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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 22, No. 4

April 2011

A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

**Reserve NOW — Luxury “Road Coach Cruise”  
to MT. VERNON and BELLINGHAM for a fun day of**

## Tibias & Tulips



Featuring **JEFF FOX**

*Accompanying Buster Keaton’s hilarious classic silent film comedy, “Our Hospitality,” a boisterous satire of family feuds and Southern codes of honor. All with the Mt. Baker Theatre’s original Wurlitzer!*

Jeff has played at the Mt. Baker Theatre since the 1970s, when he regularly provided pre-movie music. He helped restore Mt. Vernon’s Lincoln Theatre Style D Wurlitzer and played there for shows over many years. Jeff regularly accompanies silent films at the Mt. Baker Theatre, and is always in demand. He will play an organ overture in addition to the film.

**Sunday  
April 17<sup>th</sup>  
8:30AM – 6:00PM**

**Board the coach...** At 8:30 Sunday morning, April 17th, at PROSSER’S SHORELINE store, 185th & Aurora.  
NOTE: If you use Google or Mapquest for drive directions, use **18503 Firlands Way N., Shoreline, 98133**

**First stop...** famous ROOZENGAARDE TULIPS near Mt. Vernon. Beautifully landscaped gardens, a windmill, food options, and on-the-spot bulb purchasing. And check out the funnel cakes!

**Then on to...** Forks & Knives Restaurant for an included delicious lunch, before heading to Bellingham.

**A special full-day event, all for just \$45! (Non-members, \$55)**

*Includes roundtrip luxury coach transportation, entry to Roozengaarde Tulips, lunch at Mt. Vernon’s Forks & Knives restaurant, and your admission to the JEFF FOX Mt. Baker Theatre event. A real entertainment bargain!*

### SCHEDULE

8:30 AM Load bus at Prosser’s  
18503 Firlands Way N (185th & Aurora)  
8:45 AM Depart for Roozengaarde Tulips  
10:00AM Arrive Roozengaarde  
11:00AM Load bus  
11:15 AM Depart for Forks & Knives restaurant  
11:30 AM Arrive Forks & Knives for lunch  
12:45 PM Load bus for Mt. Baker Theatre  
1:00 PM Depart for Mt. Baker Theatre  
1:30 PM Arrive Mt. Baker Theatre  
2:00 PM JEFF FOX Program & Silent Movie  
4:30 PM Depart Mt. Baker Theatre  
6:00 PM Arrive at Prosser’s



**Space Is Limited—RESERVE EARLY!**

**IMPORTANT**—Advance reservations and payment are necessary to enable bus arrangements to be finalized.

**Deadline for reservations—April 4th**

Reserve NOW with RAY HARRIS by email at [rayh@prosserpiano.com](mailto:rayh@prosserpiano.com) or by phone at 206.546.8959  
He will tell you where to send your check.

Your PSTOS Program Committee has been working hard to organize this special event! Many have asked for bus transportation to events. This has been arranged, with much appreciation to Prosser’s and to member Ray Harris in particular, for organizing parking next door to their Shoreline store.

### CARPOOL!

To keep the cost affordable for all, the bus **must depart from and return to Shoreline**. To help those living south of Seattle, we will do our best to organize carpools. If you would like a ride, or can give a ride from Kent, Auburn, Tacoma or other points to the south, please contact DIANE WHIPPLE, Carpool Coordinator, at 253-856-1156 or [whippmd@comcast.net](mailto:whippmd@comcast.net). She will do her best to help you.

## PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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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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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

## PRESIDENT'S Message

Greetings,

On March 13th, Jonas Nordwall was the guest artist for a program featuring not only the organ but choir and percussion along with the 3 manual 19 rank Wurlitzer-Kimball installed at Calvary Christian Assembly. It was a typical windy and rainy Seattle day, but those in attendance left the gloomy weather outside and were treated to a warm, friendly and varied platter of artistry and music on the inside. I would like to thank the members of PSTOS, members of the American Guild of Organists – AGO, our co-sponsors, and the members and friends of Calvary Christian Assembly who were in attendance. After a silence of many years, the instrument at Calvary had been reawakened for the 2010 ATOS Convention held here in Seattle last July, and under the hands and feet of Jonas it spoke with glorious sounds once again, putting smiles on peoples' faces. Jonas played a wide variety of music including, *Get Me To The Church on Time* from "My Fair Lady," to the *Allegro* from Charles-Marie Widor's "5th Symphony," music from Busby Berkeley's 1937 film "Hollywood Hotel," featuring the hit *Sing, Sing, Sing* accompanied on percussion by Kirk Allen, to a Carpenter-esk piece for choir, percussion, and organ, with the choir under the direction of Sue Timpe. Through playing a wide range of music, Jonas was able to demonstrate the tonal resources of the instrument to the delight of the audience.

A big thank you to Greg Smith and Bob White for their continued maintenance efforts on an organ that is essentially unaltered from the day it was installed including the console's combination action, its winding system, tremos, and relays. Thanks to Pastor Steve Pecota for being one of the "console boys" needed to lift the console to stage level and back again. A reception followed the program and a huge thank you to the PSTOS members who volunteered and managed the post program festivities.

PSTOS is a membership-driven non-profit organization and it is only through membership dues, in-kind donations, and other fundraising ventures that programs, scholarships, and organ maintenance can be funded. You are encouraged to pass the word to friends and associates about becoming a PSTOS member and support-



## PSTOS Coming Events

### ► TULIPS & TIBIAS

A bus excursion to Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre, with a "tulip stop" en route.

**April 17, 8:30AM – 6:00PM**

### ► MAGICAL MUSIC at MERLYN'S

**Special summer party at the Tacoma home of Merlyn Johnson will feature PATTI SIMON and DON WALLIN**

Merlyn welcomes members to her lovely Tacoma home to hear her newly upgraded theatre pipe organ. This will be a special day. Don't miss it!

**Sunday, August 21, 2011**

### ► Annual PSTOS HOLIDAY PARTY

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

**Sunday, December 4, 2011**

## In The Works!

**Pipes & Pizza — June**

**Home Party at Beevar's — October**

**WATCH THIS COLUMN!**

## FOR SALE Organ Stuff

### ORGAN PIPES FOR SALE:

8' Post Horn, 61 pipes, Gottfried  
8' Tuba, 61 pipes, Gottfried  
8' Concert flute, 85 pipes, Morton  
8'-4' Violin, 73 pipes, make unknown  
4' Violin celeste, 61 pipes, make unknown  
8' Vox humana, 61 pipes, Morton?  
16' Bourdon (low 12) with chest, Wurlitzer (1925 Redwood)  
8' Clarinet  
5 HP Blower with phase inverter  
Various church organ ranks  
Phone Don Wallin, 253-318-2724

ing the cause.

The PSTOS Events Planning Committee has other events lined up so please keep an eye on the Upcoming Events listing in the *Pipeline*, sign up to attend, and be sure to post pictures and comments on the PSTOS Facebook page.

...Bob Zat, President

# Other NW Theatre Organ Events

## ► Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

Latest news can be found on the web at [www.kenyonhall.org](http://www.kenyonhall.org) or by email at [kenyonhall@earthlink.net](mailto:kenyonhall@earthlink.net)

## ► Lincoln Theatre in Mt. Vernon

The Wurlitzer is usually played Mon/Tue/Fri/Sat at 7PM and Sun at 5PM. If there is a live performance, the organ may not be heard. Check [lincolnthatre.org](http://lincolnthatre.org)

## ► Columbia River Theatre Organ Society

For info and latest news go to [www.croconline.org](http://www.croconline.org)

## ► Bellingham's Mt Baker Theatre

Mt. Baker Theatre Organ Society presents JEFF FOX accompanying the Buster Keaton silent comedy film, "Our Hospitality." A great Sunday activity! \$10 suggested donation.

