



On the web at www.pstos.org • Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pstos

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 22 No. 7

July 2011

A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

Magical Music at Merlyn's

Featuring **PATTI SIMON**
with **DON WALLIN**

Playing Merlyn Johnson's newly rebuilt
**3/21 Wurlitzer/Morton/Kimball
Theatre Pipe Organ**

PSTOS folks enjoyed visiting Merlyn Johnson's beautiful Tacoma home in 2005 to see and hear her theatre pipe organ. The organ has recently had a complete rebuild under the direction of Ed and Patti Zollman and is now a 3/21 Wurlitzer/Morton/Kimball with 213 stops and a new stop list. It boasts a new Uniflex 3000 upgraded control system. There are new lighted pistons in the key cheeks for miscellaneous controls and plenty of pistons in the key slips. Bob Otey has installed a new blower and now there is plenty of wind. Merlyn will graciously open her home once again for members to share a Grand Reopening.

Seating is limited to 65 and reservations are essential.

Don't delay!



And... Sat., July 23
Scholarship Fund benefit
at Evans' house!
See page 6

SUN., AUG. 21, 3:00 PM

Merlyn Johnson residence
1314 So. Mountain View Ave., Tacoma

\$10 admission • Age 15 and under free w/adult
Admission covers artist fees and refreshments

SEATING LIMITED TO 65—RESERVATIONS PLEASE!

Reserve with Barbara Graham at
206-525-7859 (leave message w/your name and number in your group),
or email bxgraham@comcast.net

RESERVATION DEADLINE THURSDAY, AUGUST 18
Drive directions will be published in the August Pipeline

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Vol. 22, No. 7 – July 2011
Published monthly by
Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 NE 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.

OFFICERS

President—Bob Zat, 206-972-8943
Past Pres.—Jamie Snell, 206-525-4521
Vice President—Jon Beveridge, 425-337-6840
Secretary—Joani Roughton, 253-946-4400
Treasurer—Clint Meadway, 425-327-9467

BOARD MEMBERS

Micah Bisson, 303-339-0184 • Phil Hargiss, 206-524-8799
Tom Blackwell, 206-778-2724 • Barbara Graham, 206-525-7859

COMMITTEES

Development & Grant Writing—Tom Blackwell
History & Archives—Tom Blackwell
Organ Restoration & Maintenance—Bob Zat
Program Coordinating—Ray Harris & Barbara Graham
Promotions & Media Relations—Dave Luttinen
Scholarship—Carl Dodrill
Volunteer Coordination—Tom Blackwell
New member processing—Doug Owen, 253-566-6734
Haller Lake keys—Bob Zat
Sunshine—Joani Roughton, 253-946-4400
Hospitality HLCC—Ellen Sullivan, 206-365-7554

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

Pipeline Editors—Russ & Jo Ann Evans, 425-485-5465
Pipeline Online Website—Tom Blackwell, 206-778-2724

LIAISONS

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:

PSTOS, Clint Meadway, Treasurer
9594 1st Ave. NE #453,
Seattle WA 98115-2012

PSTOS Coming Events

▶ **Scholarship Fund Benefit with
RAY HARRIS & JO ANN EVANS**
at the Evans home. Details on page 6.

Saturday, June 23, 2 PM

▶ **PATTI SIMON and DON WALLIN at
Merlyn Johnson's Tacoma home**

Merlyn welcomes members to hear her newly upgraded theatre pipe organ. See cover page.

Sunday, August 21, 3 PM

▶ **Annual PSTOS HOLIDAY PARTY at
Haller Lake Community Club**

Don your holiday finery and enjoy another fun holiday extravaganza! Music! Food! Fun!

Sunday, December 4

Other NW Theatre Organ News

Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

www.kenyonhall.org or email
kenyonhall@earthlink.net

Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon

lincolnthatre.org

Columbia River Theatre Organ Society

www.croconline.org

**Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre Organ
Society**

www.mountbaketheatre.com

**Spokane's First Nazarene Theatre Organ
Society**

www.sfnatos.org

Pizza & Pipes event with Donna Parker— a fun afternoon for all

A large and appreciative crowd attended Donna Parker's program at Haller Lake Community Club. The atmosphere was festive and the food good. Donna played a delightful program of favorites, some a reminder of the good ol' pizza parlor days.

