



PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Volume 33, Nos. 5 - 6 • May - June 2022

www.pstos.org • www.facebook.com/pstos

Live Theatre Organ is back!

Theatre Organ at Its Best • 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer

Calvary Christian Assembly • 6801 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle 98115



Ken Double

Sat., August 27, 2:00 pm

Ken Double is known for playing the kind of music theatre organ fans thoroughly enjoy — up-tempo and toe-tapping! His theatre organ performance history includes playing opening public concerts at Lafayette's Long Center, Manual High School's Wurlitzer, Anderson Paramount's Page, and Warren Performing Arts Center's Barton, all in Indiana. He has played many concerts worldwide, and has numerous recordings to his credit. He is Past President and CEO of ATOS. We're eagerly anticipating another enjoyable afternoon of bouncy popular favorites on CCA's fine 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer.



Dave Wickerham

Sat., November 12, 2:00 pm

We are excited to welcome Dave back to the Pacific Northwest after a four-year hiatus. Always a favorite, Dave has an impressive theatre organ background, concertizing extensively throughout the U.S. and Australia, and entertaining at pizza restaurants in Arizona, Illinois, Michigan, and Las Vegas. He served for seven years as organist-curator with the legendary Milhous Collection in South Florida, and was Organist in Residence at Crystal Theatre in Crystal Falls, Michigan, a performing arts center housing a 3/21 Moller theatre organ. Dave was a featured organist for our own 2010 ATOS convention, and has toured Australia/New Zealand four times playing to sold-out houses in all the major cities.

**Bonus
Event!**

For players and listeners

Open Console

Sunday, June 12, 2:00 pm

**3/18 Wurlitzer
at the Kenmore home of
Russ & Jo Ann Evans**

There will be a signup sheet. Each player may play three songs or ten minutes, and may sign up again as time allows.

Reservations necessary to arrange for seating and refreshments

Please reserve by Wed., June 8 at joann@pstos.org

Thank you!

Drive directions will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation



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Vol. 33, Nos. 5 - 6, May – June 2022

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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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Haller Lake Community Club—Bob Zat
Paramount Theatre—Phil Hargiss
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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

Greetings PSTOS members and friends...

Here we are heading into the summer months which means people want to get out and do something. Well, the PSTOS program planning committee has been working on ideas and ways to get us back into seats to listen to live Theatre Organ music played by highly creative artists.

In August, Ken Double will be presiding over the 3-manual 25-rank Kimball-Wurlitzer installed at Calvary Christian Assembly for a warm and entertaining program that only Ken knows how to do.

In November, back by popular demand, is a favorite of ours, Dave Wickerham, who will be performing on the same instrument and entertaining us with wonderful selections of music, and his signature spot of asking for names of favorite tunes from the audience at intermission and then weaving every recommended piece into a seamless and continuous marathon of audience requested tunes. You have to be there!

There will be an open console afternoon at the home of Russ and Jo Ann Evans on June 12th, giving folks the chance to play their 3-manual 18-rank Wurlitzer beautifully installed in the lower level of their Kenmore home. There will be a limit to the number of people who can attend so reserve now and be one of the first people to ensure a spot. Details are on page 1.

On Sunday, December 4th, you can enjoy the annual holiday party at Haller Lake utilizing the Chapter's 3-manual 10-rank Wurlitzer. Again, stay tuned for more

information about this annual event.

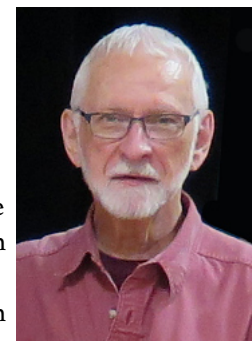
During July, ATOS will hold its 2022 annual theatre organ convention in San Diego.

Registration is open now for this

opportunity to hear some of the finest organists in the world perform on San Diego's finest theatre organs. All details can be found at <https://www.atos.org/>

The annual ATOS Summer Youth Adventure will be held from July 17th through July 23rd in Detroit, Michigan. SYA is a week-long event designed for young theatre organ enthusiasts who are interested in learning, developing, and refining their skills with the theatre organ. During the week, students will attend a variety of instructional sessions, master classes, and open console time designed to improve their theatre organ knowledge and skills. I know that some of our local young aspiring artists will be attending. If interested, more information is available on the ATOS website at www.atos.org/program/summer-youth-adventure

I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your continued support of PSTOS. It is because of you that we can keep moving forward and present music on our favorite instruments. Happy summer, Bob Zat, President



If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2022, please consider doing so now!