**Sunday, Mar. 13th, 2:00 pm.**

## ► Spokane's First Nazarene Theatre Organ Society

Meetings are Mar., Jun., Sept. and Dec. For up-to-the-minute news and events calendar, go to [www.sfnatos.org](http://www.sfnatos.org)

## ► SILENT MOVIE MONDAYS



**Paramount Theatre and Trader Joe's present the April Series**

All begin at 7:00 PM

**April 4 – It, starring Clara Bow (1927)**

**April 11 – Speedy (1928)**

**April 18 – The Crowd (1928)**

**April 25 – The Cameraman (1928)**

From its wealth of public destinations like Coney Island and Yankee Stadium, to the energy of its citizens like Babe Ruth and the dockworkers on the bowery, the films in I LOVE NEW YORK collectively portray our nation's most iconic city as dangerous, corrupt, frazzling, beautiful, and seriously sexy. Capturing the pain, loneliness, anger, anxiety, risk, and triumph of the city that never sleeps, these ravishing pictures give us a nostalgic longing for the early days of New York City, showing the dirty things, outside and inside, that were early contributors to that wondrous phrase, I LOVE NEW YORK.

Films feature live accompaniment on the historic Mighty Wurlitzer by Jim Riggs.

# From The MAILBOX

## Great news of the Vancouver B.C. Orpheum Wurlitzer from longtime PSTOS member, Dr. Norman Schmidt

I had an unexpected belated Christmas present a few weeks ago... The previous week I had inquired as to whether there are any tours of the theatre [Vancouver Orpheum] like they offer the public during the summer season, but nothing was available at this time. A few days later a pleasant voice called me to inform me that the theatre was going to be used by a number of church organists to familiarize them with the sounds and voicing of a theatre organ, and since my primary interest was being a member of the ATOS who assisted in re-building the instrument, perhaps I could attend the demonstration.

I needed no further encouragement to be at the stage door at the arranged time, and as I entered the stage, the familiar theme of *Toccata and Fugue* was heard, obviously by a church organist. The sound quickly changed to a jazz version of the same tune, the organist clearly being a versatile performer. I found later upon being introduced to him that he was Michael Dirk (BMUS, MMUS), the organist and choirmaster for Holy Trinity, Anglican Church of Canada, in Vancouver.

The house lights were turned on which allowed me to wander through the lobbies and the Westcoast Hall adjacent to the theatre on my own, bringing back memories of the Saturday mornings the small group of ATOS volunteers spent rebuilding the instrument over three decades ago.

Shortly after, I was taken for a tour of the 3,000-seat house, from the new dressing rooms under the stage area and the newly-acquired area back of the stage (a portion of a new high-rise office building adjacent to the theatre) which will allow the theatre to accommodate the needs of touring road shows such as *South Pacific*.

I was informed that the organ is used by several civic groups, plus some individuals to allow the leathers to remain supple. Well do I remember being able to phone a certain individual (the stage carpenter) who would see to it that the console was brought up to the stage level to arrange some practice time on the console, the only limiting factor would be if a show was being rehearsed.

The instrument is being maintained by a local person (not named) but it would appear to me that the active work is being done by a non-theatre organ individual because some of the percussions and sounds are not being maintained, for instance, the tremors need some adjustments, so the individual is probably more active in church and classical instruments. Also, the old (original) hydraulic lift is leaking and needs some attention.

Please convey to my several PSTOS friends that our 13-rank Wurlitzer is still here....up and running.

I did not get to put my hands on the keys as I am still surviving the effects of a heart attack and stroke. This keeps me from traveling down to see and hear my friends in Bellingham and Seattle. My family physician has advised me not to attempt to drive until "cleared" by her, so I am dependent on other drivers or public transit. It is difficult for me to realize that I am now into my eighties (how did I get here so soon?) but I am grateful that I can still use the keyboard (computer or organ) and still read music.