A number of younger folks attended, many of whom were eager to learn more about the organ. Donna, one of the talents behind the ATOS Summer Youth Organ



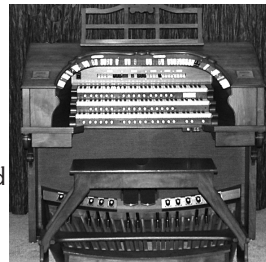
Camp, is always looking for interested young people. After the program ended, she helped several youngsters explore and play the instrument. Some are presently studying organ and were thrilled to have a chance to play real pipes.

Thanks to everyone who attended and special thanks to all those who remained behind to help clean up. It was a great day!

For Sale... Organs looking for new homes!

2005 Allen Q311SP Theatre Organ

Vista internal speakers and bench. Like new! Voiced by Jonas Nordwall. For information and price, phone Richard Lawson at 360-944-1414 or email dickl@bytes.net



For complete specifications, visit <http://allenorgan.com/www/products/q311sp/q311sp.html>

Beautiful Gulbransen Premier Organ

Two 61-note manuals, 25 pedals. Everything works. Perfect for home or small church. You move it, but I'll help. For information and price please contact Mike Young at ohjeetztwr@yahoo.com



Our PSTOS scholarship program has helped a number of young musicians become fine organists

Thanks to Carl Dodrill, Scholarship Comm. Chair, for this overview

PSTOS can well be proud of its involvement with young aspiring organists in both theatre and classical fields. Since the fund was established over 15 years ago, financial assistance has been provided to a number of fine young musicians who otherwise might have been unable to continue music training. Several of these deserving young people have developed into outstanding musicians.

Who are they, and what has happened to our past and present PSTOS scholarship recipients?

JESSE ZYLSTRA

A 2009 graduate of Waterville High School, Jesse really “came alive” to music during his high school years when he began taking piano lessons. He discovered a non-working electronic organ at his church in Waterville and got it working again. With the help of the church music director, he began playing the organ in church services. He then began to dream of a pipe organ for the church and through the web found the Pipe Organ Foundation and contacted Carl Dodrill. This contact plus his limited funding situation led to his being considered for a PSTOS scholarship to study organ. In 2010, he was awarded a scholarship for organ lessons with Sheila Miranda of Waterville. The quarterly reports on Jesse’s progress received from his teacher are very encouraging, and the committee is delighted to see his progress. Further, Jesse has a strong interest in theatre organ, volunteering each week to work on the Wurlitzer at the Wenatchee Valley Museum. He is exactly the kind of young person which the PSTOS Scholarship Fund is designed to help.



DANIEL GOLTZ

We provided extensive support for lessons and events for this young man several years ago. He has distinguished himself at Whitman College and has just now finished his studies in Applied Mathematics at Columbia University while simultaneously studying organ at the Juilliard School.

TYLER PATTISON

Tyler was awarded a scholarship for study with Don Wallin. He and Nathan

Avakian played a well-received joint program at Kenyon Hall in 2006. After high school graduation in Gig Harbor, Tyler was accepted at Gonzaga University.



KAT BRIGHTWELL

We began support of Kat in 2008, underwriting the cost of her lessons with Donna Parker (including transportation to her lessons) for about two years until her family moved out of the area. In addition, we provided her a practice instrument. Kat was active in PSTOS, was often seen at meetings, and managed the PSTOS desk at the Paramount Theatre on numerous silent movie nights.

MICHAEL PLAGERMAN

We underwrote the costs of his attending the AGO Pipe Organ Encounter in Seattle in 2008, and he has gone on to be the organist in two different churches. He just graduated from high school and will be continuing his organ studies as he is able in the fall.

JONATHAN GRADIN

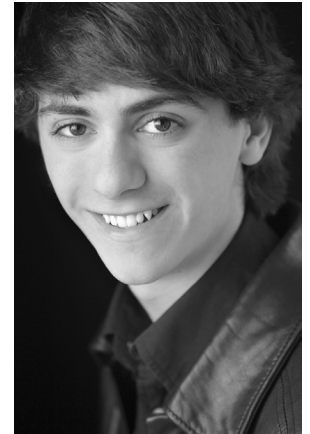
We underwrote most of his costs for attending the ATOS Summer Camp in Arizona in 2010. He has shown extraordinary commitment to ATOS by continuing a major involvement in the Spokane ATOS chapter in a number of respects including their website.

