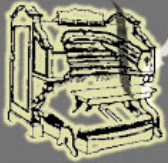
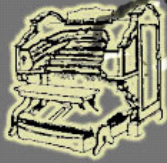


THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL



TOSI



TOSI NEWS

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The TOSI is a membership organization for public and charitable purposes whose aim is to promote and present theatre organ performance as an internationally recognized art form.



ATOS Convention in Seattle Washington

Looking back by Gus Franklin.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

was the home site of the ATOS 2010 Convention. The weather was just fine, generally in the 50 to 70 degree range, about five degrees cooler than is expected there for this time of the year, so we were told. But for those of us coming from the hot and humid weather of Illinois, where we had been experiencing temperature highs in the 85 to 95 degree range, it was a pleasant and invigorating change. Although there were only a few drizzles of rain a couple of times while we were there, we found that even so-called sunny days generally included several hours of cloudy and overcast conditions. In fact one native told us that the reason for having so many windows in a private residence was to have as much light as possible since there were so many grey days. Or, as another native of the area said, "If you're favorite color is grey, take up residence in Seattle!"

The headquarters hotel was the Renaissance Seattle at the corner of Madison Street and Sixth Avenue, in the heart of downtown. The accommodations were quite nice although a bit pricey (about \$126 including tax per night). The hotel has one major restaurant and two bars which also serve food from a limited menu, supposedly. We found that if you knew the right people, you could generally get anything on the major restaurant menu in either bar. The personnel were very accommodating.

The Convention schedule was slightly unusual. While it is generally expected that there will be a pre-glow program the day before the Convention begins (It was called "Overture Day" this year.), there was an additional optional program, called an "Organ Crawl - Seattle Style", which lasted until late afternoon on the Opening Day. Another optional program was scheduled during the afternoon of the fourth day. The accustomed after-glow was called "Encore" this year. The entire event was hosted by the Puget Sound Chapter, assisted by the Mount Baker, Oregon, and Spokane First Nazarene Chapters.

We did have a new feature this year: "B3 Draw Bar." This was one of the bars mentioned previously (on the top floor of the hotel) in which a Hammond B3 with two Leslies and a Hammond PR 40 tone cabinet had been placed. The bar was to have been open for conventioners from Tuesday through Sunday evenings, after buses had returned to the hotel following the various programs. A few of us went up there on the Saturday evening before the Convention began and found the items there but still in protective coverings. We removed those, found a power supply for the organ, hooked up the tone cabinets, adjusted the speaker volumes, and entertained the guests for a while. They loved it! When it was officially opened, it was immediately a very popular spot. We even had Jonas Nordwall and Richard Hills (who, by the way, was later honored as the ATOS "Organist of the Year" at the Awards Banquet) presiding at the console.

The performances during the Convention were all quite fine and essentially what most people expected. The usual complaint that there was very little "new" music was

(Continued on page 3)

It was two years ago this August when Jack Moelmann took his savings and did something unprecedented and rented Radio City Music Hall for a theatre organ concert. For most of us, it's a memory, but for someone in Hollywood, it has sparked an idea. Jack received an email from a writer, producer and actor. He came across Jack's story and he was struck by the potential for a film scrip based on Jack's journey to Radio City.

The first thing that came to mind - is this real! Jack made a request to several friends to investigate. The person is real and has produced several films, made-for-TV movies, and has written for a number of productions besides acting in a number of major movies.

If this comes to be, it would be good for Jack and a well needed boost for TOSI. If this producer/writer can make a sellable script, the possible market could be the "Hallmark Network."

Be sure to stay tuned. Film at eleven..

Les Hickory

Theatre Organ Society International TOSI News

On June 17, Bob Miloche announced that he wished to resign as the TOSI Treasurer due to a health problem and a plethora of personal commitments. He continues to be a member, however. We thank Bob for the good work he has done for TOSI since its inception. We had some hint of this happening for a little while and had found someone willing to fill this office if selected by the Council. On June 23, the Council appointed Roberta Clark to be the new Treasurer via an email vote. Roberta resides in O'Fallon, Illinois, is a member of the church where Jack Moelmann serves as organist, came to the Radio City Music Hall Gala, and was the person who called me to make arrangements to have the bouquet presented to Jack at the conclusion of the event. We are confident that she will serve TOSI very well in this position.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

TOSI President,
Father Gus Franklin

Our Annual Membership Meeting was held at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel on Tuesday, June 29, just before the official opening of the ATOS Convention. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, and the Treasurer's report was placed on file with our thanks. The rest of the meeting included the presentation of a summary of Board activity during the past twelve months, a discussion of some five pending programs, and other announcements, including our investigating the possibility of republishing Reginald Foort's book *The Cinema Organ*. The next such meeting will likely be held during the 2011 ATOS Convention in Providence, Rhode Island.

