



PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Volume 27, Nos. 11 – 12 • Nov. – Dec. 2016 www.pstos.org • www.facebook.com/pstos

*First chance to hear the big all new sound of the
Haller Lake Wurlitzer... Don't miss it!*



“Holidays at Haller” and PSTOS Annual Meeting

DON AND HANNAH FEELY

Popular father/daughter organ & vocal duo from Portland, DON and HANNAH FEELY, return with a full program of delightful holiday musical fare!

PLUS...enjoy RAY HARRIS and his accordion with music during refreshments!

Don't miss this special holiday concert with desserts & beverages included!

ADMISSION \$15 per person, 16 & under free
Covers artist fees, refreshments, hall rental, janitorial services

Reservations, please!

joann@pstos.org • 425-485-5465

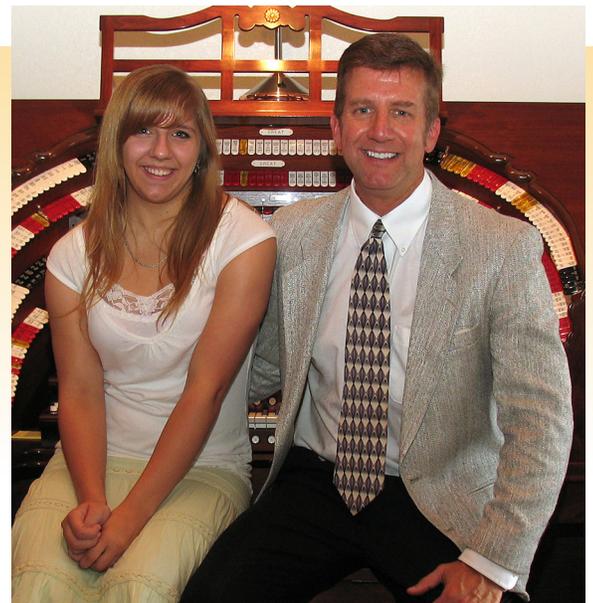
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Annual Membership Meeting 1:00 PM

Program 2:00 PM

Haller Lake Community Club

12579 Densmore Ave. N. • North Seattle



Don Feely began playing the theatre pipe organ as a teen and for two years he performed on the 5/24 Marr & Colton in the Sherwood Oriental Theatre. Following college he traveled for two years across the country as a music director for the Miss Teen America pageants. He was a featured organist at the Organ Grinder Restaurant in Portland for over 10 years, performing on the 4/51 Wurlitzer. Don currently teaches band, choir, and drama in the Canby, OR School District.

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.

Southbound I-5: Use Exit 175 onto N.E. 145th, turn right one block to 1st Ave. N.E. Left (south) continuing through N.E. 130th to N.E. 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 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—TBD
Calvary Christian Assembly—Jeff Snyder

JOINING PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY IS FAST AND EASY!

Simply click on the link below and select your preferred level of membership.

- Secure!
- No checks!
- No stamps!
- A few clicks and it's done!



<http://www.pstos.org/membership/new-member.htm>

PSTOS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Helping deserving young organ students reach their goals.

Did you know?

PSTOS awards scholarships to aid serious young organ students to continue developing their organ performance skills

Do you know a teenage or young adult organist who might be helped by a PSTOS Scholarship?

If so, please contact

Carl Dodrill
PSTOS Scholarship Program
carl@pstos.org
206-236-0067

Students of both classical and theatre organ are considered for scholarships

Applications are accepted any time during the calendar year

Since the inception of the scholarship program, thousands of dollars have been contributed to the scholarship fund, and awarded to worthy young organists. Several recipients have gone on to study organ at colleges and universities.

Your tax deductible contribution is welcome. Make your contribution before year's end to claim it on your 2016 taxes.

Specify **PSTOS Scholarship Fund**.

BE A PSTOS BOOSTER!

Help fill the seats at our programs!
INVITE A FRIEND to attend with you!

Andy Crow Memorial is being planned

As announced in the August Pipeline, our beloved Andy Crow passed away July 12 in Lacey. He suffered from Parkinson's disease. He was 83.

A memorial will be held at Olympia's Washington Center on Andy's birthday, June 8 (Thursday), 2017, at 6 pm.

Watch your Pipelines for updates as more information is made available.

Nominating Committee Report

The PSTOS Nominating Committee presented a proposed slate of 2017 officers and directors to the board at its regular meeting October 27th. The slate was unanimously approved and will be presented for your vote at the annual membership meeting at Haller Lake Community Club December 4th.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at that meeting.

