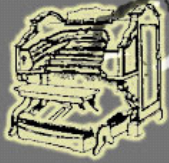
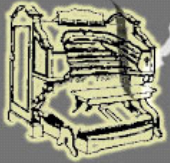


THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL

TOSI



TOSI NEWS

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL (TOSI)
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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.

SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERYDAY

Theatre Organ Programs are happening in many areas of the country. One was presented from a "State Hospital" in Maryland. The "Free State Theatre Organ Society" presented Dick Smith on their Devtronix theatre organ. The Devtronix was given to the organization as they had sold their two-manual Robert Morton (made by Wicks) and are currently in the process of rebuilding a Wurlitzer. The Devtronix organ is 40 years old and came as a kit. It was an alternative to what was on the market at the time. The organ is all analog, speaking from eight speaker cabinets. If you have never heard one, the "Free State" has posted Smith's concert on their web site: theatreorgans.com/freestate/devtronix_recordings.htm. To me the organ sounded like Jack Moelmann's Rodgers. Dick Smith was outstanding in his selections and how he registered the old girl. Here's a little background on the organization: The Free State Theatre Organ Society was formed in the mid 1980's for the purpose of bringing Theatre Organ music to the Baltimore, Maryland, area. Taking the nickname for the State of Maryland, this group of people started by meeting in one of the member's home and helping to install a theatre organ there. As they became more organized and started collecting material, they found various places in the city where they could store organ parts and work. None of these seemed to last very long and we were an organization on the move. With the help of Governor William Donald Schaefer we were given the chance to lease a building at Spring Grove Hospital Center. A three story, six-ward hospital building that was constructed in the 1930's but had been unused for many years. Our members saw the potential in the building and started uncovering the floors which had been the catch pan for years of bird droppings. After locating to the building they found that the hospital had a small patient activity center and auditorium with space on the left side of the stage that would house a small pipe organ. The opposite side was filled with an unused heating system. The hospital agreed with our plans and a Wicks pipe organ built under the Robert Morton name that was rescued from a local theatre was installed in the auditorium. This organ served us for 20 years and was removed in 2009. It was the membership's dream to someday have a larger theatre organ and we have worked towards that goal for over 25 years. A few years ago the hospital decided to upgrade the heating system in Rice Auditorium and they removed the old air system from the right side of the stage. With this out of the way they approached the hospital with the idea of installing a 3-manual 18-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. They have reviewed their plans and are moving forward with the project.



Photo's by Les Hickory—Dick Smith at the Console



Theatre Organ Society International TOSI News

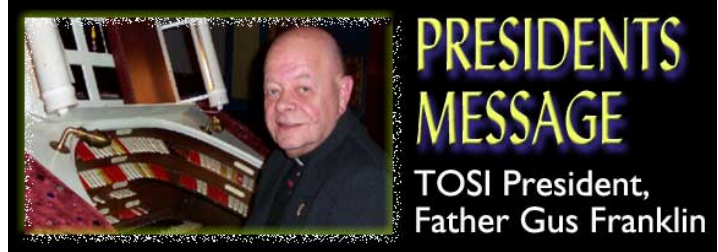
As indicated in my last message that it was scheduled to happen, the TOSI Board of Directors did gather on the weekend of John Ledwon's program at the Lincoln Theatre in Belleville, Illinois. Sponsored jointly by the St. Louis Theatre Organ Society and TOSI, the weekend event included a "meet-the-artist" social at Jack Moelmann's home on Saturday evening, August 21, and John's program at the Lincoln Theatre on Sunday afternoon. The Board met in nearby O'Fallon on Saturday afternoon; only two members were unable to be present, although one of those joined in the meeting by telephone. In addition to handling routine, but essential, items, there was much lively and energized discussion and planning regarding several subjects.

When TOSI was born, there were hopes of publishing a journal or magazine. That project was put on hold since there were simply too many other items which demanded our immediate attention. Now the Board is looking into this magazine project in earnest. While there is yet no target date for publication, the necessary background work is ongoing. Another communication concern was voiced concerning the inconvenience of having to spell out the entire TOSI name to gain access to our website. So during the meeting, a new domain requiring a simpler name was purchased. A transfer to this domain will soon be implemented.