Your support is so important to help ensure the survival of PSTOS. We expect 2022 will see a return of concerts, social events, and programs. Be sure you're on the list to receive that important news!

Please click the link below to quickly and safely renew your membership!

THANK YOU!

<https://www.pstos.org/membership/renewal.htm>

In Memoriam

Marilyn Schrum

April 3, 1933 – March 25, 2022



With much sadness we have learned of the passing of Marilyn Schrum on March 25th. Marilyn was active in PSTOS for decades. She served in several capacities on the board, including as President during 1991 and 1992. She was active on the program planning team for many years. For several years, she served with Barbara Graham and Bob Zat on a three-person program planning team they jokingly nicknamed the “MB2 Committee” — standing for Marilyn, Barb & Bob — whose responsibility it was to get all information pertinent to any coming

event to the Pipeline editor on time every month. Marilyn was always ready to pitch in at events, helping to make hot German potato salad for several Oktoberfest celebrations, jumping in to serve pizza at Pizza & Pipes events, and dishing up ice cream at Ice Cream Socials. After moving to Burlington with her partner Marv Remillard, Marilyn was unable to be as active in PSTOS, but they continued to attend many events. Sincere PSTOS sympathy is extended to Marv, who lovingly cared for Marilyn as her health declined.

HELP WANTED

- **Small or large time commitment, you choose**
- **Learn how to keep a pipe organ running**
- **Help plan theatre organ concerts and events**
- **Make new friends, have fun, enjoy the satisfaction of helping**

PSTOS has numerous volunteer opportunities in interesting and enjoyable areas:

Organ maintenance at the Paramount Theatre – 4/21 Wurlitzer

For details contact Phil Hargiss, phil@pstos.org

Organ maintenance at Haller Lake Community Club – 3/10 Wurlitzer

Who can tell you more? Bob Zat, bob@pstos.org

**Board of Directors – meet six times a year, presently on ZOOM,
help plan direction of the organization as we look ahead**

Learn all about it from Bob Zat, bob@pstos.org

Program Planning Team – help plan four to six events each year

Chat with Jo Ann Evans, joann@pstos.org

Find out if there's a fun task for you! Send a message today!

AGO Programs

Classical organ events for your enjoyment

More information at www.agoSeattle.com

Friday May 13, 7:30 pm

Organ concert at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10th Ave E. Seattle 98102, featuring organist Alex Weimann playing an all-Bach concert on the Flentrop organ. The concert will also include improvisations in the style of the master. This concert will be offered both for in-person attendance and also via ticketed livestreaming.

Sunday May 15, 3:00 pm

Aaron David Miller presents an organ recital/hymn festival using the 30 rank Wech pipe organ at Queen Anne Lutheran Church 2400 8th Ave W, Seattle, WA 98119. Open to all, no charge. Reception to follow.

Sunday May 15, 5:00 pm

Prelude to Evensong. 30 minute organ recital by Sheila Bristow on the Noack organ in the nave of Epiphany Parish 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122.

Sunday May 15, 5:30 pm

Choral evensong at Epiphany Parish 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122. Reception follows.

Sunday May 22, 3:00 pm

Concert: Susanna Valleau plays the new Ortloff organ at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church. 722 N. 145th St. Shoreline, WA 98133. \$15 suggested donation.

Sunday June 5, 3:00 pm

Dedication Recital of the new 3 manual 21 rank pipe organ at Faith Lutheran Church 8208 18th Ave NE Seattle 98115 with David Buice, church organist performing. All are welcome, no charge, a reception follows. Organ installed by the Pipe Organ Foundation.

Wednesday June 15, 7:30 pm

Organ concert by British conductor, organist, and pianist Wayne Marshall, OBE, at Plymouth Church 1217 6th Ave Seattle, WA 98101. Parking as available in Plymouth garage (evening rates apply). Suggested donation \$15 or pay as able.

Monday June 20, 7:00 pm

AGO Chapter event at University Presbyterian 4540 15th Ave NW Seattle 98105. Annual meeting, Installation of officers, organ+ instrumental & vocal music. No charge.

July 3-7 AGO National Convention in Seattle!

See: <https://agoSeattle2022.com/>

At the larger venues, the general public can purchase tickets for concerts (as space allows) without registering for the convention.

At the smaller venues attendance is limited to those registered for the convention due to space constraints.