The slate is:

OFFICERS

President – Jamie Snell
 Vice President – Bob Zat
 Past President – Russ Evans
 Secretary – Lee Isaacson
 Treasurer – Jon Beveridge

DIRECTORS

Wendell Brunk (2nd year of 2-year term)
 John Norton (2nd year of 2-year term)
 Jeff Snyder (1st year of 2-year term)
 Barbara Graham (1st year of 2-year term)

We wish to recognize Gil Drynan, retiring Director, for his four years of dedication serving on the board.

HAPPENINGS...

PSTOS

Coming Events

► DON & HANNAH FEELY

Annual "Holidays at Haller"
Christmas Program and
PSTOS Annual Meeting



Back by popular demand, Don and Hannah return with an afternoon of delightful holiday musical fare.

PLUS enjoy holiday refreshments accompanied by **RAY HARRIS** and his accordion.

Sun., Dec. 4, 2016, 2:00 PM
Haller Lake Community Club

Coming in 2017

February 12, Sunday

Another fun Pizza & Pipes day
featuring

DONNA PARKER at the Wurlitzer
Haller Lake Community Club

March 18, Saturday

2017 Theatre Organ Pops featuring London's
RICHARD HILLS
Calvary Christian Assembly

April 9, Sunday

PSTOS/AMICA (Automatic Musical Instrument
Collectors Assn.) joint event with
Cameo performers at the Wurlitzer
Haller Lake Community Club

June 3, Saturday

2017 Theatre Organ Pops featuring
BRETT VALLIANT
Calvary Christian Assembly

October 14, Saturday

2017 Theatre Organ Pops featuring
JERRY NAGANO
Calvary Christian Assembly

December 3, Sunday

Annual Holiday Program
Haller Lake Community Club
Artist to be announced

AGO

Programs of interest

Friday November 18, 12:10 noon

Cheryl Drewes presents a recital on the Brombaugh organ at Christ Episcopal Church, 310 North K Street, Tacoma. Donation at door.

Friday November 18, 7:30 pm

Organ and brass concert on the combined organs by Rosales and Hutchings/Votey at St. James Cathedral, Works by Vierne, Litaize and others. Organist Joseph Adam; Paul Thornock directs that Cathedral Brass ensemble. 804 Ninth Ave, Seattle, 98104. \$15 suggested donation.

Sunday November 20, 2:00 pm

Organ and Trumpet concert at Plymouth Church UCC, 1217 Sixth Ave Seattle 98101, Stephen Distad, organ, Justin Langham, trumpet.

Gobble gobble!

**The PSTOS Board
wishes a
Happy Thanksgiving
to all our
PSTOS friends**



Please consider being a
2017
Theatre Organ Pops
Program Sponsor

Your \$500 sponsorship for one concert in a series will greatly help PSTOS continue presenting world-class programs.

The actual outlay required to present a top tier organist in concert, including artist fee and transportation, organ tuning and preparation, refreshments, program printing and incidental expenses, ranges from \$1600 to \$2200 for each program. When ticket sales fail to cover expenses, a shortfall must be covered. A sponsorship can make all the difference!

Thanks to PSTOS members' willingness to support the huge upgrade to the CCA Kimball-Wurlitzer, it is now one of the finest theatre organs in the Pacific Northwest. Many highly regarded theatre organists are eager to play it. An outstanding series of organists is set for 2017. Your help as a sponsor will be greatly appreciated.

Sponsorships are tax deductible. If you prefer to be an anonymous sponsor, just let Jon know.