Action concerning the possibility of our republishing Reginald Foort's *The Cinema Organ* continues to move forward. We are concurrently looking into the copyright issues and working with Reginald's grandson, Andrew, to get family consent. Once these two items are resolved, we will take off running, even with relevant material not before used (or not well used) in the previous two publications of that work. The Board is eager to see this project materialize.

We approved definitive plans for sponsoring a mini-convention or extravaganza weekend to be centered in New York next summer. Since the meeting, a major hurdle has been encountered; but we are doing our best surmount it. Such an event is definitely on the horizon and is very likely to occur this coming summer or the next fall. Please stay tuned for further developments.

Although we have been talking about a theatre



organ program on a cruise ship for some time now, the three components for making that a reality have not come together: organ, organist, and cruise line approval. At the time of our Board meeting, there was still no convergence of the three. Since that time, however, it appears that they are beginning to come together. Again, while we have no specific dates for such a cruise, there is now ongoing significant movement. Again, please stay tuned for an announcement.

What would you think about TOSI's having its own physical, geographical home in a theatre complex and having its own theatre pipe organ? Well, it's not out of the question; and that avenue is being pursued aggressively. In fact, we should have more information about this possibility in just a few days.

Following the Board meeting, we began preparations for the "meet-the-artist" social at Jack's home. It was a very nice and enjoyable event with some fifty people participating. John Ledwon played Jack's one-of-a kind greatly expanded organ installation for quite some time, the selections being primarily from the Disney library. TOSI even gained two new members then. John's program on Sunday at the Lincoln Theatre, which included far more contemporary works than is usually the case with theatre organ programs, was, indeed, outstanding and greatly appreciated by the audience. His available CDs were sold out!

Although it likely sounds like a broken record (Does anyone really remember those?), 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 for your help in being on the lookout for new members.

Most sincerely, *Gus*

Hear The Pipes

COMING EVENTS

RICHMOND VIRGINIA

The Richmond Chapter of the American Guild Of Organists will present an "Organ Spooktakular" recital at 7:30 pm on the evening of October 12th, 2010 at Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. The church is located at 8 North Laurel Street, next to the Landmark Theatre in Richmond. The performers are organists from the Richmond area, including: Elizabeth Melcher Davis, Cheryl Van Ornam, John DeMajo, Bruce Stevens, Charles Lindsey, Rebecca Davy, Mary Beth Bennett, Crystal Jonkman, and David Sinden. Works to be performed include selections from "The Phantom Of The Opera," "Prelude from Suite Médiévalee," "The Funeral March Of The Marionette," "Jubilo," J.S. Bach's "Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor," and the "Pink Panther Theme." A reception will follow the performance. Admission is FREE and parking is available. For further information, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis at (804) 359-5628, extension 18, or emelcherdavis@ghtc.org
John G. DeMajo

Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

Sunday, October 10, 2010, 4 PM, First public event featuring the 4/24 Wurlitzer, Wayne Zimmerman, Sr., will accompany a program of silent movie comedy "shorts" featuring Chaplin, Lloyd, Keaton, and Laurel and Hardy, Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, Pa. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$5.
Info: www.tosdv.org

Jersey City New Jersey

LOEW'S JERSEY THEATRE – Saturday October 23, 2010, 7:30PM, Wayne Zimmerman will accompany the classic 1922 silent film "Nosferatu" on the 4/23 Wonder Morton Theatre Pipe Organ, Loew's Jersey Theatre, Jersey City, NJ. Info: www.loewsjersey.org

GRAND THEATRE East Greenville, Pennsylvania

Sunday, October 24, 2010, 2 PM, Jeff Barker accompanying "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" 1920 silent film starring John Barrymore. 2/7 Marr & Colton, Grand Theatre, East Greenville, Pa. Tickets \$15. Send check or money order with self addressed stamped envelope to: Grand Theatre, PO Box 244, East Greenville, Pa 18041-0244. Info: www.grandtheater.org

Middletown Paramount, Middletown New York

Friday, October 29, 2010, 7:30 PM Bernie Anderson, accompanying silent horror classic "Phantom of the Opera", 3/12 Wurlitzer, Middletown Paramount, Middletown, N.Y. Admission: \$7.00 Info: tjskinura@aol.com

THE MIGHTY WURLITZERS

TOSI Member and Concert Organist, Jack Moelmann and a staff organist at the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis has put together some interesting information concerning the larger Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organs.

