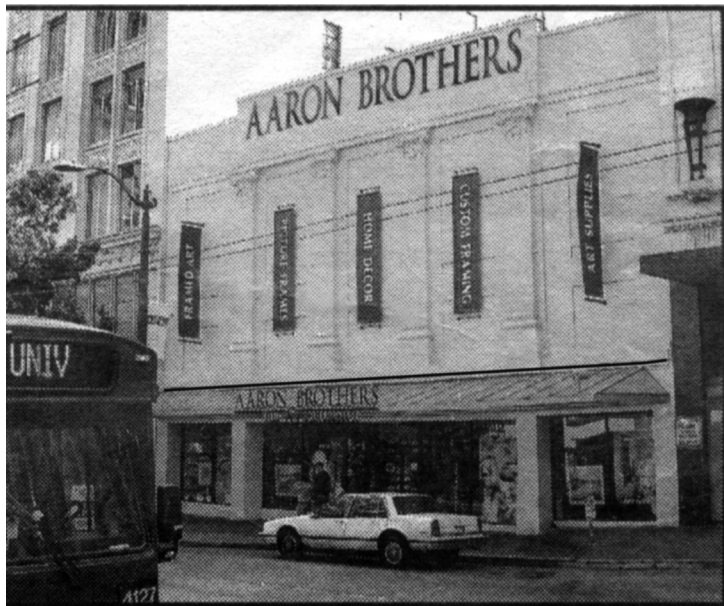
Celluloid Garden



In 1979, the 59-year-old Winter Garden theater on the west side of Third Avenue mid-block between Pike and Pine streets was closed and remodeled for a Lerner's store. A downtown branch of Aaron Brothers, an art-supply chain, is the most recent proprietor.

Pages From The Past...continued

Paul Dorpat, continued...



IN THE SUMMER of 1920 one of the last remaining pioneer homes on Third Avenue was razed for construction of the Winter Garden. This mid-sized theater of 749 cushioned seats was made exclusively for movies — not vaudeville.

The Winter Garden opened early in December, taking its name from a famous New York City theater, the successor of which staged the 18-year Broadway run of “Cats.”

The proprietor of Seattle’s Winter Garden, James Q. Clemmer, was the city’s first big purveyor of motion pictures. He got his start in 1907 with the Dream Theater where he mixed one-reelers with stage acts. Eventually, he either owned or managed many if not most of the big motion-picture theaters downtown.

Except for a few weeks in 1973 when the IRS closed it for nonpayment of payroll taxes, the Winter Garden stayed open at 1515 Third Ave. until 1979. In the end it was known simply as the Garden, a home for X-rated films where the house lights were never turned up. Here it is in 1932 showing a remake of a 1919 silent film, “The Miracle Man.”

In the late 1950s, when television cut into theater attendance, many of the downtown theaters, the Garden included, played B-movies in double and triple features. In 1962, an 11-year-old Bill White would walk downtown from his home on Queen Anne Hill and spend the quarter his mother gave him for bus fare to watch movies in what he describes as “the dark comfort” of the Embassy, the Colonial and the Garden. White, whose mom thought he was at the YMCA, grew up to be an expert on films and a movie reviewer.

Organ Plays For Pizza Eaters

From *The Seattle Times*, January 30, 1974, by Willette Plourde

With a “thousand man-hours yet to go” timing and trouble shooting on his 44-year-old Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ, Bill Breuer, owner of the new Pizza & Pipes, took time out to explain his prize before the official opening of his restaurant.

By now, Greenwood residents have had two days to sample Breuer’s combination of pizza served to the accompaniment of live entertainment on the white and gold monster.

The organ, out of the Paramount Theatre in Salem, Mass., is the focus of the restaurant with its 17 “ranks” or sets of pipes displayed behind glass. Each set has 61 or 97 pipes or notes—the smallest only three quarters of an inch high. In addition, there are 26 percussions and special effects such as fire gongs, sleigh bells, cymbals, horses’ hooves—these are mounted from the ceiling and on a high ledge around the room.

Though it is now restored to its original beauty, the organ had been shabbily treated during its years in storage. It had even stood in water. The ormolu (decorative carving and raised designs) was badly damaged and took 50 man-hours to repair.

