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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 24, No. 10-11

October–November, 2013

A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



DECK THE HALLS!

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAM!

RING THE BELLS!

With **PETE EVELAND**
at the Mighty Wurlitzer

Haller Lake Community Club
12579 Densmore Ave. N. • North Seattle

Welcome the season in a big way! Join your PSTOS friends for a fun afternoon with your favorite holiday music, singalongs, food, beverages, and great fun!

Sunday, December 8

1:00—PSTOS Annual Meeting and election of 2014 officers

2:00—Program

Refreshments—Holiday sweets, punch, coffee, tea

ADMISSION

PSTOS Members \$10 • Non-Members \$15

Age 16 and under FREE



Hailing from the midwest, Pete has enjoyed numerous musical experiences including organist/pianist/calliope player on the Mississippi Delta Queen, organist for the Cincinnati Bengals and the Cincinnati Stingers hockey team, staff organist for the Wurlitzer Organ Co., and more. In August he performed for PSTOS at the Evans' home and received rave comments! Pete excels playing ragtime and pop music of all types. *Don't miss this special event...a great way to launch the holiday season!*

DRIVE DIRECTIONS: 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.

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
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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Haller Lake keys—Bob Zat
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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

Greetings PSTOS members,

Fall is in the air! As I write, I'm enjoying a typical Seattle rainy day. If you are like me, you kind of look forward to a rainy day.



Thankfully the rain on September 15 didn't keep many, if any, from getting out for the David Gray concert. Maybe it even convinced a few to spend that Sunday afternoon inside. I don't think any left with regrets. David is a talented musician! A big thank you goes to the program committee and especially to Russ Evans for arranging for David to come and play for us. David's first selection was "Put on a Happy Face," and I don't think any of the 170 in attendance could help but leave the concert with a happy face. We had 30 guests who attended because many of you took advantage of the free guest ticket offer advertised in the last Pipeline. Thank you! We hope that many will be back for future events.

This was our last concert at Calvary for a few months as we gear up to go into the next phase of the Calvary organ project, updating the relay and console. Be looking for updates in future *Pipelines*, but in the meantime, be considering what you can do financially to keep this project moving "full steam ahead."

We plan to have the project finished by mid-2014 and have begun planning a line-up of concerts to share and show off the new sounds of the Calvary organ.

Enjoy the rest of the *Pipeline* and I hope to see you on December 8 at our annual meeting and holiday social at Haller Lake.

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.

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

► Annual Holiday Program featuring **PETE EVELAND at Haller Lake Community Club (Note venue change)**

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 HLCC.



Sunday, December 8, 1:00 pm

► 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

► "Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer" with **RAY HARRIS and JO ANN EVANS** at the Evans Wurlitzer and piano

Ray and Jo Ann will again entertain with a social afternoon of music, smiles and food.

Sunday, July 20, 2014

► **JONAS NORDWALL at the Merlyn Johnson Wurlitzer in Tacoma**

What a combo—Jonas and Merlyn's magnificent Wurlitzer!

Saturday, September 13, 2014

► **DAVE WICKERHAM returns by popular demand**

The CCA organ will be back online and sounding better than ever. Can't wait!

Sunday, October 19, 2014

Calvary Christian Assembly

Scholarship Recipient Jesse Zylstra Attends POE-Technical

PSTOS Scholarship Committee members are pleased to report that this summer PSTOS scholarship recipient Jesse Zylstra attended the Pipe Organ Encounter-Technical sponsored by the Tacoma Chapter of the AGO. In contrast to other POE's which focus on organ playing, the POE-Tech is a week-long experience which focuses on how the organs are made and how they work. Participants spend much of the week actually working in an organ shop, and in this case, these young people worked in the shops of Paul Fritts and Martin Pasi. They also see a variety of instruments in

the area. In a single word, Jesse summarized his experience as "fantastic." Then he made a number of comments including the following:

"It is nearly impossible to narrow down my favorite instrument or my favorite day in the entire event, but my favorite part was meeting Paul Fritts and Martin Pasi, seeing their shops, and hearing them talk about organ building and the history of organ building techniques. They put a great deal of care into everything they do and it certainly shows. It is inspiring to see experts at work doing what they love."