The St Louis Chapter of ATOS had been planning to sponsor John Ledwon in concert at the Lincoln Theatre in Belleville, Illinois, on Sunday afternoon, August 22. We took advantage of this situation and negotiated to have TOSI be a co-sponsor of this event. We will provide a printed brochure for the concert and a "meet the artist" social on the evening before the program. TOSI will not be sharing in the expense of the program itself, but will also be providing local transportation, housing, and meals for the artist.

Since several Board members were planning to be there for that event, I decided to attempt to have the Annual Board Meeting on Saturday afternoon, August 21. (John will not be able to practice then anyway since movies are shown in the theatre on Saturday afternoons.) It turned out that all but one Board member could be there then, and they are planning to do that. A few other TOSI members have indicated that they also plan to be there. It promises to be a grand, fun, and productive weekend.

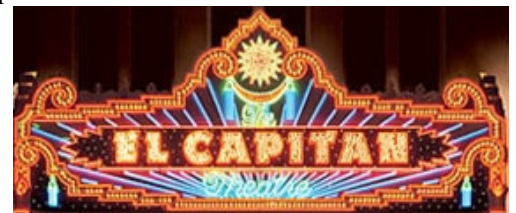
I continue to ask for any suggestions you may have for future programming and any other activities. Please contact any member of the Board to communicate your ideas. As always, thank you for your continued support and your help in being on the lookout for new members.

Most sincerely,

Gus



JOHN LEDWON Organist at the El Capitan Theatre, Home of the San Francisco Fox Wurlitzer.



JOHN LEDWON IN CONCERT AT THE LINCOLN THEATRE

August 22nd at 2 PM

John Ledwon Concert Ticket Prices

DAY OF CONCERT \$15 At The Theatre Box Office.



The Lincoln Theatre
103 East Main Street
Belleville, Illinois, 62220
Telephone: 618.233.0123



(Continued from page 1) ATOS Convention

frequently heard. Although every performer intentionally added a number or two of never-before-heard or infrequently-heard music played on a theatre organ, even those were generally of the same genres. There were however, two programs and one instrument that merit special comments.

Simon Gledhill performed beautifully as one would expect. However, he played a 3/23 Wurlitzer installed in three chambers over the proscenium of the stage in the Washington Center for the Performing Arts in Olympia. Although the auditorium seats 1000 people, there is very little depth to the main floor, and there are three balconies above the rear of that. Thus nearly everyone is as close to the stage as possible. That's to be desired in an auditorium for the performing arts, excluding an organ! The instrument is simply too loud for that setting. Simon used a number of solo stops, but almost all ensemble combinations were simply too big for the space. This instrument simply needs to be toned down!

Lew Williams performed on a very sweet and very polite 2/14 Wurlitzer in the Mt Baker Theatre in Bellingham. It takes a bit more effort to concertize on a two manual instrument. Three manuals are just about right for theatre organ playing (or even for classical organ playing), and a fourth manual is essentially an added convenience. A fifth manual is likely just overkill, unless you need some place to put your drink! Lew's program was truly stellar, included a substantial number of less frequently played compositions, and made the instrument sound as though it had a three manual console, not because it was loud (It wasn't.), but because of the variety and frequent tasteful changes of the tonal palette.

Possibly the most unusual, different, and yes, even outstanding program was that presented by Nathan Avakian on the 3/16 Kimball in the Everett Theatre. Nathan was the overall winner of the 2009 Young Theatre Organist Competition. He has been acting, singing, and dancing since he was five years old and is now just 18 and ready to head for college.

This spot in the schedule generally consists of a short program performed by the winner of the competition from the previous year, the programs presented by the current competitors, the preview of the Convention for the next year, and the announcement of the winner of the competition. Even though ATOS has been spending thousands of dollars on a Summer Youth Camp Program each year, there were no entrants for the Young Theatre Organist Competition this year. Thus Nathan had a longer than usual program to present. Then because someone had misplaced the remote control, the preview of the 2011 Convention could not be presented. And because Nathan had planned to have three very brief silent movies shown during his program, that couldn't happen since the remote control could not be found.

Nathan handled all of these situations like a veteran of many years, as a true professional. He simply would not be flustered. His program was beautifully performed and included much music that was unknown by the overwhelming majority of the audience, he incorporated percussion tracks which he created from scratch (rather than simply adjusting and adapting

ones already available in a module), and he played three of his own compositions for which the silent movies that couldn't be shown were created. Additionally, he accompanied, on a piano, a duet sung by him and his sister and an interpretive dance she performed. Keep an eye on Nathan; he's likely to be going places, all good! Additionally, he is a delightful and polite young man.


