



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 24, No. 9

September, 2013

A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

Presenting from Glasgow, Scotland...



DAVID GRAY

With Theatre Organ Pops

- Piano and organ child prodigy
- 2013 graduate, London Royal Academy of Music
- Played his first theatre organ at age 13 and four months later won 2nd prize in Woking, England competition!
- 2005 international "American Theatre Organ Society Young Theatre Organist of the Year"
- Featured organist at the American Theatre Organ Convention in Atlanta in July this year
- Will complete a 2013 Australia/New Zealand/US concert tour with performances in Seattle and Portland

A direct quote, with permission, from WALT STRONG, one of the world's most highly sought after theatre organists, commenting about David Gray's performance at the Atlanta Convention—Walt wrote: "As I write this, David Gray just finished playing an amazing piano solo. Today we are witnessing the birth of a new concert artist – one with talent, technique and a quiet unassuming personality that will win many supporters. In fact, witnessing this event has brought tears to my eyes." David hopes to become a professional musician, in whatever field that may be, but he will always remain faithful to preserving the unique art of the theatre organ.

Sunday, Sept. 15, 2:00

Calvary Christian Assembly
6801 Roosevelt Way NE

EZ on/off I-5
Free parking
No stairs

ADMISSION

PSTOS Members \$20
Non-members \$25
Kids 16 and under FREE!

The CALVARY CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 3/19 KIMBALL-WURLITZER was originally installed in 1942 and was based on a 2-manual 12-rank Kimball from Centralia's Liberty Theatre. In 1970 it was rebuilt and enlarged with the addition of a Wurlitzer Style 215 "Special," formerly owned by Lorin Whitney and installed in California's Hollywood Theatre. The combined Kimball-Wurlitzer instrument has a total of 19 ranks, 1327 pipes, plus two sets of chimes, marimba and chrysoglott. PSTOS worked closely with the church to ready the organ for the ATOS Annual Convention in 2010, and it's an exciting instrument to hear.

SPECIAL OFFER— Bring a friend FREE!

Buy one PSTOS Member ticket and receive a **FREE GUEST TICKET** for a non-member friend.

Buy TWO tickets, get TWO FREE guest tickets!

How to order your FREE GUEST TICKETS—

Reserve for yourself and your guest at:

joann@pstos.org or 425-485-5465

Provide your name(s) and your guest(s) names.

Pay at the door and pick up your tickets.

Share
your love of
Theatre Organ
with your
friends!

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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.

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Haller Lake Community Club—Bob Zat
Paramount Theatre—Phil Hargiss
Washington Center—Andy Crow
Calvary Christian Assembly—Jeff Snyder
AGO—David Locke

JOINING PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY IS QUICK AND EASY!

For a one year household 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, your email address (optional) and your phone number to:

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

OR...you may now securely join PSTOS or renew your membership ONLINE!

Go to: www.pstos.org
Click on "Join PSTOS."
Secure!
No checks!
No stamps!
A few clicks and it's done!



PRESIDENT'S Message

I hope you have been enjoying the summer. My family and I have enjoyed a few trips together and it's been nice getting to be home more than during the school year.



It was good to see many of you at the Evans' home and to hear Harvey and Pete play their beautiful Wurlitzer. We're especially fortunate to have such talent in the Northwest. I look forward to hearing Pete again at our holiday event on December 1 at Calvary.

Speaking of December 1, that will be our last concert at Calvary before the organ is down to do relay and console work during the first few months of 2014. For those of you who enjoy working on organs (or have always wanted to learn), it's a great time to volunteer. The chambers at Calvary are easy to access. Contact me and I can put you in touch with the organ maintenance committee.

Be sure to take notice of the special "Invite a Friend FREE" offer for the upcoming David Gray concert. Those who heard David play at the convention know we have an exciting event happening on September 15, and you're encouraged to invite a friend or two to experience David's artistry. The board hopes to interest more people in supporting PSTOS through membership and this is an excellent (and free!) way of exposing others to our beloved Theatre Pipe Organ! The planning committee already has programming in place for most of 2014 and it would be great to have more members to join us.

I hope to see many new faces at the David Gray concert. Be sure to do your part by using your free guest ticket offer!