There were five of these Fox Specials built. They are 4 manual, 36-rank instruments. The only Wurlitzer which is larger than these is in the Radio City Music Hall. The five, in the order in which they were shipped from the factory are: New York Paramount Theatre, Detroit Fox Theatre, Brooklyn Fox Theatre, St. Louis Fox Theatre, and San Francisco Fox Theatre.

Unfortunately there are only two of these instruments which remain in their original location and they are the Detroit Fox and St. Louis Fox



organs. The New York Paramount is now in the Century II Convention Center in Wichita, Kansas, and the San Francisco Fox is now in Disney's El Capitan in Hollywood, California, the organ on which TOSI Vice President, John Ledwon, is staff organist. The organ from the Brooklyn Fox was broken up for parts.

The first of these five organs was shipped from the factory to the New York Paramount in September 1926 and the last for the San Francisco Fox in December 1928. These organs have two 50-horsepower blowers only one of which is used at a time. The New York Paramount originally had only one 50-horsepower blower but when it failed, a second one was installed and two blowers became the standard.

There was to be a 6th Fox Theatre built in Newark, New Jersey, but the theatre and organ were never built. The organ's blower had been obtained and eventually went to the organ in Radio City Music Hall in New York which opened in 1932.

The organs originally cost around \$60,000 when new and today it would cost an estimated \$5,000,000 to recreate a duplicate. The organs had a second or slave console with Detroit having the only one still connected in its original condition.

A few statistics on some of the organ's voices and capabilities include: 4-Vox Humanas, 3-Tibias, 3-Xylophones (reiterating), 2-Chimes, 2-Trumpets, 3-Diapasons; 2-Chrysoglotts. The St. Louis Fox organ is built in seven chambers the largest pipes being the 32' Diaphone which rattles the building.

By the way, the St. Louis Fox opened in 1929 and seats close to 5,000 people and features many Broadway shows. There is also a 2-manual, 10-rank Wurlitzer in the Lobby which replaced the original Moller some years ago. The Detroit Fox has its original lobby organ.

Jack Moelmann

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

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.

We Welcome the following new members.

NAME	CITY	STATE
RUSSELL BILL	GODFREY	IL
PAUL HUDEK	QUINCY	IL
CORY WRIGHT	BREESE	IL
CHRIS MATTINGLY	FLORISSANT	MO
DENNIS RATHERT	SAINT LOUIS	MO
JIM AND DEE RYAN	SAINT LOUIS	MO
WENDY EVANS WURLITZER	GLEN ALLEN	VA

"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, in 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"

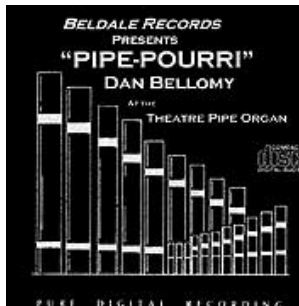
This CD was done at Warnor's Theatre in Fresno, California. The instrument is a 4/14 Robert Morton that really has a message!

"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>



A Prairie Home Companion

February 2010 broadcast from the Detroit Fox. In segment 2, John Lauter plays through intermission and it's REAL in-theatre Wurlitzer Sound you can't beat with baseball bat! In segment 3, Garrison Keillor talks about the Fox and its Wurlitzer. He chats up to John Lauter that the Wurlitzer must have been used to accompany silent films in the past. G K makes up some "themes" and relays them to John who expertly plays accompaniment to match. Next some instrumentalists start the Battle Hymn with Wurlitzer and audience joining in for a sing a long. Then the organ plays and audience sings the Faygo Commercial lyrics from the 70's. In segment 5 John Lauter plays a solo "Happy Together" and it's GREAT!

Here's the link: <http://prairiehome.publicradio.org/programs/2010/02/27>

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