

PSTOS and KENYON HALL jointly present an afternoon of great theatre organ music featuring...



DONNA PARKER has served as Official Organist for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Product Specialist for Conn Organ Company, Organist for the Los Angeles Sports Arena. She has been staff organist for a number of restaurants including Roaring 20s in Grand Rapids MI, Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis IN, Organ Grinder in Portland, Uncle Milt's in Vancouver WA, Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix and Mesa AZ. In 1996 she received the American Theatre Organ Society's prestigious Organist of the Year Award. Donna has entertained theatre organ audiences internationally, performing in Canada, Austria, Australia, Japan and New Zealand. She has provided daily holiday concerts at the Tropicana Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City NJ. She performs regularly for groups across the U.S.

DONNA PARKER

at the
Kenyon Hall
2/13 Wurlitzer



***Saturday,
April 18, 2 PM***

Kenyon Hall
7904 35th Ave SW • West Seattle

Kenyon Hall is a quaint and popular West Seattle venue offering limited up-front table seating close to the performer, as well as row seating. Gather your friends together and reserve your special table now. Each table seats 4 to 6.

ADMISSION

- **RESERVED table seats** \$14 per person
- **RESERVED row seats** \$10 general, \$8 seniors
- **UNRESERVED row seats** \$12 general, \$10 seniors
- **Elementary, middle & high school students** \$5
- **Pre-school children** free

RESERVE NOW AT kenyonhall@earthlink.net

HOW TO GET THERE—

FROM I-5 SOUTHBOUND take Exit 163 to the West Seattle Bridge. Cross the bridge and drive up the hill to the first lights at 35th Ave. SW. Turn left at the lights. Drive south about 30 blocks. Kenyon Hall is at 7904 35th Ave. SW, just south of Kenyon St. and 35th, on your left. The #21 Metro bus from 1st Ave. stops in front of the Hall. There is ample street parking.

FROM I-5 NORTHBOUND take EXIT 156 toward Tukwila—W. Marginal

Way and merge onto Hwy 599. In about 2 miles it becomes Hwy 99. Drive 3 miles, turn a slight right onto W. Marginal Way S. and drive .4 mile, it will become Highland Park Way SW. Drive about half a mile, turn right onto SW Holden St. Drive half a mile, turn left onto 20th Ave. SW. Drive a few blocks and turn right onto SW Thistle St. Drive .8 mile, turn right onto 35th Ave. SW. Kenyon Hall will be on your right in just a few blocks at 7904 35th Ave SW.

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

VOL. 26, NO. 4 – APRIL 2015

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—Jeff Snyder, jeff@pstos.org

Past Pres.—Bob Zat, bob@pstos.org

Vice President—Russ Evans, russ@pstos.org

Secretary—Susan Buchholz, susan@pstos.org

Treasurer—Jon Beveridge, jon@pstos.org

DIRECTORS

Gil Drynan, gil@pstos.org • Bob Buchholz, bobb@pstos.org

Jake Cihla, jake@pstos.org • Terry Perdue, terry@pstos.org

COMMITTEES

Organ Restoration & Maintenance—Bob Zat

Program Coordinating Team—

Bob Buchholz, Jo Ann Evans, Barb Graham, Ray Harris,
Susan Buchholz, Jamie Snell, Jeff Snyder, Bob Zat

Scholarships—Carl Dodrill, carl@pstos.org

Paramount Volunteer Coordination—Phil Hargiss, phil@pstos.org

Membership Coordinators—Jeff & Rachel Snyder

Haller Lake keys—Bob Zat

Hospitality HLCC—Ellen Sullivan, 206-365-7554

Facebook—Lisa Kuhn, Jeff Snyder

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

Pipeline Editors—Russ & Jo Ann Evans, joann@pstos.org

Pipeline Online Website—Tom Blackwell, tom@pstos.org

LIAISONS

AMICA & POF—Carl Dodrill

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 \$25 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, and your phone number to:

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

**OR...you may 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

It was good to see some of you at Silent Movie Mondays at the Paramount last month. The Paramount crew put in many, many extra hours to have the Wurlitzer back up and playing for Chris Elliott and Tedde Gibson, and it sounded great. Thank you Phil Hargiss, Jake Chila and crew!