OWEN CANNON

We provided funding for Owen’s organ study for several years. Upon graduation from high school, Owen was admitted to Oberlin College where he continued his organ studies.

NATHAN AVAKIAN

PSTOS partially underwrote Nathan’s attendance at a Theatre Organ Workshop in Fort Collins, CO, and lessons with Donna Parker. He has developed significant theatre organ playing skills and was a featured organist at Seattle’s 2010 national ATOS convention. Since that time, he has appeared in the news playing organ in various public situations including shopping malls and receiving some amount of acclaim for his playing in these settings. Nathan is now studying theatrical lighting design at State University of New York. This summer he will do a 6-week theatre organ concert tour of Australia and New Zealand.



Where does PSTOS scholarship money come from?

Money flows into the scholarship fund from several sources. Contributions from members just like you make up a substantial portion. Benefit events help to replenish the fund. Bequests from the estates of theatre organ aficionados have been received. The scholarship fund is tracked separately from the PSTOS general fund and grants for lessons are paid out solely from monies dedicated to scholarships.

How are scholarship recipients selected and funding provided?

The PSTOS Scholarship Committee, chaired by Carl Dodrill and including Norman Miller, Bill Keller, and Jo Ann Evans, abides by guidelines to ensure funds are awarded only to deserving and serious students. Funding is provided directly to the teacher *after* lessons are provided. On some occasions, travel costs have been covered when deemed necessary.

Is the scholarship fund maintaining a healthy balance?

The fund presently has funds adequate to cover projected needs through 2011 and probably 2012. However, over the past year, substantially more has been paid out than has come in, and the Scholarship Committee has asked the PSTOS Board of Directors to consider ways to raise additional funds.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!

Please attend the July 23rd scholarship fund benefit.

See page 6 for details and reserve now! THANK YOU!

If you cannot attend but would like to contribute, please send your check to PSTOS Scholarships, 9594 1st AV NE #453, Seattle, WA 98115-2012

Pages From The Past.. 1927

Discounting and negotiating, along with trade-ins, were all part of theatre pipe organ sales during the heyday of silent movies. Not every sale went smoothly as shown in these two 1927 letters from the Wm. Bunch archives.

Robert Morton Organ Co.

*Builders of
The Robert Morton Organ
The Fotoplayer*

FACTORY
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
SAN FRANCISCO

SALESROOMS
NEW YORK - CHICAGO
LOS ANGELES

Cable Address: "ROMORTON"

FILM EXCHANGE BLDG.,
1914 SO. VERMONT AVE.,
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Nov. 14, 1927.

Geo. A. Hunt,
Medford, Oregon.

Dear George:

Enclosed you will please find three sets of specifications and copies, to wit:

The first specification is a Style 140 which is a 4 stop organ, the same, I believe, as you purchased for one of your other houses, the selling price of which is \$8,500.00 and net to you, \$5,525.00.

The second specification is a Style 160, selling price \$11,000.00, net to you, \$7,150.00.

The third specification is a Style 18-N, which is an exact duplicate of the Style D Wurlitzer, with the exception that it has a few more unifications than that given by Wurlitzer, the selling price of which is \$12,750.00, net to you, \$8,288.50.

The reason I am sending you these three sets of specifications is that I believe we know each other well enough to know that you can set down and figure out the proposition you have to handle just as well as if I were there.

I am sending you also contract, in triplicate, which you can make out in accordance with your letter. This, you know, is rather unusual terms, but on account of previous satisfactory business relations, I feel sure that we can handle this satisfactorily. The length of terms, however, must not run over thirty months.

Now, George, if you decide to take one of these organs I will arrange to send Sandy Balcom to Roseburg to go over the organ chambers so that you will have the best possible installation we can give you.

Assuring you of our cooperation and with best personal regards to you and the wild meat-eater, I am

Yours truly,



HFC:P
11

Pages From The Past...continued

Robert Morton Organ Co.

Dec. 13, 1927.

C. M. Balcom,
114 E. 51st St.,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sandy:

I certainly am very sorry to have to send this deal back to you, but there is absolutely no way in the world that it can even be considered, much less taken.

