



THE POST HORN

Winter – 2018 / 2019
**Official Newsletter of the
 Bluegrass Chapter
 American Theatre Organ Society**

www.LexTheaterPipes.Org

BG ATOS MEMBERS ENJOY ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Members of the Bluegrass chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society got together at the end of December for our annual Holiday celebration. Chapter members Bill and Jane Johnson were the hosts for the event at their home in Lexington.

Everyone enjoyed getting together and socializing as well as a wonderful potluck meal. Bill Webber led the group in a holiday sing-a-long as he played on Jane Johnson's pipe organ. Jane has a two manual five rank



Bill Webber leading the Christmas sing-a-long on Jane Johnson's Estey pipe organ at the BG ATOS Holiday party.

Estey pipe organ installed in her basement. (see page 9 for a special feature on the Johnson's pipe organ).

All of the favorite carols and fun songs came alive as this group of primarily musicians turned into a remarkable choir for the evening.

(For more pictures of the party, see page 4)

BG ATOS TO ENHANCE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE AT KENTUCKY THEATER IN 2019

The BG ATOS and the Kentucky Theater are looking to enhance their already close relationship by expanding the performance opportunities in 2019.

BG ATOS already provides theatre organ mini-concerts before each of the Summer Classic Movie showings and this may expand to include other movie showings.

Building on the success of our Silent Film Gala last October, we are looking to make this an annual event. John Lauter has agreed to be the next featured organist. The film to be shown is still being considered.

In addition, the chapter will be looking to provide performances around Easter, Halloween and Christmas. There are many silent films which are ideal for the Easter season and theatre organ accompaniment.

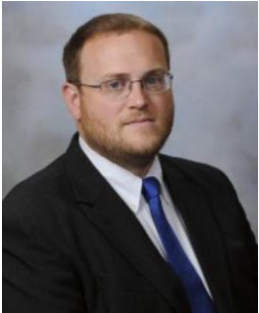
On the other end of the religious spectrum, so to speak, there are some silent films which would be very appropriate to be shown on Halloween.

The Christmas performance will most likely be a concert of Christmas music, carols and hymns with strong audience participation.

The city of Lexington's big festival is the Fourth of July. BG ATOS will again provide a concert of patriotic music as one of the many activities which comprise the local celebration.

All in all, it looks to be an exciting year for theatre organs and theatre organ music in Lexington.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy New Year!

I'm writing this message in DC attending the largest transportation research conference in the nation. The week will be packed with lectures, exhibits, committee meetings, and poster sessions on everything transportation

related, and attendance is crucial to staying with current research topics. While the government shutdown may affect a few presentations, thankfully the knowledge base is far larger than one agency.

I wanted to thank everyone for their involvement and attendance at the Buster Keaton "College" event in October. Not being used to public speaking, I neglected to thank those who had worked so hard to make the evening happen. That list includes: Garry & Rhonda Marsh, Dana & Mary Ross, Brian & Cathy Hunt, Julene Jones, Lindsey Bain, Linda Crawford, Lynn Vera, and others I'm again forgetting. But I want to make sure to thank Bill Webber. His work in planning and coordinating with the KY Theater, Lexington Chapter AGO, John Baratta, and others made sure the event went off without many hiccups. That said, we are indeed in the planning stages for another October event in 2019.

I also want to acknowledge everyone involved with the Summer Movie Series, whether at the fundraising table or playing the organ. Your volunteer effort is what gives us the public showing we need. I'd like to make as much effort as possible to bolster our membership.

We are also planning other events for this year. Events we are looking at are an Easter program, something on July 4th, the October event, and perhaps a Christmas event. This will be in addition to our regular Friday evening pre-shows, and Summer Movie pre-shows. We will also evaluate how we can improve/simplify our fundraising table.

In December, Lynn Vera, Bill Webber, and I had a meeting with the Bluegrass Community Foundation, to explore fundraising and grant opportunities. We hope this will lead to additional funding for the organ and chambers.

For restoration, it's become apparent to me that proximity helps. One of the barriers I've had, since we moved the organ to the Nicholasville location, was that it is not right under our noses. It's safe and overwhelming, but not convenient. The thought struck me that we could restore one component at a time, more or less. Then, if we set up shop at my house that may solve the convenience issue.