This series broke box office records again and we look forward to the next series in June. We are looking at ways of getting Silent Movie Monday patrons to attend PSTOS events.

One component of the March series of particular interest to me was the student program that introduced the Wurlitzer and silent movies to over 300 students from all around the area, many of whom had never before heard a pipe organ. I've been taking my class of third graders to this program for several years now and they enjoy the experience.

Hopefully you have made your reservations to hear Donna Parker on Saturday, April 18. It will be Donna's first concert on the Kenyon Hall organ, and she is looking forward to playing it. You won't want to miss it. I hope to see you there!

ATOS Annual Convention July 2–7, Philadelphia, PA

ORGANISTS

Jonas Nordwall

Peter Conte

Ron Rhode

Mark Herman

David Peckham

Andrew Van Varick

Dave Wickerham

Lance Luce

Dick Smith

John Baratta

Hector Olivera

Simon Gledhill

Richard Hills

Dr. Steven Ball

Don Kinnier

VENUES

Longwood Gardens

Colonial Theatre

Dickinson High School

Wanamaker organ (Macy's)

Grand Theatre

Broadway Theatre

Boardwalk Hall

Don't delay—make your reservations NOW!

This will be a truly phenomenal event!

For all the details, click here:

<http://www.atos.org/2015-convention>

PSTOS Coming Events

► DONNA PARKER at Kenyon Hall



A first for Donna at Kenyon.

Sat., April 18, 2 PM

Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

► JONAS NORDWALL



**The 2nd of the 2015
"Pipe Organ Pops"
series**

Sun., June 14, 2 PM

Calvary Christian Assembly

► Catered Italian dinner with PETE EVELAND at the HLCC Wurlitzer

Plus RAY HARRIS and
his accordion.

Sunday, August 9

**Haller Lake
Community Club**



► JOHN ATWELL, from Melbourne, Australia, and the 3rd of the 2015 "Pipe Organ Pops" series



Sun., Sept. 27, 2 PM

Calvary Christian Assembly

► HOLIDAYS at HALLER —Our own JAMIE SNELL will headline the day with "Old Fashioned Christmas Fun, Music and Grand Singalong!"

Our PSTOS holiday celebration returns to HLCC with music, food, fun, and camaraderie.

Sun., December 6, 2 PM

**Haller Lake
Community Club**



From the MAILBOX

Several interesting letters have arrived this month

From Canadian member Luman Coad, a comment and a correction to last month's Pages From the Past...and some memories of Tom Hazelton's early concert at the San Francisco Granada...

Dear editors,

Many thanks for the latest PSTOS newsletter. A note about the Howard Vollum Studio Wurlitzer. During Tom Hazelton's class at a Colorado State University theatre organ workshop, he told of his first public concert on a theatre organ. He and some college friends finished refurbishing the Paramount Theater's Wurlitzer on Market Street in San Francisco when his friends said, "Tom, you're the organist. Do a concert."

"This is the piece I opened with," Tom said and he began to play Granada. I almost fell out of my seat. After the selection, I interrupted to say the program opened with a black & white movie of the Wurlitzer factory, the railway freight cars with "Wurlitzer" and horse-drawn wagons carrying the huge crates up Market Street. Only when the theater's original façade appeared on the screen did the organ thunder the opening notes of Granada." Tom asked how I knew and I replied, "I was there." Another voice towards the back of the CSU auditorium said, "So was I." Both Doug Thompson and I were at Tom's first public concert on a theatre organ.

A further note. The two articles say the theatre was originally named the Paramount and later renamed the Granada. I think the names are reversed. In the early 1960s when Tom played the concert, the theater was the Paramount. The original name was the Granada and that's why Tom opened the concert with that number.

A couple weeks ago while I was in Los Angeles, a friend took me to the Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar. When the tour reached the music room, I asked Kyle Irwin, the curator, if he'd play a Tom Hazelton number. He said to stay after the rest of the people were ushered out and he'd play one. But after escorting everybody out, he returned and told me to play the organ. And my brain vapourized! "Organ? What's that? Keyboard? Never heard of one.

What's Middle C?" Absolutely everything vanished from my brain. A total dork. But Kyle was very nice and said to let him know the next time I get to L.A. and to bring some music. I'm still kicking myself...