Contact Treasurer Jon Beveridge at jon@pstos.org

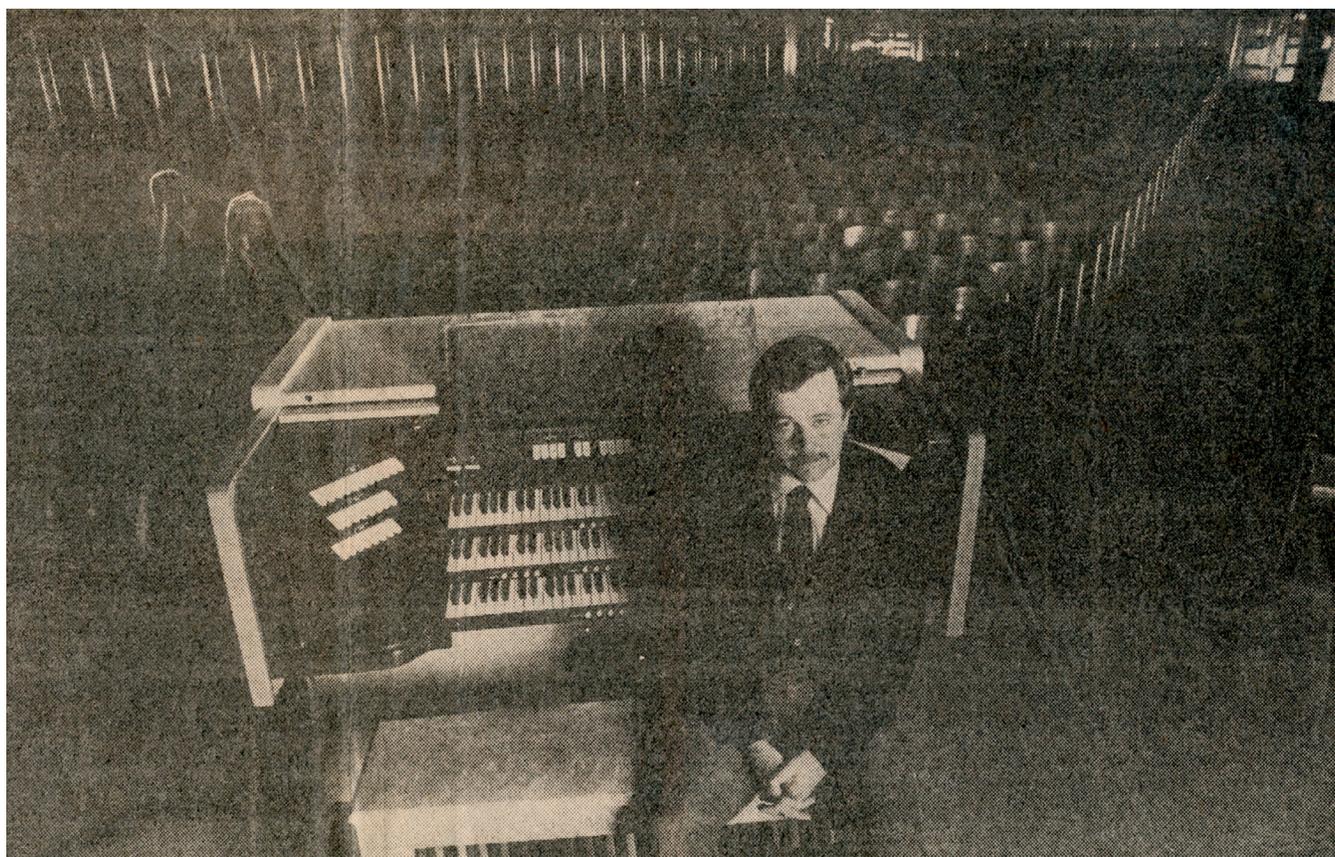
Your hardworking program team will thank you!

PAGES FROM THE PAST...1980

This article is reprinted from *The Seattle Times*, Monday, December 22, 1980

Queen Anne High's organ needs help to the tune of at least \$5,000

by Constantine Angelos, Times education reporter



Ed Billodue, organizer of the Queen Anne High School Organ Society, sits by the classic instrument.

In the days of the silent screen, it lent musical pizzazz to a Charlie Chaplin pratfall and tremulous suspense to a Tom Mix chase.

Later, its drums, horns, bells, gong, siren and cymbals punctuated many a pep rally for the maroon-and-orange of Queen Anne High School's Grizzlies.

But now, the venerable theatre pipe organ in the corner of the Queen Anne auditorium has an uncertain future because the Seattle School Board might close the building in June.

The Puget Sound Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society has

offered to put the organ into "concert condition" if it can use it and the auditorium for a concert during its annual convention here July 1 through 5.

"It's a dandy," said Russ Evans, Seattle society member. "It's a Kimball three-manual (three rows of keys), with eight sets of pipes and all the percussions and sound effects that were used to accompany the silent films — the drums, sirens, bells, gongs. It's a complete theatre organ.

Evans said only about half a dozen are left in the state in public auditoriums, including the one in the Paramount

Theatre here.

C.M. (Sandy) Balcom, 81, now retired, recalls that he originally installed the Queen Anne High organ in the New Everett Theatre in 1926 and his firm continued to give it "dormant service" after the talking motion pictures ended the era of the cinema pipe organ.