Don Meyers of Balcom and Vaughn has been in charge of rebuilding the organ. Meyers is an organ buff and found the restoration both a challenge and a labor of love. No mean musician, he performed an impromptu concert for this interview. The sound was magnificent.

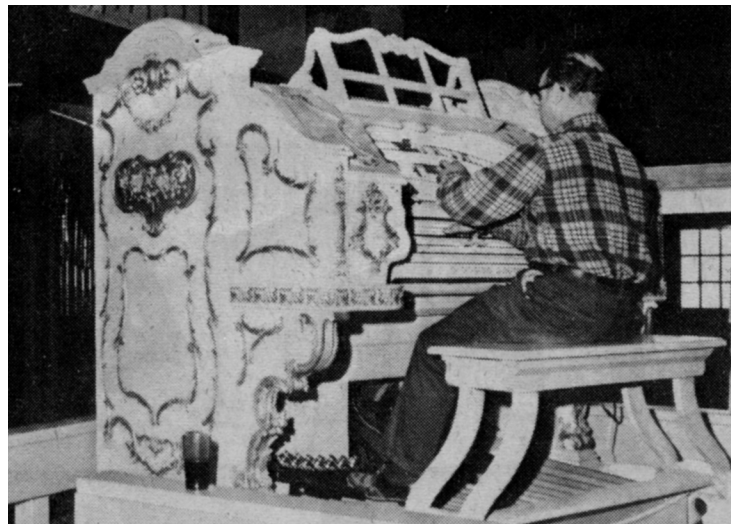
But Breuer said he expected to be spending six months out of the year in Seattle. Mrs. Breuer is here, too, taking an active interest in the new restaurant.

“Some people get hooked on antique cars,” she said. “I guess we’re hooked on organs.”

The couple has been in the food service business for 25 years. It is only in the last six that they have paired the organs to their successful restaurants and have become how-to-do-it authorities. They have advised several other restaurateurs in other parts of the country in setting up similar establishments.

Breuer said there was no shortage of accomplished organists in this area. He has hired two of them. Dick Schrum will play Wednesdays through Sundays, and Woody Presheo will play Mondays and Tuesdays.

The restaurant at 100 N. 85th seats 400 patrons and will open at 11:30 daily with the organ playing from 6 p.m. until closing.



Impromptu concert on the restored 44-year-old Wurlitzer theatre organ by Don Meyers who has been in charge of its rebuilding. —Staff photo.

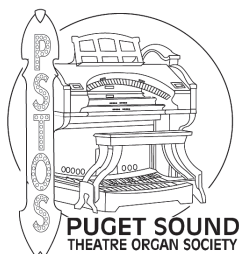
PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors

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Coming in July . . .

Summer Wurlitzer Party

WITH

DONNA PARKER

Playing the 3/18 Wurlitzer

*at the Kenmore home of
Russ & Jo Ann Evans*

***Enjoy a fun relaxed
program by Donna, then
join your friends on the
patio for munchies and
camaraderie.***

Sunday, July 19, 2:00 PM
6521 NE 191st ST
Kenmore

ADMISSION \$10
Age 16 and under free



DONNA PARKER has been playing organ since she was 7 and within a few short years her concert career began. She made her

first recording when just 15, played for the L.A. Dodgers and toured Southern California for Conn Organ Company. She studied theatre organ arranging and harmony with several well known theatre organists including Gordon Kibbee and Lyn Larsen. Later moving to Phoenix, she performed at Organ Stop Pizza, beginning a career that would last for many years. She has played at numerous restaurants featuring theatre pipe organs, including The Roaring 20s in Grand Rapids, Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, The Organ Grinder in Portland, Uncle Milt's in Vancouver, and Organ Stop Pizza in Arizona. In 1996 she was named ATOS Organist of the Year. She manages a limited teaching and coaching schedule as well, and currently teaches our PSTOS scholarship student, Kat Brightwell. Donna has performed internationally including appearances in Canada, Austria, Australia, Japan and New Zealand. Donna enjoyed a 45-day concert tour in Australia and New Zealand last fall. We are fortunate to be able to enjoy a casual afternoon with Donna right here in our area!

Cozy seating limited to 60.

**Early reservations may be made at
425-485-5465 or by email rj.evans@verizon.net**

Watch for drive directions in the July Pipeline.