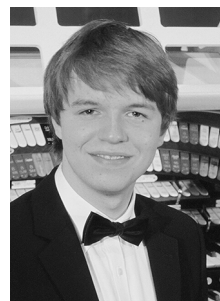
Jeff Snyder, President

LISTING OF NON-PSTOS EVENTS IN THE PIPELINE

PSTOS, upon request, will list non-conflicting non-PSTOS theatre organ events in the "Other NW 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 may be included.

PSTOS Coming Events

► Scotland's young Wurlitzer Whiz Kid, DAVID GRAY, plays at Calvary Church



David will play in Seattle and Portland on the final leg of an Australia-New Zealand theatre organ tour. This is definitely a not-to-be-missed event!

**Sunday,
September 15**

► Annual Holiday Program to feature PETE EVELAND at Calvary Church

Pete performed five years on the Mississippi River's "Delta Queen," played for an Ohio NFL team, and performed in his own restaurants. Now a PNW resident, we're excited to welcome him to PSTOS and CCA. Mark your calendar!



Sunday, December 1

► Looking ahead to 2014—Plan now to celebrate Valentine's day with DONNA PARKER



Ever a favorite, Donna returns to entertain at Haller Lake Community Club with her always enjoyable program of pops and special Valentine's Day music.

Sunday, February 9, 2014

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.

Other NW Theatre Organ News

Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

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

Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon

www.lincolnthetheatre.org

Columbia River Theatre Organ Society

www.croonline.org

Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre Organ Society

www.mountbakertheatre.com

Spokane's First Nazarene Theatre Organ Society

www.sfnatos.org

Oregon Chapter ATOS, Portland

[http://www.theatreorgans.com/
oregon/ocatos/ocatos2.htm](http://www.theatreorgans.com/oregon/ocatos/ocatos2.htm)

From The MAILBOX

Dear Editors,

I was interested to read the review of the Atlanta convention - and a bit envious. Several times I've been a guest artist at the Center for Puppetry Arts which is located about a mile north of the Fox Theater. So I'm quite familiar with Atlanta. The last time, Donna Parker made arrangements for me to see the Mighty Mo and I got to play it. Gulp! Ken Double and Douglas sat behind me in the house - probably with fingers stuffed into their ears and deep anguish on their faces. However they didn't go screaming for mercy to the nearest exit. You're probably more accustomed to playing in large spaces but the double delay in that house really threw me - plus a cypher in the Vox the entire time. Still, it was fun. There's nothing like playing (or attempting to play) a real theatre organ.

Otto, my cat, is not a music lover. He'll tolerate about half an hour before he begins vocal protests. If that doesn't work, he will hop onto the heel rest under the bench and start swatting, sans claws, at my left foot. Sheesh, even cats are music critics.

...Luman Coad, British Columbia

Work continues on the Paramount Wurlitzer, as reported by Phil Hargiss

After a series of delays, the hard-working Seattle Paramount organ crew completed the first in a series of projects to upgrade the house-left organ infrastructure. The goal is to correct deficiencies in the original installation and in subsequent revisions made by a couple generations of predecessors.

Why are we doing this? Wurlitzer opus 1819 was installed in the Paramount (then Seattle) Theatre during January and February of 1928. Most Publix 1 installations included two chambers, Main on the left, and Solo on the right; but in a few examples, including ours, the Main chamber was split into two chambers. Stencils on some of the chamber components specify either "Upper Main" or "Lower Main", although the console designates them "Main" and "String" respectively. The latter designations are used in the rest of this article.

When the theatre opened, the upper portions of the organ grilles were covered with heavy drapery, which seriously muted the sound from the Main chamber. To alleviate this condition, most of the contents of the Main (two manual chests with five ranks of pipes) were moved in December of 1929 to the String chamber, where they remained for many years. The Pedal offsets and all the regulators remained in the Main chamber. Eventually, the drapery was removed from in front of the grilles, and the transplanted parts were returned to the Main chamber.