Queen Anne's instrumental music teacher in the mid-'50s, Ed Ottum, said the idea to get an organ for the school caught on because the school has such an outstanding auditorium.

"We were trying to get the one down at the Liberty Theatre on First Avenue,

PAGES FROM THE PAST... *Continued*

but Pacific Lutheran University beat us to it,” said Ottum, 66, and also retired. [Editor’s note: The Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer now is installed in Spokane’s First Nazarene Church.]

The school had the money to buy an organ because Otto Luther, Queen Anne’s first principal, was frugal with student-activity funds. In 1956, when his successor, George S. Farmer, was running things, the activity fund had a \$30,000 surplus which downtown administration said had to be spent on the students, shared with the city’s other high schools, or kicked into the district’s general fund.

“We bought new choir robes and band uniforms,” Farmer, 78, said. A 16-millimeter film projector also was purchased to replace the 35-millimeter machine which had fire officials worried, Farmer said.

Farmer and Balcom had been members of the same Rotary club, and even though Balcom had turned over his busi-

ness to his sons by then, he and Farmer kept in touch. Balcom suggested the Everett Theatre organ.

Farmer said that the entire purchase and installation cost was about \$18,000, about \$5,000 going to the school district maintenance department, which had to cut openings in concrete to allow the sound into the auditorium.

Balcom installed the organ and his shop built a new console. The original was a two-manual (two rows of keys), but Ottum wanted a third row to help teach students, Balcom said.

“We kept it in A-1 condition all the years George was there,” Balcom said. Farmer retired in 1967.

By the early 1970s, the organ had fallen into disrepair and disuse. About eight years ago, Ed Billodue, social-studies teacher and yearbook adviser, formed a student Queen Anne Organ Society “because kids had been going into the auditorium and playing around with it.”

The students found it would cost at least \$7,000 to repair the organ so they assumed the task themselves and slowly have brought it back to playing condition.

A few years ago, the Organ Loft Society offered about \$15,000 to “put it into working order and repair it,” but “it was refused by the school district in a typical bureaucratic snafu,” Billodue said.

“All sorts of people are willing to come and tune it at cost, but no one has discussed less than \$5,000, which we don’t have,” Billodue said.

One of the most faithful student workers has been Steve Deibert, 18, now a freshman tenor saxophone player on the University of Washington band. Steve has been coming in each Thursday to work on the organ.

“Many of the notes don’t work, so it’s a job of tracking them down.” Steve said, “For each note, there’s a long distance of wires and relays before you get to the pipe.” Steve said he picked up his electrical skills from his father, Les Deibert, a Boeing engineer.

Richard Taylor, principal, said, “What’s going to happen to that organ is anybody’s guess.”

Balcom, who installed most of the theatre organs throughout the Pacific Northwest, now lives in a condominium about four blocks from Queen Anne High.

It would be a tremendous loss if the organ and the auditorium could not be preserved and used somehow, Balcom observed.

Editor’s note: The Seattle School District closed Queen Anne High School soon after this article appeared in *The Seattle Times*. The auditorium was razed and the main building was remodeled into apartments. The organ was removed by Balcom & Vaughn and readied for installation in the then-newly-created auditorium in Franklin High School.

In the 1990s, PSTOS made numerous attempts to reach out to the Franklin faculty and students with organ programming, but the efforts did not produce positive results.

The organ today is still in Franklin High School but is rarely used, if at all.

Facts About the Pipe Organ

The Queen Anne High School Pipe Organ was purchased by the Student Body at a cost of over \$15,000. It was installed by Balcom and Vaughan and dedicated in November, 1956.

The organ is a used Kimball theater organ, with a three manual console, especially designed and built for the school. It has all-electric remote control pistons with 100 stop tablets, and the organ is divided into two chambers.

The organ is composed of 10 sets of pipes:

Diapason	73 pipes	Dulciana	61 pipes
Tibia	85 pipes	Tuba	73 pipes
Concert Flute	97 pipes	Clarinet	61 pipes
Violin	85 pipes	Kimura	63 pipes
Celesta	73 pipes	Vox Humana	73 pipes
			<u>742 pipes</u>

It contains the following percussions:

Marimba	49 notes	Orchestra Bells	
Xylophone	37 notes	Chimes	37 notes
Glockenspiel	37 notes		<u>20 notes</u>
			<u>180 notes</u>

It will produce the following sound effects:

Snare Drum	Bass Drum
Chinese Block	Cymbal
Tom-Tom	Tympani
Castanet	Triangle
Tambourine	

The concert on this organ is designed to show both the versatility of the organ and the artist. Mr. Nordwall is an accomplished musician and has had a wide range of experience, ranging from the most modern music to the classics. He has promised to display this wide range of music, as well as the wide range of the instrument. This concert should provide an evening of entertainment which organ lovers and music lovers, young and old alike, won't soon forget.

