



PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Volume 28, Nos. 6-7 • June-July 2017

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2017 Series **THEATRE ORGAN POPS**



***Another afternoon of pops by a
talented entertainer...don't miss it!***

From Wichita, Kansas

BRETT VALLIANT

at the 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2:00 PM

*Calvary Christian Assembly
6801 Roosevelt Way NE • Seattle*

ADMISSION

(for those who are not series subscribers)

PSTOS members \$20 • Non-members \$25

Age 16 and under FREE with adult

Tickets at the door or online at

www.pstos.org/events/ticketing/TOP2017/TOP2017.htm

Brett Valliant is in demand for his ability to perform many different genres of music on the instrument he loves. Whether at a church organ on Sunday morning, a mighty Wurlitzer in a theatre, or a Hammond B-3, Brett is right at home.

Inspired by the organ at church when he was just three years old, he soon excelled at the piano. But that early love of the pipe organ propelled him to his position as a full time church musician at the First United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas, a post he has held since his teen years. He has been a featured performer on National Public Radio's Pipe Dreams as well as the National Bible Broadcasting Network where his imaginative hymn arrangements are heard daily throughout the United States.

At fifteen, he played his first Wurlitzer, showing a natural talent for the popular music loved by fans of theatre organ. He has been a featured performer at national conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and has toured extensively as a solo artist abroad and throughout the United States. He resides in Wichita.

IMPORTANT! *The Calvary parking lot is operated by Diamond, but parking is free for those attending this event*

Drive Directions

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 to NE 73rd St, then the first right onto Roosevelt Way NE. Destination will be on the right.

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization furthering the appreciation, restoration, and use of the historic Theatre Pipe Organs of the 1920s, through education.

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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>

PRESIDENT'S *Message*

The Paramount, Theatre Organs, Silent Films, and More

A highly unusual event took place at the Seattle Paramount Theater on the morning of Monday, April 24: About four hundred school children, grades 3-12, gathered there for a youth event all about silent films and theatre organs. Among the attendees were PSTOS Past President Jeff Snyder and his third-grade class; he later said it was the best event he has attended in the four years he has been there with his classes.



The event opened with an introduction by Vicky Lee, Director of Education and Performance Programs for Seattle Theatre Group (STG), the Paramount's parent organization; a brief history of silent films and their accompaniment, with a Q&A session to engage the student audience; a brief demonstration of the Mighty Wurlitzer's voices by organist Tedde Gibson; and a tour of sound effects by percussionist Paul Hansen. Following that were introductions of four Seattle-area middle-schoolers who had created a short silent film, and then two screenings of their film, first in total silence, then accompanied by Tedde at the organ and Paul on sound

effects. Jon "JP" Palanuk, head of the International Youth Silent Film Festival (IYSFF), also took the stage to describe how, for several years, young people have been making silent films accompanied by theatre organ and having them shown around the world, thanks to the initiative of our young organist friend from Portland, Nathan Avakian (see www.makesilentfilm.com).

The morning concluded with a screening of Laurel and Hardy's 1927 classic "The Battle of the Century," featuring a pie-throwing scene involving about 3,000 pies, accompanied by Tedde and Paul to great applause. (That evening they again accompanied that film, among others, at the Paramount's final Silent Movie Monday for this month.)

That morning as the youngsters entered the Paramount lobby, and again as they departed, they couldn't help but see the giant new PSTOS banner touting the role of the organ. They were offered postcard-size souvenirs with information about IYSFF by PSTOS Board members Phil Hargiss, Fred Rowe (new Chair of our Educational Outreach Committee), and yours truly; we handed out about 200 cards. Along with JP we had many conversations with students, teachers, and parents in which we encouraged them to consider participating in the silent film festival. A grand time was had by all.

This event was significant in several ways: It increased awareness by the attending students, teachers, and parents of silent film and the theatre organ, and hopefully inspired some to find out more about PSTOS; it also strengthened the relationships among PSTOS, IYSFF, and the Paramount; and for PSTOS it opened up new potential for collaboration involving silent films and Seattle-area schools.

Silent films with theatre organ accompaniment represent one possibility for reaching out to younger age groups. Others we're considering include ballroom dancing accompanied by theatre organ, concerts combining theatre organ and jazz band, and even Gilbert and Sullivan with theatre organ in place of an orchestra. The possibilities are exciting; what's important is that these are ways to bring young people into an appreciation of the theatre organ, and thereby help ensure its future.