Within this next month I will have surgery on my eye for cataracts, and I look forward to improved eyesight, and maybe be able to get my memberships back in the various hobbies that I have.

Thanks for reading me to this point... I wanted to assure my friends in the Greater Seattle area that the ol' gal (the Wurlitzer) is still in the Orpheum Theatre...the last TO in Canada in its original home.

I hope this information may be of some interest to my friends and relatives down south of the International border.

...Dr. Norman Schmidt, former and long-time member, PSTOS and ATOS.

## ➡ The PSTOS lobby table at the Paramount needs YOU!

Hi everyone:

The Trader Joe's Silent Movie Mondays *I Love New York* series is gearing up at the Paramount in April. With the series comes our usual opportunity to have a PSTOS informational table in the lobby. I am recruiting smiling faces to staff the table, provide information about PSTOS and the Paramount's Wurlitzer.

There is a new PSTOS Membership brochure as well as scholarship info sheets and recent Pipelines to hand out.

This series will also DEBUT our new 26" LCD flat screen TV with built-in DVD

player. Much more impressive picture and much easier to carry and setup!

We need volunteers all four Mondays shown at left. You would need to arrive by 5:45-6PM just prior to the doors opening for the show. The table should be manned before the movie, during intermission, and briefly after the movie ends. I or another member of the organ crew will assist with table setup and teardown.

Please let me know if you can help out at the table one or more nights. It's a lot of fun!

Thanks, Tom



# Pages From The Past..1929 – 2011

## The Queensland (Australia) Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) restored 1929 Style 260 Wurlitzer, its history and subsequent 2011 flood damage

Following, through various internet postings, is the up-and-down-and-back-up story of the last Wurlitzer delivered to Australia.

### Brisbane Regent Theatre opened in 1929, closed in 2010

The newest addition to the Hoyt's Theatres chain, the Brisbane Regent Theatre, opened November 8, 1929. It was designed for both films and live productions which followed the trend for similar buildings of that era. It was the first of the lavish American-styled picture palaces to be built in Queensland, and was an exuberant mixture of Gothic and Empire period styles. The narrow black marble entrance hall with decorated barrel-vaulted ceiling and friezes was only a prelude to the stunning foyer reminiscent of a medieval chapel where the arched ceiling murals were richly depicted in 13th century scenes. The immense white Queensland marble staircase which led to the mezzanine foyer was impressive. The workmanship was sumptuous.

Highlights in the auditorium were an elliptical dome in the main ceiling, chandelier, ornate proscenium arch, stage curtains, boxes, candelabra, orchestra pit and Wurlitzer organ. The premiere entertainment program featured 'gorgeous stage spectacles.' The movies included the first Fox talkie revue *Fox Movietone Follies of 1929*. Music from classical to jazz was provided by the Regent's Grand Concert Orchestra. Until 1978 when renovations were made, an auditorium existed with a capacity of 2,600.

Sadly, the magnificent auditorium was demolished and was replaced by a four-screen cinema complex of which Cinema One was decorated similarly to the earlier theme. The original 1929-era front of house and main foyers still exist today as an entrance to the plain cinemas which continue to operate for the time being.

In February 2008, plans were put for-

ward to close the Regent Theatre, retaining the heritage-listed facade and main foyers which would become an entrance to a new office tower block, to be built on the site of the auditoriums.

Greater Union Event Theatres closed the Brisbane Regent Theatre in June 2010.

### The Regent Theatre Wurlitzer acquired in 2004 by the Gallery of Modern Art in Queensland

The 3/15 Wurlitzer Style 260 Special, Opus 2040, was installed in the 2500-seat Regent Theatre Brisbane [Australia] in time for its opening in November 1929. The organ was sold in 1964 to the late Dr. King of Lawson, NSW. Dr. King passed away in September 2002 and the organ was sold and removed from the home in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. The organ was in remarkable condition and between 2004 and 2007 underwent a total like-new restoration by the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art. A fundraising campaign conducted by the GOMA Foundation made the restoration possible. It was restored and installed as a working instrument in one of GOMA's cinemas located at Kurilpa Point, South Brisbane.