I want to thank Bill & Jane Johnson for hosting our holiday party. It was a wonderful evening and I'm glad we were able to experience the plethora of musical instruments and more. The Estey pipe organ is a sweet instrument and it is fortunate that a nearly original instrument has been preserved.

So, before I'm off to another session or to the exhibit hall, I wanted to encourage you all to consider the event planned in March at the Ohio Theatre. (*see below*) To hear Clark Wilson and Simon Gledhill is a very rare treat and not to be missed. I'm glad it came in just in time to print.

Tim Jones

OHIO THEATRE ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

CAPA (the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts) is producing a special concert at the magnificent Ohio Theatre in Columbus, OH, with its equally splendid 4/34 Robert-Morton organ, on Sunday March 17th at 3:00 PM. Tickets at \$10 each will be available at the door.

The concert will celebrate two anniversaries: the 50th anniversary of CAPA's foundation, and the 91st anniversary (to the day) of the Ohio Theatre's opening.

Clark Wilson, the Ohio Theatre's House Organist, will open the show by recreating one of the sing-a-longs for which former House Organist, Roger Garrett, was famous. He will then hand it over to Britain's Simon Gledhill, whose concert program will include music from Broadway, Hollywood and the Great American Songbook, as well as 1928 and 1969 retrospectives.

Please support CAPA, Clark and Simon by attending what promises to be a very special afternoon at the Ohio Theatre.

ONLY YESTERDAY #5

By Dr. John Landon



In my former column, ONLY YESTERDAY #4, I told about beginning to play a genuine theatre pipe organ every week before the main featured picture at the Paramount Theatre, Anderson, Indiana on a three manual PAGE pipe organ.

Once I got started there I acquired a tuxedo (and later a second tux) and began playing there every Saturday night. I had a ruffled shirt to go with the tux and I felt very professional using the organists' dressing room under the

stage, coming up and getting on the organ bench just as the prior film was ending. As the film stopped I would press the UP button on the organ lift and begin playing. There was some drama in this because I would rise up out of the darkness of the pit playing my own rendition of "Nolan's Theme." [More about this later].

I would play from 15 minutes to 30 minutes depending on the film schedule. Then, as the film was ready to begin, I would press the DOWN button and sink back into the darkness until time for my next performance. Usually the Saturday night schedule was such that I would play my first intermission and then go and eat with friends at a nearby restaurant and return in time for my second performance and then home. "Home" in those days was a church parsonage located about 14 miles away in rural Noblesville, Indiana. I had heard the name of Billy Nolan. He was a highly skilled professional organist who played at the Embassy Theatre on a four manual Page pipe organ. At that time the Embassy Theatre and the Anderson Paramount Theatre were owned by the same theater chain---The Alliance Chain out of Alliance, Ohio. Friends finally arranged for me to meet Billy. He was a thoroughly professional organist who played at a restaurant in Fort Wayne, Indiana and at the Embassy. He played his "Nolan's Theme" for me and I liked it from the start. I asked Billy if I could use it at the Paramount and he kindly agreed.

I lived in the Anderson, Indiana area for several decades and was able to enjoy playing at the Paramount. Well known theatre organist DENNIS JAMES was one of several organists who played special programs at the Paramount during those years. I was your typical impoverished college student. I worked part time in the college library and part time as assistant to the professor of French and Spanish. I didn't speak either language, but I was hired because I was the only student who had a disc recorder---a recorder capable of cutting 78 rpm or 33 1/3 rpm records. The professor recorded various vocabulary words and phrases and the students (most of whom

would have had access to a record player) could get the recording from me to listen to back in their dorms.

In addition, I became an organist of a small Episcopal Church in Gas City, Indiana (just a few miles from the college campus). The organ was a wheezy, electrified reed organ which was not much fun to play. Later, I became organist of the Methodist Church in Van Buren, Indiana. They had a genuine Moller pipe organ and I loved playing it. With the minister living next door I was careful at first to play only sacred music. He could hear the organ even with his doors and windows shut. Finally, one day when we were talking he said, "do you know the 'BIRTH OF THE BLUES'?" I said yes, that I often played it at the Anderson Paramount. He said, "Well, we can't use it in a church service but I sure would love to hear you play it some day when you are practicing here". That did it. I did a lot of theatre music on that little Moller during my practice sessions but on Sunday it was strictly sacred music!