Luman Coad, Garden Bay, B.C., Canada

Jack and Betty Laffaw, who owned the Bellevue Pizza & Pipes restaurant, send news of the Olympia Rotary celebration of Andy Crow's lifelong service to the club...

Dear editors,

On March 9, the Olympia Rotary Club honored Andy Crow at a special Rotary meeting at the Washington Center for Performing Arts. They recognized him for his lifetime of service to the club as a member and accompanist, and also the greater Olympia community, at a very well attended catered luncheon attended by 110 members and guests, and held on the stage of the theater.

Jack's second cousin, Chuck Fowler is past president and a Program Committee member for the club organization and he invited Sharon Stearns to play the organ which was donated and restored by Andy at the Center. She actually "blew them away" with her dialogue and musical renditions. She told how she used to watch him play when she was 9 and would ask him how to get different voices out of the organ. Over half of the audience moved to theater seating and listened while she entertained them all.

At one point Chuck, who emceed the program, handed the microphone over to Andy, asking him about his crow that he displayed wherever he played. He brought down the house telling them when he was a 7th grade teacher, one of his science students brought him a dead crow. The boy's father was a taxidermist and had it stuffed for him. Later, one of his fans made one for



him and dressed it for the different seasons of the year. The elegantly-dressed "stuffed" crow graced the consoles of many theatre organs that Andy played in subsequent

years, including at all the Pizza & Pipes restaurants.

We have visited Andy several times at Panorama City with Margaret and Dick Daubert, so Chuck asked us to pick Andy up for the program. He's failed physically and uses a walker, but his mind is just as keen as ever. He was a very happy man that day and when we left him, he said, "I'm just going to sit and reminisce about the memories of the day!"

Always, Jack and Betty Laffaw

From member Fred Beeks, news about the Raymond Theater Wurlitzer which he and Dick Morrison have recently "resuscitated" after 12 years of silence!

Hi,

You may like to know that Dick Morrison and I got the Wurlitzer in the Raymond Theater playing. According to the manager it had not played for 12 years. We replaced one regulator top and drained about three gallons of water out of a PVC wind line. We are going back to set the pressures on the Solo side. Sometime back the pressure was set too high. It is in a neat little restored theater and the staff are thrilled to have it playing again.

...Fred Beeks



EDITOR'S NOTE: The Raymond Theatre's 2/5 Wurlitzer Style 150 "Special" (opus #1934) was shipped from the factory on August 17, 1928. In 1952 it was removed by Alden Bice. After his death the family donated the organ back to the city of Raymond and it was re-installed in the theatre. When the re-install was supposedly finished, a sizable group of PSTOS members organized a weekend visit to Raymond to attend the grand reopening of the Wurlitzer by Andy Crow. Unfortunately, the organ wasn't quite ready to be played, and Andy accompanied the silent movie using the house piano!

Interesting photos of the theatre, both exterior and interior, may be see here:

<http://www.pstos.org/instruments/wa/raymond/raymond.htm>

PAGES FROM THE PAST... *Treasures from the Archives*

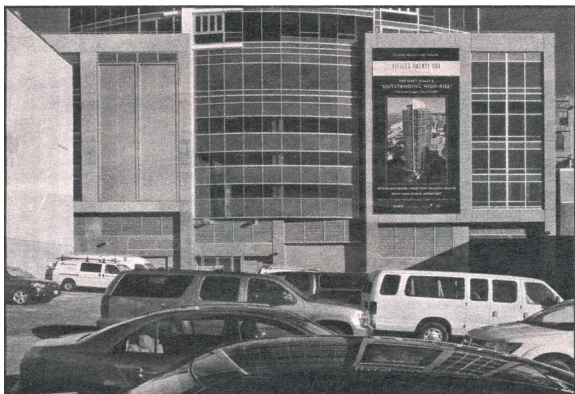
Showing Off A Wondrous Wurlitzer

These two pages are reproduced with permission from Paul Dorpat, author of the popular *Seattle Times* column "Now & Then." The Liberty Theatre story was originally published January 24, 2010.