Concerning the visit of the group to

Wurlitzer Manor in Gig Harbor, he said, "I've seen, played, and worked on theater organs before. Most of my peers with me in the POE-Tech have never seen theater organs or played one. Some never knew what they sounded like. I was quite pleased to see that nearly everyone had an ear-to-ear grin on their faces when they heard the impressive playback of a concert by Jonas Nordwall, which included many of the percussions available in the instrument."

We wish Jesse the very best as he continues his studies in music and organ at the University of Idaho this fall. " ...Carl Dodrill

Tennessee Pipes & Parts Update

On Friday morning August 23 a crew of eight PSTOS members met at Dave Luttinen's house in Mountlake Terrace for a "Pipe Sorting Party." In addition to consuming a couple dozen donuts and more than a gallon of coffee, the crew managed to sort through many boxes and crates of pipes to match up some complete sets in decent condition.

For those who are not familiar with how PSTOS ended up with the Tennessee collection... In the Fall of 2010 PSTOS received a donation of a large inventory of pipes, windchests and other items from Bob Cowley of Newport, Tennessee. Mr. Cowley was a part of a group of investors who acquired the parts many years ago at auction in hopes of opening a pizza & pipes type restaurant in Springfield, Ohio. Those plans never materialized and Mr. Cowley eventually bought out the other investors. He later moved the parts to his new home in Tennessee. The primary motivation for PSTOS to accept the collection was to obtain the Seattle Coliseum 1918 four-manual Wurlitzer console. In exchange for the getting the console, Mr. Cowley required PSTOS to take a 30 foot truck of other theatre organ items. The plan was to sell off the extra components to help offset retrieval costs.

The windchests and other non-pipework items are located at Tom Blackwell's house in Issaquah and are fully inventoried. So far,

items totaling \$2,425.00 have been sold. All of the pipework is stored at Dave Luttinen's house in Mountlake Terrace. Unfortunately, Mr. Cowley did not store and organize the pipework very well while in Tennessee so PSTOS crews have spent many hours sorting out individual sets of pipes in order to prep them for sale.

So far the following sets have been sorted: Wurlitzer Kinura, Austin Clarinet, Gottfried Vox, Page Labial Oboe, Moller French Horn (dome top), Cor Anglais TC, Moller Trompette (two sets, each nice spotted metal). Still to be sorted include a couple sets of Tibias, a Kimball Violin Diapason, a Kimball Trumpet, Kimball Tuba Horn, a wood harmonic flute and small scale stopped flute.

According to Bob Cowley, the Wurlitzer Kinura set is from Big Bob's Pipe Dream restaurant in Burien (operated in the late 1970's). Local legend has it that these Kinura pipes were "borrowed" from the Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon sometime in the mid-1970s. The low CC pipe went missing at this time (matching the set obtained from Tennessee). The PSTOS Board felt strongly that this set should first be offered for sale to the Lincoln Theatre. Tom was in touch with the theatre's executive director and organ crew lead Fred Beeks but there were not interested in having the set back so it will be offered for sale to the general public or used in another PSTOS project.

Welcome to our recent new

PSTOS members!



Warren Axtell

Shoreline

• **Earl and Naoma Blumer**
Seattle

• **Marian & Larry Brammer**
Seattle

• **Bruce Bullis & Gia Lanigan**
Castle Rock, WA

• **Herbert Cihla**
Seattle

• **William Habermann**
Tacoma

• **Tony Jagow**
Fall City

• **Joe Peer**
Tacoma

• **Martin Riedel**
Seattle

• **Glen Winship & Ernie Moy**
Federal Way

Nominating Committee appointed

President Jeff Snyder, with approval of the Board of Directors, has named Immediate Past President Bob Zat, Barbara Graham and Jo Ann Evans to serve as Nominating Committee for 2014 officers and directors.

A proposed slate will be published in the December *Pipeline* prior to the December 8th Annual Meeting and election of officers.

PSTOS members are invited to submit suggestions for nominations to any Nominating Committee member. Suggestions must be received no later than October 20th.

bob@pstos.org
barb@pstos.org
joann@pstos.org

Pipe sorting crew:

Dave Luttinen

Bob Buchholz

Dave Johnston

Phil Hargiss

Jon Beveridge

Jeff Snyder

Gil Drynan

Not pictured:

Tom Blackwell,

(photographer)



Pages From The Past..1925

Marr & Colton Pipe Organs—two perspectives!

It has been said...