Once in a while, during these years, I would take some of my hard-earned money and buy a theatre organ record. One day in the local record store I saw a new record of DICK LEIBERT. The title was "LEIBERT TAKES RICHMOND". Leibert was at that time the long-time chief organist of Radio City Music Hall but, in this case, he was playing the wonderful Wurlitzer in the Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Virginia. Enclosed in this album was a wonderful article about the history of theatre organs written by author Ben M. Hall. Ben was later to author "THE BEST REMAINING SEATS", the best history of theaters and their organs at that time. I wrote a letter to Ben, sent it in care of the record company and they forwarded it on. Shortly thereafter I received a wonderful letter from Ben telling me about the newly organized ATOE---The American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts, as it was known then. Up to that time I had no idea that there were thousands of theatre organ buffs all across the country. I thought I was perhaps the only one. This was mid-year in the first year of life of ATOE (Fall of 1955 to be exact) and at that time anyone who joined received each of the copies of their Journal, entitled "THE TIBIA – Journal Of The ATOE", which were issued quarterly. I still cherish those earliest copies and I have amassed a complete set of the Journal from its beginning up to the present day.

I didn't know it but I was about to launch fully into the theatre organ hobby in a big way which would greatly enrich my life.

MORE TO COME!

Dr. John W. Landon

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PICTURES FROM THE BG ATOS HOLIDAY PARTY



ATOS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY

The Bluegrass Chapter of the ATOS is one of 73 ATOS chapters in the US. (There are also 4 global chapters.) There are some exciting things happening with each of them. Some of these are:

ATLANTA CHAPTER – In addition to playing preshow music at several theaters in the area, the chapter is creating a Photo Roster of their membership.

BINGHAMTON, NY CHAPTER – Presented a Mini-Film Fest of 4 Mack Sennett comedies with musical interpretation by Jim Ford on the theatre organ at the Forum Theater.

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER – presents free public performances on the Pinellas Auditorium three manual fifteen rank Wurlitzer on the third Tuesday of every month from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. Everyone is invited to bring their own lunch and enjoy the music. CFTOS provides free coffee and iced tea.

CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER – Donnie Rankin accompanied the Indianapolis Men's Chorus for their annual "Making Spirits Bright" Christmas concert. The Lerner Theatre in Elkhart, IN will feature four silent movies as part of their "Silent Movie Experience" featuring the 1924 Kimball Theatre Pipe Organ. (*7th Heaven*, *Laurel & Hardy*, *The Navigator* and *Sherlock Jr.*)

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER – The chapter is working on their application to host the 2021 ATOS convention. The Arcada Theatre is continuing with their Silent Tuesdays with Jay Warren at the console providing accompaniment to classic silent movies. The next CATOE Social will be held on Sunday, February 24th, at the Allen Studio in Bolingbrook. Performing for them will be ATOS Chairman, Dave Calendine.

COLUMBIA RIVER CHAPTER (Portland, OR) – While previous events at the Hollywood Theater have featured live organ accompaniment, the organ sound itself was digital, powered by large speakers backstage. Now, the sound will once again come from the theater's pipes. The Columbia River Theatre Organ Society has spent thousands of volunteer hours meticulously refurbishing the theatre organ, tracking down vintage organ parts and pipes, restoring the original Hollywood organ chamber, and installing electrical lines, wind lines, and a mammoth 15hp organ blower in the basement.

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER (Cheltenham, PA) – The chapter will be presenting "Nosferatue" on Halloween with Wayne Zimmerman Sr. on the organ. They presented "King of Kings" last Easter. Membership is 69 people. They also host free Open Console/Open House events so the general public can hear, learn and ask questions about theatre pipe organs. They give free tickets to middle school children and their parents in the area to their theatre organ concerts to promote a new generation of pipe organ enthusiasts. The chapter also has a running project to create an archive of theatre organ music, recordings, journals and other memorabilia related to theatre organs.