PIPE ORGAN TERMS EXPLAINED

We hope this new Pipeline column will help demystify the jargon used to talk about pipe organs. If there are terms you've heard and would like to know their meaning, please let us know by sending an email to joann@pstos.org

5 – THEATRE organ? CHURCH organ? CLASSICAL organ? What's the difference?

Organs have been around for centuries. Until the early 1900s, they were found primarily in churches and concert halls. With the development of "pictures that moved" came the realization that the pictures were much enhanced by the addition of music. Pianos were used at first, but an organ made more sense...it could more easily fill a large hall with sound, and mimic a full orchestra. The first organ used to accompany film—right here in Seattle, as a matter of fact!—was a regular church-type organ, which is what was available at the time.

As movie making evolved and became more sophisticated, aggressive pipe organ companies jumped on the band wagon—Wurlitzer, Kimball, Barton, Marr & Colton, Robert Morton, and others. Competition was fierce.

To enhance the many moods on the screen, new organ sounds appeared, the most important of which was the Tibia, a romantic flute-like sound coupled with throbbing tremolos. A vast array of sound effects began appearing, including auto horns, sleigh bells, boat whistles, bird whistles, horses' hooves, doorbells, surf, etc.



To make the organist's job easier in a darkened theatre, a curved stop rail became standard, eliminating the long reach to change sounds. Colored stop tabs identified the various sound families, with foundational sounds (tibias, flutes and diapasons) white, string sounds yellow, and reed sounds red. The colored stop tabs along with the curved stop rail, and lights—similar to dashboard lights found on Model A Fords!—around the rail, all helped the organist make lightning quick changes as the mood on the screen changed.



Church and classical organs traditionally have straight stop rails and all white stop tabs, or draw knobs, or both, and lack the broad variety of sounds and sound effects found on theatre organs. Tremolos are light and shallow, contributing to the traditional church-like sound.

At first glance for the inexperienced, if the console has a curved, or horseshoe stop rail and colored stop tabs, it's a theatre organ. If it has a straight stop rail and white stop tabs, it's a classical or church organ. Although designed for totally different purposes both make wonderful music in the hands of an experienced musician!



The organ at Calvary Christian Assembly boasts all theatre pipework, but the console is an exception to the straight-versus-curved stop rail, and white-versus-colored tabs. The pipework is part Kimball, part Wurlitzer, but the console has a straight stop rail and white tabs in an effort to make it look more like a traditional church organ.

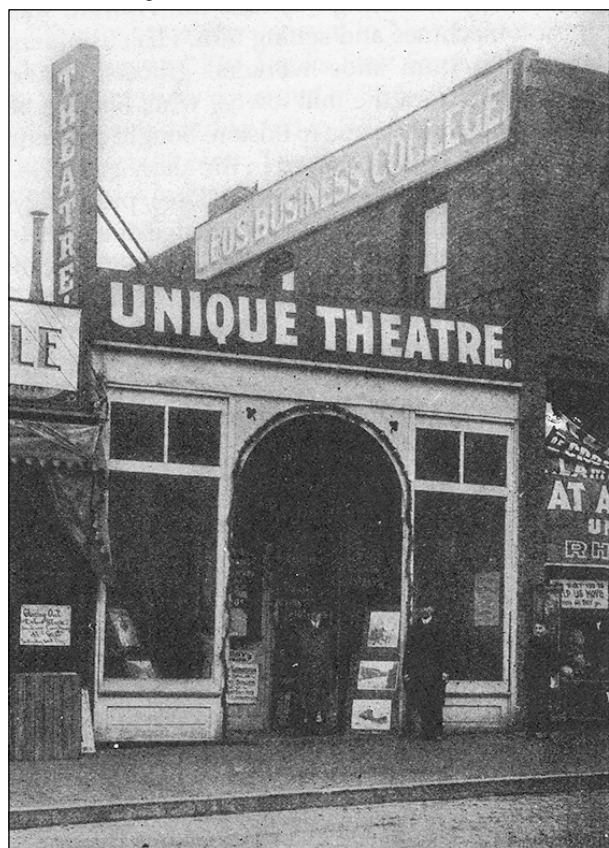
PAGES FROM THE PAST . . .

The Nickel Theatres of the Early 1900s

From "Nickelodeon Theatres and Their Music" by Q. David Bowers

In the early nickel theatres, sensational pictures were the most popular. One theatre operator used film of this type 400 feet and more in length in his theatre. The most popular at the time were *Escaped from Sing Sing* (Vitagraph), *The Great Train Robbery* (Edison), slapstick comedies of a primitive kind, and trick films, including *A Trip to the Moon* (Melies).