But the second move didn't simply reverse the first. The Main manual chests had originally been installed on one level, and all the offset chests had been winded from the manual chest regulators, which meant the chamber was really crowded, and all the bass pipes were tremmed (not unusual for an original installation). The second move cannibalized some of the original framing to put the manual chests on two levels, and added two non-Wurlitzer winkers to supply offset chests with untremmed wind. This freed up some floor space, but produced an improvised-looking structure that was not as robust as we would have liked. Additionally, the Flute/Clarinet tremulant was mounted on a shelf attached to the wall, and doesn't appear to be original equipment (it has an older magnet, and no muffler box). The wall to which the tremulant shelf was attached has suffered earthquake damage, and is now of questionable structural integrity. As a final insult, the added winkers are winded with flexible conductors, some of which are deteriorating and leaking noisily; and both the Tibia and Bourdon offsets are supplied by a single winker, with neither offset having correct pressure.

What are we doing? We want to revise the Main chamber framing in order to create an integrated structure that conforms to (or exceeds) original Wurlitzer standards and doesn't depend on an unsound wall; we want to replace foreign components with original Wurlitzer (or Wurlitzer-replica) components; and we want to replace flex conductors with rigid PVC pipe wherever practical.

To this end, we have obtained an original Wurlitzer regulator to supply 15" untremmed wind to the Diaphone and Tuba (and possibly Tibia) offsets; Bob Otey is refurbishing the regulator. We also plan to obtain a Wurlitzer-replica winker to supply 10" untremmed wind to the Bourdon and Flute offsets. We have obtained poplar lumber in Wurlitzer dimensions (1-1/4 x 4" and 1-1/4 x 5"), and have used it to replace improvised framing components and to construct a free-standing shelf,



on which we have mounted both the Tibia and Flute/Clarinet tremulants, which are now connected with 2-1/2" PVC windline. **See photo above.** (At some time in the past, both tremulants had their input gates removed, and the Tibia tremulant had been connected with 3" zinc windline, which dumped an excessive amount of air; the original blueprints specify 2-1/2".) We now have a rigid structure that unifies the framing for both manual chests, the Tuba offset rack, two of the four Diaphone racks, and a new tremulant shelf.

What's next? In the Main chamber, we're now ready to install the new regulator and replace the associated failing flex conductors. Further winding revisions will be deferred pending discussions of the feasibility of rearranging some of the offsets (to enable simplifying their winding). In the String chamber, we're ready to replace the temporary Chrysoglott mounting system with Wurlitzer-scale framing. (The Chrysoglott has been relocated within the String chamber at least three times since 1928; we think we finally have it in the most advantageous position.) In the Solo chamber ... well, that's a separate article.

Pages From The Past..1927

Reproduced here are the second two of four interesting letters. These date back to 1927, one a letter from W.W. Kimball Co. detailing some problems, and the other welcoming Seattle's Sandy Balcom to The Robert Morton Organ Co. as a representative.

<small>INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE</small>	ORGAN DEPT. W. W. KIMBALL CO. <small>ESTABLISHED 1857</small> CHICAGO	<small>PLEASE REPLY</small> <input type="checkbox"/> <small>NO REPLY</small> <input type="checkbox"/>
TO Mr. C. M. Balcom, 1421 Third Avenue, Seattle, Wash.	FROM CHICAGO—OFFICE	
SUBJECT:	COPIES TO	
	<small>FULL LIST OF COPIES TO APPEAR ON ORIGINAL AND ALL COPIES</small>	
March 5th, 1927.		
<p>Dear Mr. Balcom:-</p> <p>I have had a very busy time for the past two or three weeks and have delayed answering your letter of the 11th, regarding the new organ at Portland. I have put your account through, which has been O.K.'d and credited up by this time.</p> <p>Regarding the trouble with the Diaphone, this was a mistake on the part of the factory in ordering the wrong blower and our suggestion to try this expedient was to see if it was not possible to make this satisfactory without the exchange of the blowers. We are going to leave the decision in this up to you; if you feel that the result of this Diaphone is not satisfactory to the purchaser, we will of course replace the blower with one that will give the proper pressure. If you feel that it will be satisfactory as is, of course we will appreciate saving this extra expense. This was not done with any idea in trying to cut down the size of the blower, but happened through a mistake in ordering the wrong blower.</p> <p>The question of Tremolos on an theatre organ is apparently something beyond settlement, as we find considerable variation of taste throughout the country. We changed the type of our Vox Humanas some time ago to conform to your suggestions and the suggestions of others who are selling and installing organs to suit the requirements of the type of theatre organists that we know of from here west, and we were getting very satisfactory comments on them. We have sent four or five of these Vox Humanas into the eastern territory, and have had to change everyone of them to get the organ accepted. We found that we were putting more tremolos in an organ than any other organ builder and were running up our costs on this account. We built two or three organs with a tremolo layout similar to Portland and they were accepted as being entirely satisfactory. Since then we have had criticism and are now considering whether it will be better to go back to our old system, which will mean an increase in cost, which may have to mean an increase in price, or to retain this standard. We need the viewpoint of everybody on these questions, and appreciate your comments and criticisms. We are building the organ to sell and of course must be in a position to supply what the customers want.</p>		

Pages From The Past..continued

Robert Morton Organ Co.