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER – presented a Buster Keaton/WC Fields Silent Film Festive in Sept. It consisted of 6 films with theatre organ accompaniment along with lectures, panel discussions and an After Party at the end of the day. One of the chapter's focus areas is education - where they have programs to bring the history of the instrument to today's youth - through school programs featuring the organ and the Music Hall itself. They mention having 2500 7th graders in the auditorium gathered to see a real silent film short for the first time in their lives accompanied the way it was meant to be!

MEET THE DIRECTORS – DAVID PILKINTON



David Pilkinton is a member of the board of directors for the BG ATOS. He was born and raised in Louisville, KY and is a graduate of Pleasure Ridge Park High School. After high school, he studied at the Atlanta School of Fashion and Design. He studied music at the University of Louisville and graduated with a degree in

organ performance. Then he attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and earned a master's degree in Church Music.

While at the Seminary, he worked as the Music Minister at the Douglass Blvd Christian Church. He continued there for five years after he graduated. He then took the position of Associate Minister at the First Christian Church in Shelbyville, Ky. After a few years he added the duties of Director of Music and Arts. He also served for many years as the Youth Minister. As Youth Minister, he went on multiple mission trips with the youth group providing hurricane relief in Jamaica. David has served the Shelbyville church for 30 years.

David's musical journey is fascinating. As a youngster he did not have any formal musical training. He taught himself to read music and to play the piano. He enjoyed playing for friends and going around to the Sunday School classes to play hymns for them. While he was in Atlanta, he was attending church one Sunday and the regular musician couldn't be there. David agreed to play for them. "They were very kind to me on my performance", he commented.

Playing for the church in Atlanta spurred his interest in going further with music. When he returned to Louisville, he hired a teacher at age 21 and started lessons. He was a quick study and

learned enough to pass the audition to enter the U of L Music School. As he remembered, "I only knew three pieces. Fortunately, they didn't ask for a fourth at the audition".

Once he was enrolled, he practiced and studied 10 hours a day to catch up. His work ethic and natural talent led to his degree in music from the U of L.

Although he has now moved to a part time work schedule at the church, he is no less active. His interests are numerous, and he stays busy with all his varied activities.

He is a baker. He loves to make cakes. He makes them for special occasions, for friends and he made his daughter's wedding cake.

He has been active in all aspects of the Shelbyville Community Theater – acting, directing, costumes, lighting, sets and anything else that needed to be done. He is a Past President of the organization. He has been in numerous performances both as an actor (Romeo & Juliet, Any Number Can Die, The Odd Couple, Murder at Café Noir, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Charley's Aunt, ...) and as a director or producer (Cinderella, Snow White, The Drowsy Chaperone, Snow Ball, The Glass Mendacity, ...). His

favorite is the performance of the "The Drowsy Chaperone". He was the director and played the lead role as "The Man in the Chair" for the performance. This was a huge undertaking for the theater as David pointed out that this was a major Broadway musical which won five Tony awards.

His love of the theater takes him to New York City often. He loves the city and goes there
(Continued on next page)



Playing the role of Manolo in "The Odd Couple".

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DAVID PILKINTON

(Continued from previous page)

two to three times a year to see plays and enjoy the city. His daughter, who did her medical fellowship there, often accompanies him.

If you're in New York City, why not take advantage of the local activities? David took this to another level, though, when he ran in the NYC Marathon, which is one of the pre-eminent long-distance annual running events in the United States and is one of the World Marathon Majors. Prior to this, he ran in the Walt Disney Marathon and the Louisville Marathon. He still runs but limits himself to half marathons where his daughters often run with him.

For the past 15 years, David is the co-owner of a real estate business where he is the broker.

He paints. He does oil paintings and pastel paintings and has sold several of them. While he paints everything, he does have a fondness for portraits.

He loves to read, especially history.

Between him and his daughters, he has adopted six shelter dogs. He currently has two of them living with him.

He loves to ride bikes, bicycles that is. He has participated in several fundraising rides including the Ride to Conquer Cancer. He someday hopes to ride his bike across England.

He is a travel enthusiast. He travels often to his wife's native Singapore as well as Malaysia, Thailand and other Asian countries. He has also traveled across most of southern Europe as well as the Caribbean.