Another operator used pictures 1,000 feet in length in his first house, including *The Great Train Robbery*, slapstick comedies, and street-chasing scenes, such as Pathe's



Unique Theatre, Seattle, Wash. First picture house of Miles Bros. Herbert Miles is standing in doorway.

comedy showing the baker boy with a tray of pastry on his head being knocked down as he hurriedly goes out of the store, and the following mix-ups.

Folding camp chairs, as a rule, formed the seats in these early primitive 'store' picture theatres. In some cases many of the people had to stand. Five cents admission was charged for one reel to a show, and as a usual

thing, a phonograph was placed in the lobby to attract the attention of passers-by. Muslin screens, either plain or sized, or white walls were used, as a rule, in all of these early theatres. The financial Panic in 1907 gave a tremendous impetus to the moving picture theatre generally. During that year, 5-cent theatres grew and multiplied throughout the country. The scarcity of currency turned the amusement-loving public to the low-price picture theatres, and the more often they went, the more convinced they became that the new entertainment was not only novel, but exceedingly enjoyable and attractive.

From the earliest days of the 'store' shows, music of some kind was used with pictures. At first the phonograph was favored because of its cheapness. Illustrated songs had been used in entertainment as early as 1904, but they were used first in cheap vaudeville houses. In the fall of 1906 they were first used in picture theatres and became quite a fixture until 1911, when they began to lose their hold on the better class of houses. They gradually dwindled until 1914, when only a few could be found in any Chicago theatres. Several small theatres and small country towns still used them in 1916, but their day was over.

As early as 1909, an attempt was made to play suitable selections on the piano, with drum accompaniment, for the pictures. None of these pianists at the time could improvise so much as to catch the scene of the picture accompanied, with the result that patrons with musical ears soon tired of such music and preferred the pictures alone.

The year 1906 was one of tremendous growth for the nickelodeon industry. Motion pictures were still a novelty, and the public flocked in record numbers to nickel theatres as they opened. In the entertainment trade, emphasis primarily remained on vaudeville, however, with films

in use as fillers. *The Billboard*, trade journal of the field, was filled with news of performing troupes, actors, and actresses. However, each year moving pictures occupied an increasing proportion of editorial and advertising space in that publication. In 1906, slides and illustrated songs were

Big Nickel

ADMISSION 10c
CHILDREN 5c

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
OCTOBER 5th, 6th and 7th
PARAMOUNT PICTURES Presents
The World's Foremost Photoplay Actress
MARY PICKFORD
In The Celebrated Romantic Comedy
SUCH A LITTLE QUEEN
By Channing Pollock
Produced By The FAMOUS PLAYERS FILM COMPANY
In Five Reels Of Motion Pictures

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
OCTOBER 8th, 9th and 10th
PARAMOUNT PICTURES Present
WILLIAM TELL
The Most Enthralling Of All Romances
AN ALL-STAR CAST
In Five Reels Of Motion Pictures

Every Friday & Saturday — "The Marmalade Girl"

Big Nickel

America's Biggest and Best Picture Shows

Continuous Performance Daily From 10:30 A.M. to 10:30 P.M.

increasing in popularity. Typically, a set of 20 slides sold for \$5 or so. Projected in theatres between live acts or in moving picture houses between films, slides, accompanied by piano music, allowed the audience to get into the act—by singing *In*

PAGES FROM THE PAST . . . *continued*

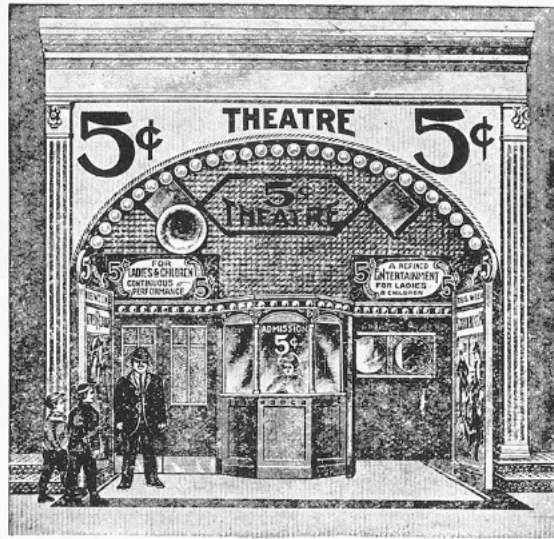
YOUR MONEY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO YOU FOR ANY GOODS NOT PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY.