Ed Stout presented a most noteworthy seminar dealing with restoration techniques. However, the Annual ATOS Membership Meeting and the Members' Forum left most people cold and somewhat bewildered. Everything presented in the Membership Meeting was clearly well polished and brushed and buffed. Many folks appeared to be wondering what was really going to happen with the ATOS archives. The writing on the wall seems to indicate that the collection will be given to the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma. While there was a glowing presentation regarding both the University and the Institute, there was essentially no specificity regarding the future of the ATOS archives, the only ATOS possession except money! And buckle your seat belts! The Board now has a strategic plan, which, evidently no one understands and no one knows where it will take us as it is implemented. It does appear, however, that we are on the road to becoming much more like a GM organization than a group of theatre organ enthusiasts! The substance of any questions asked during the Members' Forum seemed to go right over the heads of the Board members. They spoke about many items, but did not directly address what was asked.

About 450 attended the Convention; 50 of those were from Australia and 20 or so from the UK. Yes, it was a good Convention, a bit different from the usual format, but fine. Possibly the most generally heard complaint, as it is at almost all conventions, was that the buses get back to the hotel too late and then leave too early the next morning. This situation was exacerbated this year with the addition of the "B3 Draw Bar," as enjoyable as that was. When one spends the whole day dependent on bus transportation and returns at 10:30 – 11:30 pm and must leave again the next morning at 8:30 – 9:30 or even earlier, there really is insufficient time for a good nights sleep, breakfast in the morning, and this year, to enjoy the "B3 Draw Bar."

The 2011 Convention is to be headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island, June 30 – July 4. It's to be Los Angeles for 2012.

2011 ATOS Annual Convention
A New England
Theatre Organ Odyssey
Providence, Rhode Island
June 30 - July 4, 2011

Theatre Organ Society International TOSI News



Pipe Organ Presentations
 CDs By: Tom Hazleton • Ann Leaf • John Seng
 Don Baker • Don Thompson • And Many More
www.pipeorganpresentations.com

We Welcome the following new members.

NAME	CITY	STATE
ROBERTA CLARK	OFALLON	IL
RODGER DILLON	EAST ALTON	IL

DAN BELLOMY ORGAN CDs ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM "PIPE ORGAN PRESENTATIONS" and on the TOSI Web site. TOSI pricing is \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling.

"LIVE FROM NEW YORK...IT'S DAN BELLOMY"

This CD was recorded on the 4/26 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ located at the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University - formerly the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre, Brooklyn, New York . It has one of the most brilliant "in theatre" sound Dan had ever heard.

"BACK TO BROOKLYN"

This CD was recorded on the 4/26 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ located at Long Island University (LIU) - formerly the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre, Brooklyn, New York.

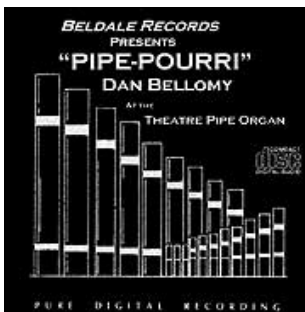
"FULTON BLUE"

This CD was done at Warnor's Theatre in Fresno, California. The instrument is a 4/14 Robert Morton that really has a message!

"THE ZURICH SESSIONS"

This CD was recorded in a studio during a snowstorm in Zurich, Switzerland! The music was a little hotter inside. Dan used a Hammond B-3, M.L. Foote on bass and Brian Wilson on drums.

And if your looking for more "DAN BELLOMY", The Organ Historical Society has "Pipe-Pourri": Dan Bellomy plays the 3/26 theatre pipe organ in the studio of Robert Trousdale, recorded digitally in 1986. Excellent sound and interesting arrangements, some with drummer M. B. Gordy and some with overdubbing effects, so that the organist seems to be playing a duet by himself! Selections include: The Way You Look Tonight; Laura; Blue Hawaii; Undecided; Over the Rainbow; Teach Me Tonight; Why Should I Wake Up; When You and I Were Young, Maggie, Blues; My Romance; FuniePipes; Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square; Summertime; Willow Weep for Me; I'm Walkin'.



Link: <http://www.ohscatalog.org/pipepourri.html>



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Our next newsletter will be published in September. If you would like to be a part of the news, we invite you to send your comments, opinions or stories you would like to share on the topic of Theatre Organs.

Our deadline is September 23rd, 2010.

Email: TOSIeditor@verizon.net or snail mail to:

Les Hickory Editor TOSI

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