His knowledge and love of organs makes his current job with D. C. Schroth Organ Builders a natural fit. While he is very comfortable with the performance side of organs, he is now learning the technical construction side as he helps with the company's projects.

His first introduction to pipe organs was through a high school function where one was brought in for a performance. Fascinated with the instrument, he started going over to Shackleton's

Music Store on 4th Street to find organ music records from the 50's which he would add to his collection.

When he got to Atlanta, he would go over on Sunday mornings to listen to Bob Van Camp play the "Mighty Mo" MP Moller organ at the Fox Theatre. While there, he joined the local organ societies and even participated in the Save the Fox Campaign.

Returning to Louisville, he joined the AGO and served as Dean. With Tim Baker, he attended an ATOS convention in Indianapolis and subsequently joined the BG ATOS where he has served for years as a member of the Board of Directors.

At home, he has a 3 manual Conn which he plays for enjoyment and practice for his performances.

It would seem that with all his interests, hobbies and activities, as well as his jobs, David must have found a way to have more than 24 hours in a day! Truly he is a Renaissance Man.



David Pilkinton at the console of the Pilcher Organ in Louisville's Memorial Auditorium

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BG ATOS MEMBERSHIP

We want you to join us!

Many of you have joined our local chapter, The Bluegrass Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS). To those of you who haven't, we want to extend an invitation to come be a part of the excitement and joy of theatre organs. Our local membership dues are \$15 per year which gives you access to all of our outings, dinners, concerts, and our organ restoration project. You will also receive this newsletter, *The Post Horn*, with news and announcements every three months. If you have not paid your dues or you would like to join BG ATOS, please send your name, address and email along with your \$15 to:

The Bluegrass Chapter, ATOS
P.O. Box 141
Lexington, KY 40588-0141

You may also pay your dues by credit or debit card at our website which is <http://www.LexTheaterPipes.Org>

Additionally, we hope you will consider making donations above and beyond your dues. We have a couple of organ restoration projects ongoing, and all donations are tax deductible as we are a 501-C-3 charitable organization. Please consider our chapter if you plan to give for tax deduction purposes.



BACK IN THE DAY

Pictures from our Chapter's Past

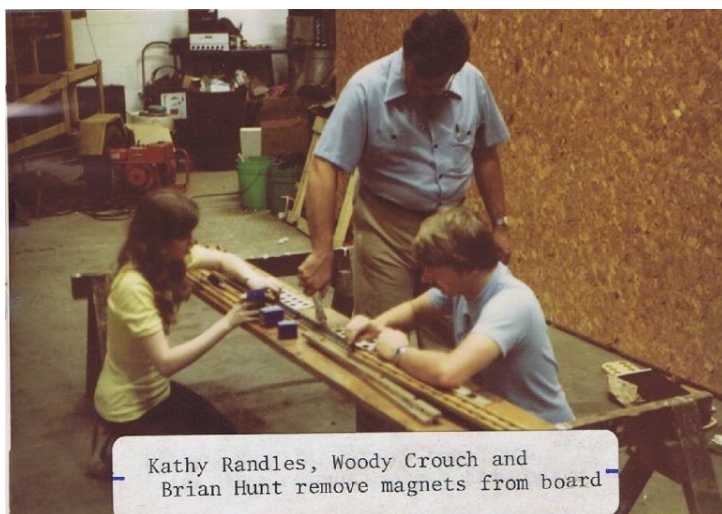
ABOVE: Woody Crouch, Oscar Wilson, Carlton Smith, Jr., Jim Miller and Guy Rogers at the console of the KY Theater Wurlitzer in 1982 when it was owned by Oscar Wilson and located in his home.

BELOW and LOWER LEFT: Work sessions to refurbish the components which would become the University of Kentucky's Worsham Theater Pipe Organ in 1982.