We'll see how these pan out...stay tuned.

Jamie Snell, President

PSTOS

Coming Events

MEMBER OPEN CONSOLE

at Haller Lake Community Club

Sun., May 7, 1:00 PM

A special Open Console day for any and all members who would like an opportunity to play our upgraded and much improved PSTOS Wurlitzer. Info: russ@pstos.org



BRETT VALLIANT

Theatre Organ Pops at CCA
Saturday, June 3, 2 PM

From Wichita, Brett is an exciting young organist. He has been a featured performer at national conventions

of the American Theatre Organ Society and has toured extensively as a solo artist throughout the United States and abroad.

"Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer"

RAY HARRIS & JO ANN EVANS



at the Evans
Wurlitzer and piano
Sun., Aug. 13, 2 PM

Ray and Jo Ann will again bring you an afternoon

of music, smiles, food and some surprises.



JERRY NAGANO

Theatre Organ Pops at CCA
Sat., October 14, 2 PM

The well-known Bay Area organist comes to CCA for an entertaining and musical afternoon. Jerry was influenced by Gaylord Carter, George Wright, and Lyn Larsen. He has played for California pizza parlors as well as many concerts both in the U.S. and overseas.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Annual membership meeting
and Christmas program.



Always a fun and festive event, put it on your calendar now and watch this space for more details.

Sun., Dec. 3

Haller Lake Community Club

From the MAILBOX - an invitation

Greetings PSTOS!

We are delighted to find that your website traces the history of the 2/11 Estey, Opus 1531 organ, from its installation in the Dream Theatre in Bremerton to its installation in Fremont Baptist Church in 1927 where we continue to enjoy it.

We are contacting you to invite Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society members to Fremont Baptist's Open House, 717 N. 36th Street, on Saturday, June 3, from 11 am to 4 pm. The Open House is part of the church's 125th anniversary celebration. 2017 is also the 100th anniversary of the organ's installation in the Dream Theatre. We have many reasons to celebrate this year.

The Open House will include a visit to the pipe chamber on the top floor of the building. There will also be historic photographs of the

church, the organ, choirs, and the Fremont neighborhood. If your members would like to play a number (or two or more!) on the organ, they would be most welcome.

Visitors will be able to tour the church building which was dedicated in 1924. It is on the same site as, and shares part of the foundation with, the original wooden church building that was completed in 1901 but demolished when the current church was built.

We see from your website that June 3rd is also the date of your Theatre Organ Pops concert but perhaps members would want to drop by the Open House before the concert. There will be light refreshments.

Best wishes,
Judie Clarridge, Fremont Baptist Church

AGO Programs American Guild of Organists presents...

Sunday May 7, 3:00 pm

All Mozart recital by Naomi Shiga and Jonathan Wohlers joined by string players. Using the Fritts organ at St. Andrew's Episcopal, 7410 S 12th St, Tacoma, WA 98465.

Sunday, May 7, 4:00pm

Hymn Festival: "Enduring Faith, Abiding Grace, Abounding Love" Led by Organist Steven Wentz from Concordia University Chicago. Queen Anne Lutheran Church, 2400 8th Ave W, Seattle. Free-will Offering. Two manual Robert Wech organ.

Saturday May 13, 10 am to 12 noon

Young Organists Concert on the three manual Wicks organ, rebuilt by Bond Organ Builders with a new console and many new ranks of pipes. University Congregational UCC Seattle. This event will also include the Seattle chapter's annual free used music exchange. Open event, no charge.

Sunday May 21, 5:00 pm

Durufle's Requiem, Messe "Cum Jubilo" and solo organ works performed by the Epiphany Choir, orchestra and organist Joseph Adam at the Noack organ. Epiphany Parish 1805 38th Ave, Seattle, 98122

Sunday May 21, 2017, 7:00 pm

Organ recital by Dr. Aaron David Miller joined by clarinetist Julie Buetow. Works of J.S. Bach, and A.D. Miller on the Pasi organ at Trinity Lutheran Church of Lynnwood. 6215 196th St SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036. Donation at door. The concert will include a commissioned work which the Seattle AGO chapter helped to underwrite with SPAC funds.

Monday May 22, 7:30 pm

David Briggs plays the Watjen concert organ built by Fisk. Benaroya Hall, Seattle. \$21 to \$32.