An evaluation by David L. Junchen in "Encyclopedia of the American Theatre Organ, Volume 1."



David Jackson Marr, (1882-1951)

There is one characteristic in which Marr & Colton organs stand alone and that is their quality—or, more precisely, the lack thereof. Marr & Colton is at the absolute bottom of the quality scale. No other commercial instruments were built so cheaply. Wherever a corner could be cut, it was, and then some. David Marr was sharp. He knew exactly how thin a piece of lumber to use, how green it could be, and how small a pneumatic it could make and still be barely functional. Throughout the organ the same design concept is apparent: Cut every corner possible, eliminate every frill and make every part as cheaply as possible and still have it marginally functional. The company's advertising slogan was "America's finest organ." This was a joke! Even David Marr admitted privately that the organs were deliberately built to last only ten years. "After that they should buy a new one!" was his philosophy.



John J. Colton

But quoting from a Marr & Colton promotional brochure published in 1925...

"This company is recognized in the organ field for the high quality of the instruments manufactured."

History—By Way of Introduction

It is interesting to know that the Marr & Colton Company was organized at Warsaw, N.Y., in 1915—ten years ago—by David Marr and John J. Colton.

Starting in a small way, in an old brick building not much larger than a garage, this company has developed an organization of organ craftsmen that is recognized in the organ field for the high quality of the instrument manufactured.

David Marr started with the Electric Organ Company, Birkenhead, England, in 1892. After a number of years with this concern he was later associated with Norman Brothers & Beard, Norwich, England, builders of the famous Cathedral organs. Mr. Marr came to the United States in 1904 and joined the Hope-Jones & Harrison Company of Watsessing, N.J., and later joined with E.M. Skinner Company of Boston.

John J. Colton started with Hope-Jones Organ Company of Elmira, N.Y., in 1908, specializing in voicing under Mr. Hope-Jones, who was recognized as the authority on tonal construction of the organ.

The Marr & Colton Company do not build stock organs. There is no piece-work construction and every craftsman is given all the time necessary to produce the finest quality of work that is possible.

Building the Organ "On Paper"

THE first step in building every Marr & Colton organ is to plan it first on paper in the drafting room—the console, the arrangement of accessories, the acoustic requirements, the scales, the stops and the design and layout of

different sections of organ for each installation. From our records and drawings it is possible to duplicate any organ we have ever built. As stated before we do not build stock organs. Every instrument we produce is built to suit the acoustic requirements of the building in which it is to be installed, ensuring both purchaser and the designer of the organ the best and most successful instrument.

Special Materials Used

GREAT care must be taken in raw materials used in pipe organs. The wood pipes, shutters, chests, consoles, and other framework is built from carefully selected well seasoned kiln dried first stock, California sugar pine, a wood which has been found to be far superior to any other for organ building. It is more responsive to tone quality especially in the making of wood flute pipes and large pedal bass stops.

The best grade of American leather is used and on the smaller bellows or pneumatics the leather is imported from England, being the very best obtainable. Finest white sheep skin is used for the larger bellows.



Boasted in this brochure:
"The ease of playing the Marr & Colton Organ has made it the favorite among our leading organists."



LEFT—The Marr & Colton conference room. John Colton is seated at the far end of the table. David Marr is facing the camera.

Pages From The Past..continued



Assembling of relays



Forming of main cables



Assembling the switchboard

The Many, Many Different Operations

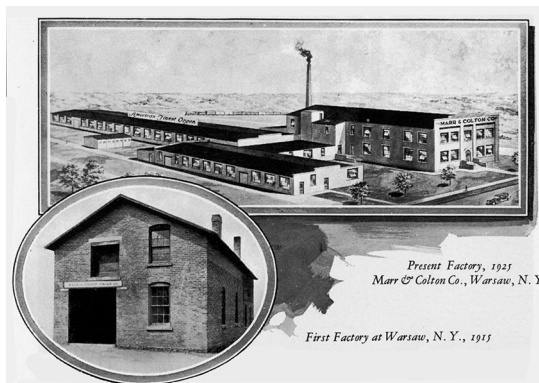
You will see from the pictures in this little booklet the many intricate operations to building an organ. The sawing and sanding of endless pieces of wood for frames, cases, chests, wood pipes, etc., the gluing of square wood pipes, of frames, forming the lips. The gluing of leather lips on wood and reed pipes. The building the heart and nerve centers, the building the backbone of an organ with its thousands and thousands of feet of small wires—all so carefully joined with lines to the consoles.