GENERAL OFFICES AND FACTORY
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

EASTERN EXECUTIVE OFFICES
NEW YORK CITY

BUILDERS OF
THE ROBERT MORTON ORGAN

Cable Address: "ROMORTON"

BRANCH OFFICES
CHICAGO
SAN FRANCISCO
LOS ANGELES
PORTLAND
SEATTLE
DENVER

VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

November 7, 1927

Mr. C. M. Balcom
114 East 51st St.
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Balcom:

I have heard recently that there was some talk of your joining our forces. Mr. Charles came in today and was very glad to say that they had made a deal with you so that you are now with the Robert Morton Organ Co.

I take the time to write you to express my pleasure in knowing the I am again closely associated with you. It brings back pleasant memories and I do not hesitate to say that your career as an organ builder has been such that one of your teachers, at least, was not ashamed of your accomplishments. Other men who have had a greater opportunity than you had with me but who refused to benefit by them in the early days, are today walking the streets, half-baked organ men and regret their lost opportunities.

I shall be very pleased to work with you and whenever I send an organ up north I will think of my "Sandy".

With best wishes for you and hope you will have much success, I am

Very sincerely yours,

ROBERT MORTON ORGAN CO.

Leo F. Schoenfeldt
General Superintendent.

LFS:ER

Drive directions to Calvary Christian Assembly

6801 Roosevelt Way NE

SOUTHBOUND I-5

Take exit 171 toward NE 71st St/NE 65th St
Merge onto 6th Ave NE
Take a slight left at NE 71st St
Continue onto NE 70th St
Turn right at Roosevelt Way NE
Destination will be on the right

NORTHBOUND I-5

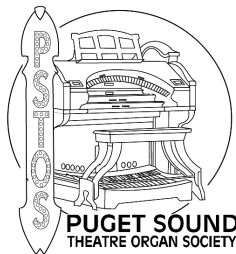
Take exit 171 for WA-522/Lake City Way
toward Bothell
Take a slight right at NE 73rd St
Take the 1st right onto Roosevelt Way NE
Destination will be on the right

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

Rossiter and Eveland Entertain on Evans Wurlitzer



The sunny Sunday afternoon of August 4 saw a sizable crowd of PSTOS members at the home of Russ and Jo Ann Evans for a delightful afternoon of music on their 3/18 Wurlitzer.

The program opened with a Huntley-Brinkley-style exchange between Russ and Jo Ann covering frequently asked questions about their instrument. After introductions by emcee Bob Zat, attendees were treated to performances by two talented organists. First on the bench was Harvey Rossiter, currently noted for his Saturday evening concerts at the Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon. He treated the audience to jazz and Broadway standards for nearly an hour entirely from memory, including such favorites as "Misty" and "Tea for Two."

Following a brief stretch break, Pete Eveland resumed the program with more classic tunes played from memory, several of which, like "Old Man River" and "Swanee," reflected his days as staff musician on the Mississippi Delta Queen steamboat. He ended the program with a medley of patriotic numbers, including "The Battle Hymn

of the Republic" and the theme songs of every one of the armed forces.

Attendees lingered after the concert to examine the console, view the pipework, and enjoy strawberry cheesecake and refreshments on the back patio. Several were heard to comment that they had rarely heard such a variety of tunes in one program, and that the Evans organ was in top form, which it certainly was.

Without a doubt, everyone had an enjoyable time, and was grateful to the Evanses for hosting the event. It had originally been planned to be held at the home of Jack and Mary Lou Becvar, but was moved due to Jack's recent medical challenges. We hear that he is doing well now and wish him a speedy and full recovery.

LEFT: Harvey and Pete share the spotlight following the event.

BELOW: Members enjoyed refreshments while catching up with friends.