"Special" denotes the Diaphone extension to 32' and the provision of a grand piano.

The installation aims to create an environment for silent cinema to be presented in a historically accurate yet contemporary context - alongside other visual arts media of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The Gallery's restoration retains all of the essentials of the 1929 organ [air console, relays, unaltered stoplist etc.].

The organ is complete except for the grand piano, which was removed from the Regent Theatre prior to the organ's purchase by Dr. Keith King of Lawson, NSW. There is interest to locate the piano if possible.



The just-unpacked console at the Brisbane premises of the installers, B.B. Whitehouse Bros.

# Pages From The Past...continued

## Historic organ makes triumphant return



John Andrews, friend to numerous PSTOS members, was project manager for the restoration.

The organ is installed in the Ciné-mathèque Cinema A, which seats 224. The organ was officially “launched” March 29, 2007, at a very successful function with Tony Fenelon at the console. After a brief introductory program, the occasion concluded with the organ’s use in what will be its primary role in its new home - the accompaniment of silent films - as Tony provided the music for the Queensland première of the recently rescued, assembled and restored fragments of the 1906 (world’s first feature film) *The Story of the Kelly Gang*. Until recently it was thought that this pivotal piece of film history survived only in “stills,” but 17 minutes of its original 60 have been discovered in a variety of places, enough to collate in proper sequence and recreate the original story, albeit in abbreviated form.

For many of the art and film culturati in the invited audience, it was their first exposure to live theatre organ music, and conversations afterwards not only covered the finer points of the film, but suggested they were looking forward to hearing much more of the instrument, an unusual and welcome addition to Brisbane’s cultural scene. The combination of the excellent work carried out on the pipe work and the mixing which occurs due to the tone chute arrangements, meant that not only did the Wurlitzer make music, at times it made *exciting* music. In fact, the Director of the Queensland Art Gallery, and the National Film and Sound Archive were both astonished by what the instrument could do. To hear one of the world’s best give the pipes a real virtuosic performance kick was an unexpected thrill for them...

This was a truly important night, indeed, a global first, as this was the first time these restored (from nitrate) “Ned Kelly” segments had been seen, and the first time that they had been accompanied by a Wurlitzer anywhere. The rumbling 32’s certainly assisted with impact.

They are installed under the seats...



Totally refinished in its original polished rosewood finish, the console is impressive indeed!

### Brisbane Australia - Flood Damage to GOMA Organ

No doubt most have heard about the 2011 floods across eastern Australia. The Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane was affected by the floods and so was the Wurlitzer. The text below was supplied by John Andrews, project manager for the installation.

I was able to contact both the Gallery and organ builder this morning and have this report for you, perhaps to be elaborated later.

The install is on two levels under stage, pipes upper, wind lower. Water has entered the lower level via the upper level (loading dock area) and is/was about 40 inches high in the basement. The water contained sewage. The water covered the upper level floor by a few inches but was able to get away to the lower level via the aperture through which the 16’ Diaphones emerged.

The main chests are 22 inches above the upper floor and so were OK. Chests mounted on the upper chamber floor were damaged (e.g. Tibia 16s).

At the lower level (and which is the lowest point of the building) the old E/P relays were flooded (these were non-operational and retained as ‘original material’ to be kept with the organ). The relays’ pipe drivers (Main) were inundated as were the tremulants and Diaphone chest(s). The hoist motors and gearbox assembly will require refurbishing. The 32s are fine. They were installed before the seats went in!

The biggest problem now is that the whole area is declared contaminated (sewage) and high pressure decontamination cleaning may result in incidental additional damage, but this cannot be helped I’m afraid.

The damage could have been much, much worse and I am thankful that the sub chamber was made to the depth that it was, otherwise all the air delivery components, mounted 6-1/2 feet above the floor, would be ruined too. The blower, located in the plant room, was flooded up to and including the wood feet (the blower is on spring mounts) so it will be fine. There is no 3-phase power yet available.