In the first place, you have been mis-informed as to the amount of discount allowed on any organ or given to any circuit. The discount given the West Coast Circuit, the Universal Circuit, and the Saenger Circuit, the latter which has bought some 190 Robert Morton organs, has never exceeded 35%. Where you got the 12½%, I can't even start to guess.

George Hunt knows that 35% is the regular West Coast discount and no bigger discount has ever been quoted to him, nor could it be as the company certainly wouldn't jeopardize their accounts with the big circuits by allowing an individual to have a bigger discount than this. Giving him the \$1,500.00 for the Fotoplayer was stretching the deal to the breaking point.


Therefore, it is going to be necessary for you to take this deal back to George and explain it and rewrite the deal on the basis of \$7,150.00, this being 35% from \$11,000.00; \$1,500.00 on the Fotoplayer, makes \$5,650.00. The \$200.00 for the second touch would make it \$5,850.00.

Therefore, the deal must be re-written on not less than \$7,350.00 less the \$1,500.00 for the Fotoplayer. I am positive when you explain this to George Hunt and show him that he is receiving the same discount that Saenger, West Coast and Universal Circuits get, plus the fact that we are allowing him \$1,500.00 for a Fotoplayer and that we do not take trade-ins on discount business, he will be willing to have you re-write the contract and if he is not, we simply will have to turn the business down.

So immediately upon receipt of this it will be advisable for you to again go to Medford and we will re-imburse you for your expenses as on the previous trip. I am herewith returning your expense account as you have not signed it and it is necessary for your signature to put through a voucher.

With best personal regards and regretting that it is necessary to send this deal back and wishing you success in re-writing it, I am

Very truly yours,



HFC:P
Encl.

Air Mail

Followup
letter sent via
Air Mail... in
1927!

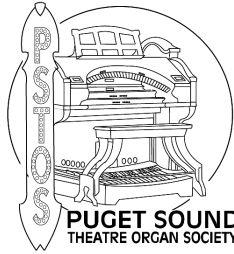
Drive directions to the Evans residence
6521 NE 191st St., Kenmore • 425-485-5465

From I-5 take EXIT #175 eastbound onto NE 145th St. Drive 1.4 mi. to Bothell Way. Turn left (north) on Bothell Way, driving around the north end of the lake 3 mi. to 68th NE. (Main Kenmore intersection with traffic signal). Turn left (north) on 68th. Drive 1/2 mi. to NE 190th St. Turn left (west) on NE 190th. Drive one short block to NE 191st St. Turn left, drive one long block to a cul-de-sac on the left marked Dead End, also NE 191st St. Turn left into the cul-de-sac. The Evans home is the first on the left. Park in the drive or on the street. Please do not block mailboxes. There's space for at least 4-5 vehicles in the drive.

From I-405 take EXIT #23 westbound toward Bothell/Seattle. Drive 5 miles, staying on Hwy 522, to the main light in Kenmore at 68th NE. Turn right (north), and continue as above where underlined.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bothell, WA
Permit #287

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Please be sure to read Carl Dodrill's article about how PSTOS funding has helped young aspiring organists advance their musicianship in remarkable ways. The entire story is on page 3.

A benefit event for the PSTOS Scholarship Fund* Saturday, July 23...RESERVE NOW!

Pipes, Piano, & Swing Era Music!

Enjoy... an afternoon of toe-tapping music and fun with RAY HARRIS and JO ANN EVANS at the grand piano and Wurlitzer.

Satisfy your sweet tooth... with cheesecake, toppings and beverages following the program.

Do your part... to help PSTOS be responsible stewards of its scholarship monies, currently being expended at a greater rate than contributions are being received. EVERY DOLLAR of your donation will go directly to the Scholarship Fund. And it's tax deductible!



Saturday, July 23, 2:00 PM

Home of Russ & Jo Ann Evans, 6521 NE 191st St., Kenmore

\$15 suggested minimum donation

Age 15 and under free with adult

Additional donations encouraged and are tax deductible

Please make checks payable to PSTOS Scholarship Fund

PSTOS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Seating limited to 50

PLEASE RESERVE by July 20!

425-485-5465 • rj.evans@frontier.com



Meet & greet JESSE ZYLSTRA, our current PSTOS scholarship student, who will join us for this event!