All Photos provided by Bill Johnson



Bill Johnson, Bill Barnes, David Bottom and John Courter dismantle the blower



Kathy Randles, Woody Crouch and Brian Hunt remove magnets from board

JANE JOHNSON'S HOME PIPE ORGAN

Music is everywhere in the home of BG ATOS chapter members Bill and Jane Johnson. There are a myriad of musical instruments (banjos, guitar, dulcimers, string basses, piano, harpsicord and several others) in just about every room. There are multiple Victrola's with their distinctive horns ready to bring those vintage 78's to life and there is even a cabinet size Regina music box with a 27" disc. However, even with all of these, the main attraction is the Estey pipe organ occupying a central spot in their basement.

The sound of the organ can be heard and felt in every room of the house. Mysteriously, wherever you stand, it seems as if the sound is coming from just around the corner and you catch yourself peeking into the next room to see who is playing.

The Johnson's organ was manufactured in 1927 by the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, VT as Opus 2608 for the Christian Church in Nicholasville,

KY. The Church and the Johnsons are the only two owners the organ has ever had – the Church from 1927 to 1978 and the Johnsons for the past 40 years, from 1978 to the present.

The organ is a two manual, five rank instrument. The ranks are original – Flute, Dulciana, Aeoline, Diapason and Gottfried Vox Humana. It also has a Synthetic Oboe. It is winded by the original Spencer Orgoblo blower which also drives a 12v DC generator for the organ's electrical supply.

The original console on the organ was an Estey Luminous console. The Church used the Luminous console for many years, but decided to replace it with a console from MP Moller of Hagerstown, MD in 1954.

In 1978, Jane was the organist at St. Augustine's Chapel on the University of Kentucky's campus. The Chapel was very popular with the students and they would use it for study and just to hang out. While this was good for the Chapel, it meant that Jane could only get practice time early on Sunday mornings. She and Bill decided that they needed to get a practice organ that she could use at home.

About this time, the Christian Church in Nicholasville had replaced their Estey organ with a Roger's electronic model. While the Estey was more organ than they were looking for, Bill and Jane purchased the Estey and moved it out of the Sunday School room, where it was stored, to their house. It then took about six months to install it with essential help from their friend David Bottom. As they installed the components, they found that the Estey was in excellent condition even after 50 years. Estey had used a special treated white leather for the pneumatics on the pouch board.

"It is fabulous to have the organ at home and be able to practice on my schedule," said Jane. "I can practice on my own time. I can take 15 or 20 minutes to run through some music whenever I want."

However, everything was not all work. One Halloween Bill opened the windows to the dormers, since the organ was installed in the attic of their first home, and Jane and her friends played some music that was, shall we say, appropriate for the occasion. The eerie organ sounds could be heard for several blocks and Bill said that "he didn't have a lot of trick or treaters that year." *(Continued on next page)*



Jane Johnson at the console of her Estey pipe organ installed in her home.

JANE'S HOME PIPE ORGAN

(Continued from previous page)

When they moved to their current home, it took six weeks to move and re-install the organ. They did some construction work to install the swell shades into an opening they made in a wall and they fabricated custom screens for the shades. The results are outstanding both visually and musically.

The lowest pitch on the organ is the 16' Flute. The highest are the 2' Flute and the 2' Dulciana. It has tremolo, swell shades and a crescendo pedal. There are four general presets (pistons) to program both manuals and the pedal.

The console has a provision for a harp stop which they obtained from the Union Church in Berea, KY. Hooking it up remains a future project, however.

Bill now provides the primary maintenance and support of the organ. He says, "that it doesn't need a lot of work, mainly an occasional tuning". He has had to replace 6 magnets in the 40 years they have had the organ. He had some insect eat a hole in one pouch and their cat crawled into the console and bent some of the contacts by walking on them. For a 90 year old instrument, it is working wonderfully.

With the Estey Organ company no longer in business, Bill obtained a stack of Estey magnets from another Estey organ that was being dismantled locally. Given the reliability of the organ, his stack could be considered a lifetime supply!



Bill Johnson next to the pipes for the Estey organ installed in his basement.

Jane keeps the organ busy as she plays it multiple times a week. She is the current organist at Crestwood Christian Church and has been there 18 years. Prior to that she was the organist at Trinity Hill Methodist Church for 17 years.

"Having an actual pipe organ in the house is fabulous," Jane said. "I feel so fortunate to have it for practice and to plan out my weekly church music."