COURTESY OF LAWTON GOWEY

THEN: *Seattle Architect Paul Henderson Ryan designed the Liberty Theatre around the first of many subsequent Wurlitzer organs used for accompanying silent films in theatres across the land. The Spanish-clad actor-dancers posed on the stage apron are most likely involved in a promotion for a film — perhaps “Don Q, Son of Zorro” (1925) or Douglas Fairbanks’ “The Gaucho” (1927) that also played at the Liberty.*



JEAN SHERRARD

NOW: *The curving glass curtain on the west facade of the new Fifteen Twenty-One Second Avenue building can be seen to repeat somewhat the symmetry of the Liberty’s proscenium arch.*

IN THE NOW 55 years since the Liberty Theatre was razed for the big snuggery of parked cars across First Avenue from the Pike Place Market, a few oil-stained stalls have taken the places of the Liberty Theatre’s 1,600 seats.

“The only theatre built around an organ!” That’s how popular organist Eddie Clifford described the Liberty in 1954, which was 40 years after it opened as one of the first big theaters built in Seattle for movies rather than a mix of film and variety.

The organ sat front-center, and from its seat some of the best players

of its silent-film glory days accompanied the films. Half-hidden behind the grills to the sides and above the grand proscenium arch that framed the movie screen were the pipes and special machines that made the romantic Wurlitzer sounds and effects like cooing doves, canary trills and much more. The tallest pipe (32 feet) was removed for repairs when its vibrations cracked the plaster.

In 1929, the Wurlitzer was quieted as the talkies took over and the screen was widened. Depression-era attendance was still good as management bucked Hollywood’s price policy with its own “New Declaration of Independence: announcing reduced ticket prices. While planning to widen the screen for CinemaScope in 1955, management changed its mind and razed the Liberty instead, complaining that there were “not enough good films: but plenty of cars needing to be parked. The organ was saved by the music department at Pacific Lutheran University. Now it is in Spokane’s First Nazarene Church, where it has its own chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society. One of the highlights of the society’s 2010 convention this summer in Seattle will be a cross-state bus excursion to Spokane and the Liberty’s Wurlitzer.

Check out Paul Dorpat and Jean Sherrard’s blog at www.pauldorpat.com

PAGES FROM THE PAST... *Continued*

Seattle's famous Liberty Theatre, home to Wurlitzer's first truly successful theatre organ, opened its doors in 1914, and was razed in 1955.

The Pantages Theatre opened in 1915 and lasted a decade longer, falling to the wrecking ball in 1965.

From Palace To Parking Garage



COURTESY OF LAWTON GOWEY

THEN: *With the stone federal post office at its shoulder to the left, and the mostly brick Cobb Building behind, the tiled Pantages Theatre at Third Avenue and University Street gave a glow to the block.*



NOW: *By one account, when Seattle Center was developed as an enhanced performance center after the 1962 World's Fair, the Palomar Theatre lost too many onstage bookings to survive, and a parking lot replaced it.*

with office blocks. Because this was also the anchor for Pantages' chain of theaters, the grand promoter himself took many of these offices facing Third Avenue. By 1926 there were 72 theaters in the Pantages circuit, which meant that traveling stage acts could be contracted for more than a year of work, and deals could be made.

The standard fare was a mix of vaudeville and film, and some more famous performers like Al Jolson, Buster Keaton and Sophie Tucker appeared at the Pantages in both. After the Pantages became the Palomar in 1936, and then owned and operated by John Danz and his Sterling Theatre Co., film continued in a mix with stage acts, and Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Peggy Lee, and a fresh Frank Sinatra climbed to this stage.

The "Singing MC" Jerry Ross managed the Palomar from 1937 to 1945, and for more years than those ran a theatrical booking agency out of the sixth floor. Ross was MC for the Pantages-Palomar's "Last Curtain Party" on May 2, 1965. A year later, the finishing touches were being bolted to the University Properties parking garage that took the place of the then merely 50-year-old classy landmark.

AT THE NORTHEAST corner of Third Avenue and University Street, Alexander Pantages opened this terra-cotta landmark in 1915, a likely date for this view of it during late construction. The tall "Pantages" sign has not yet been attached to the corner.

Benjamin Marcus Priteca was a mere 23 when he took on the assignment to design the theater. Pantages so admired Priteca that "the vaudeville king" hired him to create scores more of his theaters across the continent.