An organ fact sheet handout for a Jonas Nordwall concert at Queen Anne about 1970

Dave Wickerham Outdoes Himself...Again!

Reviewed by Jamie Snell



played so lusciously it brought a tear to this reviewer's eye. Then, for a change of pace, Henry Lodge's 1909 "Temptation Rag," followed by a brief excursion into the hymn book – the Welsh tune "Hyfrydol" (AKA "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!") and "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

One highlight, dedicated to a youthful audience member, was a Disney medley that included "A Spoonful of Sugar" from *Mary Poppins*, "Bibbidi-

Bobbidi-Boo" from *Cinderella*, and the *Mickey Mouse Club March*, complete with audience responses in the slow closing verse ("M-I-C... See you real soon... K-E-Y... Why? Because we *like* you... M-O-U-S-E!"). Another highlight was "Lullaby of Birdland," humorously punctuated by the Woody Woodpecker theme, cuckoo sounds, and other bird calls provided by the organ's toy counter. The first half wrapped up with an Irving Berlin medley, including "Always," "Puttin' on the Ritz," and of course "Cheek to Cheek," then a patriotic group including George M. Cohan's "Yankee Doodle Dandy," and finally "America." But just before departing the stage, the artist reminded the audience to write their song requests for the second half on a clipboard in the lobby ("Now, be nice, please...").

After an intermission featuring yummy snacks courtesy of our friends at Noth-

ing Bundt Cakes, Wickerham returned waving a sheet of paper filled on both sides with audience requests. After a few moments of concentration, viewing the page at various angles to read the scrawling, he proceeded to play an impromptu medley of requested tunes: "The Charleston," "Till There Was You," "The Colonel Bogey March" (from *The Bridge On the River Kwai*), "Waltz of the Flowers" from *The Nutcracker*, variations on "The Glowworm," "The Girl From Ipanema," several themes from *Star Wars*, "Strike Up the Band," and six others, all joined into a continuous musical whole. Wickerham concluded with a total surprise: the final movement of Widor's "Symphony No. 5" (AKA the "Widor Toccata"), a true virtuosic *tour de force*.

Having given the artist a second standing ovation following a brief encore, the audience drifted out of the sanctuary exchanging comments like "He really outdid himself this time!" and "How does he do it?" The causes for amazement included Wickerham's enormous and eclectic repertoire; his performing entirely from memory; his wizardry at weaving disparate themes into a seamless medley; and his continually varied registrations, aptly showing off the organ's huge variety of colors.

Thanks as always to everyone who made this concert possible, including the artist himself; Russ and Jo Ann Evans for hosting him; Susan Buchholz, Barb Graham, and Halie Dodrill for managing refreshments; Greg Smith and the organ crew for keeping it sounding spectacular; Jeff Snyder and everyone at CCA for sharing the venue and for technical support; and to everyone who attended, without whom these concerts would not be possible. See you real soon at the Christmas program!

There was magic in the air as the audience assembled for Dave Wickerham's October 16 concert at Calvary Christian. Many attendees likely recalled his performance two years ago, especially his astonishing audience request medley, preserved on the "Pipe Organ Pops!" CD. At that concert he had gone beyond previous concerts for PSTOS, setting a mighty high bar at the Mighty Kimball-Wurlitzer... Would he equal that? Could he possibly outdo himself again? Oh yeah!

Wickerham likes to play groups of songs related by a theme, and true to form, he opened with a "happy" group ("Put on a Happy Face" and "I Want to be Happy") and then fittingly a "Seattle weather" group, including "Button Up Your Overcoat," "Singin' in the Rain," "Windy" (a successful detour into rock 'n roll), and the Jimmy Van Heusen ballad "Here's that Rainy Day,"



A video camera and large monitor let us watch Dave's impressive technique at the organ.

A big Thank You to *Nothing Bundt Cakes* in Mill Creek and Issaquah for providing delicious mini-bundt cakes.