Monday May 22, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Student organ recital at Lagerquist Hall, Pacific Lutheran University

Friday May 26, 7:30 pm

The Gesteland-Smith Duo (Tracelyn Gesteland, mezzo-soprano and Wyatt Smith, organist) present a program of German Romantic music entitled "Love and Life Everlasting." The program includes music by Mendelssohn, Reger, Joseph Marx, Richard Strauss, & Erich Korngold. University Congregational Church, 4515 16th Ave NE, Seattle, 98105. Free and open to the public.

Silent movie

"Ben Hur"

starring Ramon Navarro

Sunday, May 14th, 3:00 PM

Mt. Baker Theatre, Bellingham, WA

Accompanied by Dennis James
at the Mighty Wurlitzer

www.mountbakertheatre.com

A warm welcome to these new PSTOS members

- Anne Gilbert-Creative Dance
Seattle
- John & Marita Niemann
Seattle
- Mark & Carrie Renwick
Jacksonville, Florida
- Dan Walker
Canby, Oregon

PAGES FROM THE PAST... New York Times, January 4, 1971

Brooklynites Bid a Nostalgic Farewell to the Fox



The Fox Theatre was once a centerpiece of downtown Brooklyn. It opened on August 31, 1928 with Janet Gaynor in "Street Angel." It had 4,305 seats. Interior decorations were a mix of Spanish Baroque with Marine motifs. The proscenium was 50 feet wide, the stage 39 feet deep. It was equipped with a Wurlitzer 'Crawford Special' 4-manual 37-rank organ, which also had a slave console.

The Fox Theatre closed as a movie palace on February 6, 1966 with William Bendix in "Johnny Nobody" and David Niven in "Where the Spies Are." It became a popular concert venue for rock 'n' roll shows emceed by Murray Kaufman (Murray the "K") which lasted until April 1968. Later in 1968 it was briefly taken over by the Salmaggi Grand Opera Company. It was 'Temporarily Closed' for two years, then a "Farewell to the Fox" week of organ concerts were held from October 31 until November 4, 1970, with Bill Gage playing the mighty Wurlitzer.

Demolition began on November 7, 1970 and was completed in early 1971. The Consolidated Edison company of New York was built in its place.

The Fox Theater, the movie palace that along with the Brooklyn Paramount, once drew thousands to the downtown Brooklyn area, is finally coming down.

It was not unexpected. For almost five years, its marquee told the public that it was "temporarily closed for repairs; will reopen soon." It was not closed for repairs and it will never reopen.

The marquee that once announced to the crowds on Flatbush Avenue in downtown Brooklyn which Hollywood stars could be seen on the Fox's silver screen bore the theater's epitaph until last week.



FAREWELL TO THE FOX
October 31, 1928, to November 4, 1970
BILL GAGE AT THE MIGHTY WURLITZER

The "Mighty Wurlitzer," a giant pipe organ that entertained audiences before films began or during intermissions, was as much a part of the Fox as the dancing lights on its marquee. It was one of the largest built up to that time.

4 Pipe Chambers Needed

It required four pipe chambers on the side of the theater and a large space over the main ceiling of the auditorium, extending over the stage roof, to house it.

The theater's last marquee announcement was a far cry from the first one. On its opening night, 5,000 people attended the gala inaugural ceremonies and to see the first film to play there, "Street Angel," a silent feature with a Neapolitan romance theme, starring Charles Farrell and Janet Gaynor.

The audience was also treated to a Movietone film greeting from James J. Byrne, Borough President of Brooklyn, performances of Wagner's "Tannhäuser" and "Dance of the Blue Danube Blues," and a jazz rendition of a Strauss waltz by the Fox Theater Grand Orchestra of 60 soloists.

Another Movietone film showed George Bernard Shaw doing his famous imitation of Mussolini, with a stage presentation entitled "Carnival de Naples," which featured a chorus of 40 voices. "Street Awl" closed the program, which also had George Jessel as a master of ceremonies.

Perhaps it is symbolic of the neglect the Fox had fallen into in recent years that the opening date on the marquee epitaph should be wrong. The theater opened on Aug. 31, 1928, not Oct. 31.

Original Cost \$8 Million

Laughing workmen paid no attention to this as they recently started the work of razing the theater and ripping out the insides of what was once an eight million dollar movie palace.

Except for a few scattered events of a cultural nature, the theater has been closed since February, 1966. The last films to be shown there at that time were "Where the Spies Are," starring David Niven, and "Johnny Nobody," which was William Bendix's last film.