Metal pipe department

The Voicing of an Organ

BEAUTY of tone and quality is of the utmost importance and receives the attention it demands under the supervision of the heads of the company. Skill in voicing added to the proper scaling of the pipes with good material produces the tone which has made America's Finest Organ possible. Balance of tone is an important feature and is carefully studied and the organ is regulated in the building after installation, thus every stop blends and contrasts properly. An unbalanced organ will soon pall on the ear. A true purity of tone is thus obtained in Marr & Colton organs.



SUMMARY—David L. Junchen in "Encyclopedia of the American Theatre Organ"

Over half of Marr & Colton sales were to locations within 300 miles of the factory. An unusual concentration of sales in Detroit was due to the talents of Reginald Webb, a crackerjack salesman. He maintained a showroom in Detroit equipped with two Marr & Coltons: a 3/10 and a 2/4. The larger organ was broadcast over WJR Radio and the smaller was rented out for practice.

Marr & Colton built about 300 theatre organs, ranking as the country's sixth largest theatre organ builder. A few church organs were also built but the firm never gained a foothold in that market, with the result that when the demand for theatre organs died, so did Marr & Colton.

LEFT—The Marr & Colton factory in 1925, Warsaw, N.Y. **In oval**, the first factory, 1915.

Drive directions to Haller Lake Community Club

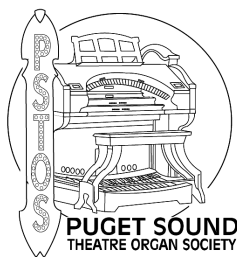
12579 Densmore Ave. N. • North Seattle

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PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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David Gray "Boy Wonder" Thrills Fans at Calvary

Review by Jamie Snell, photos by Gil Drynan



David Gray at the Calvary organ console

Seattle theatre organ fans were treated to a first-class performance on Sept. 15 by Scottish organist David Gray at Calvary Christian Assembly's 3/19 Kimball-Wurlitzer. Hailing from Glasgow, the 22-year-old Gray recently graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he had a full scholarship, and had just completed a concert tour of Australia and New Zealand. His youthful demeanor, understated humor, and endearing accent brought immediate rapport with the audience, but these were only icing on the cake compared to his high level of musicality, expression, and technique throughout this ambitious concert.

The program struck a balance between familiar standards such as "The Darktown Strutters' Ball" and "Somewhere," and some rarely heard numbers, including Ron Goodwin's harmonically intriguing "Pantella," the Scottish folk tune "The Skye

Boat Song," and "Motion Picture Herald March" by Jim Riggs, known to Seattleites as house organist at the Paramount. Gray also included two extended and carefully arranged medleys honoring the composers Harry Warren and George Gershwin. But perhaps the most remarkable item was not at the organ: his piano performance of the final movement of Alkan's "Concerto for Solo Piano," which was nothing short of breathtaking and got its own standing ovation.



David's stunning piano performance brought enthusiastic audience members to their feet for a standing ovation

Gray took care to show off the organ's many varied timbres, using the Echo chamber at the rear several times for antiphonal effects, and the instrument sounded better than ever. Thanks to video projections on two large screens, the audience got close-up views of his manual technique, registration changes, and pedal work. He was fully in control of the instrument, despite some problems with the mechanism. These are

due to be remedied in the coming months with the installation of a new digital relay, several new pipe ranks, and other improvements, funded by PSTOS and led by Greg Smith and Russ Evans. Gray mentioned these coming upgrades and said he was looking forward to returning when they're complete. Judging from the standing ovations and comments afterwards, the audience is clearly looking forward to his return as well!

Many thanks to Carl Dodrill and JoAn Andenes of the Seattle AGO Chapter for collaborating with PSTOS on this concert. Thanks also to Calvary Christian Assembly for their cooperation, particularly Jeff Snyder, who is both PSTOS President and liaison to CCA, and to Jo Ann Evans and many other PSTOS volunteers for all their work to make this event happen. Finally, thanks to Russ Evans and Greg Smith for their tireless work to put the organ in top condition for the concert.



Jon Beveridge and JoAn Andenes greeted ticket purchasers for PSTOS and AGO respectively