My personal investment in this organ project extended from the first correspondence and discussion in 1999 to commissioning of the organ in March 2007. Some of you out there will well understand these time lines and the associated blood/sweat/tears.

Of course, this damage has to be seen in worldly context (18 deaths and rising), but from my myopic standpoint, I am thankful that the organ has survived, if not in total. It will come good in time.

The Gallery’s retention of Brisbane organ builder Simon Pierce gives me confidence that the organ will be properly dealt with.

Thanks to those worldwide who have expressed concern about this instrument... and the general situation in Queensland.

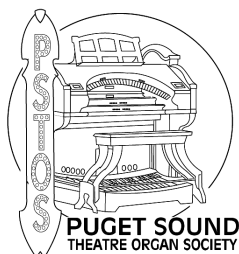


# Help WANTED

A volunteer is needed to help manage the inventory of surplus *Theatre Organ* magazines. PSTOS now has two complete sets of the magazines (1955 to present). As new donations come in, surplus issues are sold to benefit PSTOS programs, young organist scholarships and organ restoration projects. The job involves maintaining a current inventory of available issues, accepting orders via e-mail and preparing them for mailing via USPS "book rate" postage. These orders are a significant source of revenue for PSTOS. If you would like to help, or would like more detailed information, please contact Tom Blackwell, History & Archives Committee Chair. E-mail: [tom@pstos.org](mailto:tom@pstos.org) or phone: 206-778-2724.

## PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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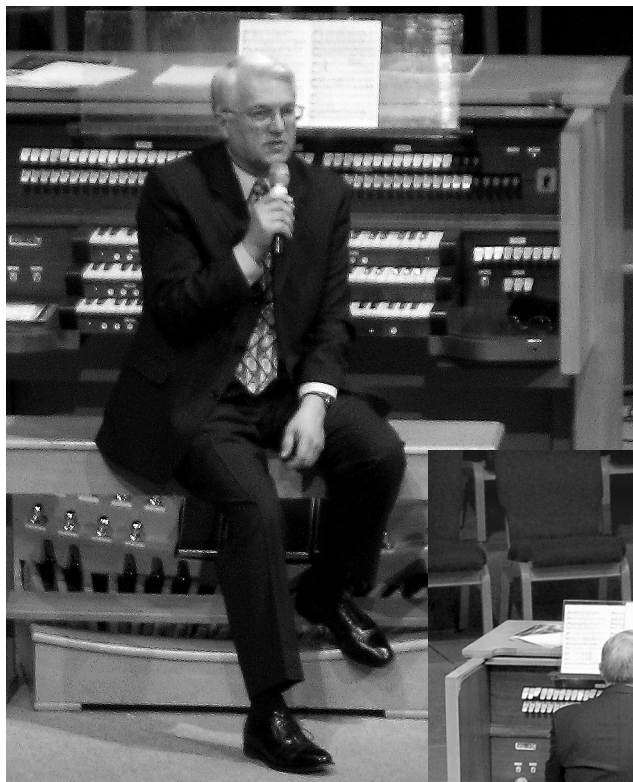


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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Jonas Nordwall plays to nearly 200 at Calvary Christian Assembly

A steady March rain was no deterrent to attendance at Jonas' outstanding program March 13th. Sponsorship was shared by the American Guild of Organists, the church and PSTOS, whose members and friends contributed to the outstanding turnout. Jonas performed brilliantly, as always, with something for everyone.



Jonas played a wide variety of music from classical to Broadway to contemporary. His many anecdotes about his experiences over the years as well as explanations about his musical selections added to everyone's enjoyment. Many thanks to Jonas for another very special day!

Photo: Dick Daubert



SUE TIMPE directed the church choir in one number.

Photo: Dick Daubert



Drummer, KIRK ALLEN, joined Jonas for several impressive duo numbers.

Photo: Jeff Snyder