At its peak, the Fox drew as many as 12,000 people on a Saturday night but when it finally shut its doors the number had dwindled to about 100 an evening,

PAGES FROM THE PAST... *Continued*



art treasures and rare fittings. Among other noteworthy features are a disappearing orchestra stage, refrigerating plants that sterilize the air every 90 seconds, and the most modern projecting devices.”

The Fox, which could accommodate 4,061 people and which was described at various times as a wonderland of continental treasure,

was decorated in the splendor that typified the movie palaces of the period.

As an example, its entrance consisted of polished Sienna marble and led into the inner lobby, which combined marble, teakwood and gold. Then came the block-long Grand Foyer, which had a white marble staircase and a large fountain.

In reality, the Fox was Brooklyn’s answer to S. L. Rothafel’s Roxy Theater in Manhattan, which had been completed the year before at a cost of \$10 million and had ushered in the golden age of movie palaces.

Casualty List Growing

The demise of the Fox is just one more in a growing list of movie palace casualties. Only a very few of these great theaters

of the 1920s, such as Loew’s Paradise in the Bronx, Loew’s Kings in Brooklyn and Loew’s Valencia in Queens, are still intact in the metropolitan area.

Other theaters have been demolished to make room for office buildings or cut up into smaller theaters.

The other major downtown Brooklyn theater, the Paramount, which was also built in 1928, closed its doors in 1962 and is now used by the Brooklyn Center of Long Island University as a gymnasium for its basketball games.

An office building, consisting of six stories and a penthouse, is scheduled to be completed on the site of the Fox Theater in the summer of 1972 as part of the Brooklyn Center Urban Renewal Project for downtown Brooklyn.

according to John F. Burke, the last manager of the theater.

Some of the reasons for the low attendance are that the neighborhood has become increasingly run-down over the years and that crime has increased in the area.

The theater and the 12 story office building housing it were built by William Fox as a showcase for his company’s films and vaudeville revues like the “Sunkist Beau Ties,” which featured 30 or more beautiful girls tap dancing, roller skating and singing their way to the audience’s hearts.

The theater was sold six years later to the Fabian Corporation, the same company that closed it.

At the time of its construction, The New York Times reported that the Fox would be “almost an art museum with



The completely renovated Brooklyn Fox console as it appears today at Wurlitzer Manor in Gig Harbor



More about the Brooklyn Fox Wurlitzer from NY City AGO site: <http://www.nycago.org/Organs/Bkln/html/FoxTheatre.html>

The Wurlitzer organ that was in Brooklyn’s Fox Theatre was one of five known as “Fox Specials,” the others being installed in Fox theatres in St. Louis, Detroit, and San Francisco, and in the Paramount Theatre in Manhattan. While the other “Fox Specials” had 36 ranks of pipes, the organ for the Brooklyn Fox had 37 ranks, due to the addition of a Concert Flute Celeste.

Prior to the theatre’s demolition, the Brooklyn Fox Wurlitzer was stored in a Brooklyn church. In the 1970s, the organ was moved to the Cardinal Music Palace in Fort Wayne, Ind. In 1986, Richard Wilcox purchased the console and built a new house for it (known as “Wurlitzer Manor”) in Gig Harbor, Wash. Ed Zollman, organ technician, installed the organ, which was enlarged to 48 ranks. Wurlitzer Manor is now the residence of Barbara Hammerman and Raymond Lavine.

PSTOS and AMICA (Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association) Shared Event in pictures...

Photos, Jeff Snyder & Jo Ann Evans • Captions, Jamie Snell



Marna & John Iles greet attendees at the entrance from behind their street organ



President Jamie Snell welcomes the audience



AMICA coordinator Carl Dodrill announces the presenters



Al Rustad explains the workings of his acoustic phonograph



Jo Ann Evans offers a prize for naming all the songs in her organ medley (no one did!)



Carousel Organ Association of America sign on Dan Danko's monkey organ



The fabulous cookie assortment, thanks to Susan Buchholz and Halie Dodrill



Bob Monson describes the evolution of early recording technology



Carl Dodrill's home-built MIDI-driven organ using Manischewitz wine bottles for pipes



Mike Wallace demonstrates his disc music box as emcee Bob Zat looks on



Attendees enjoy hearing Jo Ann Evans and Jamie Snell at the Wurlitzer



Dan Danko cranks his monkey organ, brought all the way from Kennewick