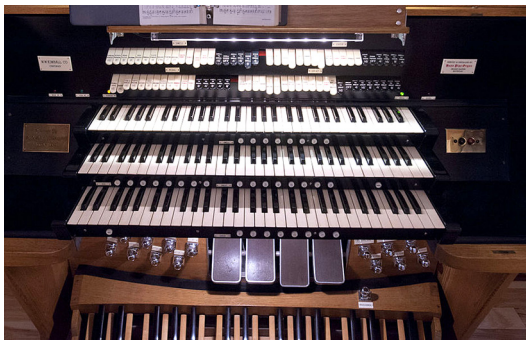
Like this Seattle Pantages, and the surviving Pantages in Tacoma, many of the bigger theaters were fronted

Former PSTOS president Dave Luttinen purchases home in Michigan complete with pipe organ...reprinted below is news from the Grand Rapids MI newspaper

Small house with 2,300-pipe organ sells, buyer moving here from Seattle

GRAND RAPIDS, MI - When David Luttinen of suburban Seattle saw an online video of the "organ house" on Grand Rapids' West Side, he was hooked on the idea of living with a 2,300-pipe church organ.

Luttinen, a retired bus driver, is selling his house in Mountlake Terrace, Wash., and plans to move to Grand Rapids as the new owner of the house that drew international attention for the 32-rank Kimball church organ that takes up half of the bungalow at 1117 Third St. NW.



"A motivating factor for purchase of the home in Grand Rapids is the beauty of the installation and quality of work," Luttinen



said in an email explaining why he and his wife are leaving their friends and family behind for West Michigan.

"The pipes have not been marred by amateur hands, the organ is maintained to excellent standards, and the home itself is a simple work of art."

Luttinen said they plan to close on their pending offer for the house after they sell their current home.

"It is obvious that people do not understand how difficult it is to get time scheduled on a pipe organ these days," wrote Luttinen, who has played the organ since high school.

It's a happy ending for the homeowners and organ's installers, Don Haan, owner of Haan Pipe Organ, and his partner, Guy Vander Wagen.

Haan and Vander Wagen inherited the house from Bill Tufts, who had the organ in his house after buying the instrument in 2002 from Central Reformed Church in Muskegon, which could no longer afford to maintain it.

Luttinen is the ideal owner for the house and the organ, said Haan, who spent countless hours over 2½ years installing and tuning the giant instrument. He and Vander Wagen spent several hours with Luttinen going through the house and the organ when he visited in December.

"We would really like to see this guy get it," said Haan.

Luttinen, like Tufts, also intends to invite area musicians to recitals in the house, he said.

"The organ is maintained to excellent standards.

"It's going to be just like it was before except with a different owner," he said. For Luttinen, the purchase is a mission to preserve the house and its unique legacy.

"My intention is to keep the instrument exactly as it is today, keep Guy and Don involved in its maintenance, and continue to have concerts by the AGO (American Guild of Organists.)"

Luttinen said he was alarmed by some online comments that suggested the organ should be sold or melted down for recycling.



"That made my blood boil," he said. "I have played pipe organs for 47 years as a hobby, though not worthy enough to put on YouTube," he said. "I have saved two theater pipe organs from being taken to the dump but was unsuccessful finding a way to put them together, so they are now under the care of another aficionado."

For realtor Mark Douglas, the pending sale marks the end of a busy time of taking calls from organ lovers all over the globe. While some buyers wanted to turn the house into an entertainment venue or corporate meeting space, they would have encountered zoning restrictions in the quiet neighborhood, he said.

Douglas said he enjoyed showing the house to accomplished organists who wanted to put the big instrument through its paces as part of the showing.

"I got to listen to a private concert on more than one occasion," he said.

Mt. Vernon's Lincoln Theatre invites you to join in celebrating its 89th birthday!

SILENT MOVIE!

THE GENERAL (1928) Starring Buster Keaton

Accompanied by Jeff Fox

Saturday April 25, 7 PM

Lincoln Theatre, 712 S 1st St, Mt. Vernon

**ADMISSION—Same price as in 1926! • Just 35¢ per person!
Also help celebrate PSTOS member Fred Beeks' 80th birthday!!!**