MOVING PICTURES

**WE FURNISH
COMPLETE
OUTFITS**

FOR
5-CENT THEATERS
TRAVELING EXHIBITORS
STREET ADVERTISING
LODGE WORK
CHURCH ENTERTAIN-
MENTS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AT THE
**VERY LOWEST
PRICES**



**SEND FOR OUR
160-
PAGE SPECIAL
CATALOGUE**

OF
MOVING PICTURE
MACHINES
STEREOPTICONS
GAS MAKING OUTFITS
ILLUSTRATED SONG
SLIDES
LECTURE SETS OF VIEWS
MOTION PICTURE FILM

AND
**FULL LINE OF
SUPPLIES**

Even Sears & Roebuck got into the nickelodeon act. This ad is from a 1908 catalogue.

the Good Old Summertime, A Bicycle Built for Two, and other favorites.

Many competing types of motion picture projecting devices were advertised, including the Edison Kinetoscope, with stereopticon attachment, for \$75 or more, available with “an endless variety of films—50 feet or more—12c and 15c per foot,” and several models of the Cameragraph, made in New York City by Nicholas Power. The Edengraph, the Motiograph and other devices each captured a slice of the market pie in the early years. Later, the Cameragraph became the dominant make.

By 1907 there were more than 3,000 nickelodeons in America, according to one report, with over 100 in Pittsburgh and over 300 in Chicago. In many localities nickelodeons had 199 or fewer seats, for

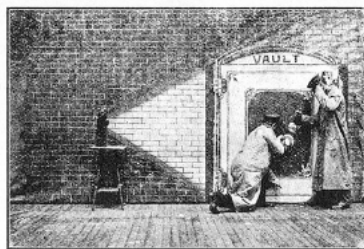
those seating 200 or more had to have a theatre license. Other towns placed the license requirement at 300 or more seats. The Philadelphia, a nickelodeon theatre built in 1907, had 1,000 seats and, despite license fees and an annual rental of \$35,000, garnered great profits.

In November 1907, *The Saturday Evening Post* published an article which stated that over two million people attended nickelodeon theatres each day of the year, a third of these being children. The nickelodeon is usually a tiny theatre, containing 199 seats, giving 12 to 18 performances a day, seven days a week. Its walls are painted red. The seats are ordinary kitchen chairs, not fastened. The only break in the red color scheme is made by a half dozen signs in black and white, ‘No Smoking,’ ‘Hats Off,’ and sometimes, but

not always, ‘Stay as Long as You Like.’ Last year or the year before it was probably a second-hand clothier’s, a pawn shop, or a cigar store. Now the counter has been ripped out, there is a ticket seller’s booth where the show window was, and automatic musical barker somewhere up in the air thunders its noise down on the passers-by, and the little store has been converted into a theatrelet. Not a theatre, mind you, for theatres must take out theatrical licenses at \$500 per year. Theatres seat 200 or more people. Nickelodeons seat 199 and take out amusement licenses.

For some reason, young women from 16 to 30 years old are rarely in evidence, but many middle-aged and older women are steady patrons, who never, when a new film is to be shown, miss the opening.

Siegmund Lubin, a Philadelphia optician, entered the motion picture business in the 1890s. Before long he owned one of the largest film laboratories as well as a string of nickelodeon theatres. He unabashedly copied the films of others, hiring technicians to erase or blot out the trademarks of the films’ makers. In other instances he pirated successful pictures by filming his own versions as with *The Great Train Robbery* mentioned here.



BOLD BANK ROBBERY

COPYRIGHT 1904.
Most Sensational Film Ever Made, Clear, Sharp and Distinct. A Great Money-maker.
Length, 600 Feet. PRICE, \$66.

Great Train Robbery “Meet Me at the Fountain”
Copyright 1904. Most Popular Picture Ever Shown. Length, 600 Feet. Price, \$66. Funniest and Best Comedy Chase. 475 Feet. Price, \$66.

Price of All Our Films Eleven Cents Per Foot.

1905 EXPOSITION MODEL CINEOGRAPH WITH STEREOPTICON COMBINED, \$75
Including Calcium Lamp, Electric Lamp, Adjustable Rheostat, Films and Slides.

S. LUBIN, 23 S. Eighth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.