The Estey Organ company was a leader in making reed pump organs. They made over 520,000 of them. They built and sold more than 3200 pipe organs across the US and abroad. And they made over 160 theatre organs.



Did you know?

ESTEY LUMINOUS CONSOLE

Estey is famous for the Luminous console, forever nicknamed the "Cash Register" console. This is because of the appearance of the stop buttons (which look like the keys on an old cash register) and because one of the first consoles of this design was built in 1922 for the four manual Estey organ in the auditorium of the National Cash Register Company in Dayton, Ohio.

For organists, the Luminous console should have made great sense. Stops were controlled by push-buttons located on a slanted nameboard above the top manual. When the organist depressed a stop button, it would light, indicating that the stop was on. Pressing the button again turned the stop off. When the crescendo pedal was depressed, each stop button lighted as that stop was brought into play. Unlike the more common blind crescendo systems, Estey's Luminous console always let the organist know exactly which stops were sounding at any given time.

Unfortunately, the concept exceeded the technology of the time and the console suffered several problems including burnt out bulbs, yellowing button covers and electrical shocks. They were difficult to maintain and very few of them are in use today.

THE LOUISVILLE CONNECTION

by David Pilkinton



On November 11th, 2018 at 11:00 AM, we remembered the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I - 'The War To End All Wars'. In the 1920's the people of Louisville began contemplating a way to commemorate and honor the heroism and sacrifice of the soldiers

who served in that conflict. As a result, on Memorial Day, May 30th, 1929 the Louisville Memorial Auditorium was dedicated as a memorial to the people of Louisville who served and to those who died. This year a series of 90th anniversary events are being planned at the Auditorium.

Also celebrating its 90th anniversary is the Pilcher Pipe Organ which resides in the walls of the main hall. It is the largest Pilcher organ ever built and it has been lovingly cared for over the past 40+ years by multiple dedicated individuals under the guidance of Tim Baker.

Under the direction of David Schroth (of D. C. Schroth Organ Builders), Tim Baker and David Pilkinton helped restore the Orchestral Division to playing condition. It had not been heard for several years.

This past Fall was busy for the William Bauer Foundation (*see below*) with several fundraising activities. The October program for the general public was well attended. A large crowd enjoyed Fritz Lang's "Metropolis", with musical accompaniment featuring Tim Baker at the console. Tim also played for two Christmas programs at the Auditorium.

KY THEATER WURLITZER ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT

PROJECT WORK SESSIONS PLANNED FOR FIRST QUARTER

Work on the chapter's restoration project of the Kentucky Theater Wurlitzer will continue starting in February.

The work sessions will be held in the garage of our Restoration Project leader Tim Jones in Lexington. Sessions will be held every Saturday from 9:00 AM to noon.

The primary work activity for these sessions will be the wind chests. Tim and Julene Jones will be using the experience and knowledge they gained by attending the ATOS Technical Experience last August in Indianapolis (where the focus of the class was rebuilding wind chests).

The chests will be moved individually to Tim's garage where they can be worked on. Once restored, they will be returned either to our main storage/workshop or to our special climate controlled storage area.

Notices will be sent out each week highlighting the work to be done for the upcoming Saturday. If you would like your name added to the email list for schedule updates and the work location, please contact Tim Jones at tim.jones@uky.edu.

William Bauer Foundation

The William Bauer Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Louisville, KY. The mission of the Foundation is restoring and preserving the World's Largest Pilcher Pipe Organ in the Louisville War Memorial Auditorium. This 1929 auditorium was the central hub of the Arts in Louisville, Kentucky for many decades, but the organ was neglected. Now, through the Foundation's concert and silent film series, they are raising funds to keep this musical treasure playing for generations to come. It's not often you get to save an instrument that is the largest of its kind in the world. But They Are!

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TREASURER'S REPORT

by Brian Hunt



Our major fundraising event this fall was the Oct 7th Silent Film Gala. The event was well attended.

To read more, you are welcome to join our Chapter! Details are on Page 8.

products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.”

Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1052999> to sign up.

On your first visit to Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at <http://smile.amazon.com> will result in a donation. Please note that you need to use the specific website <http://smile.amazon.com> to contribute; Amazon does not make a donation if you are shopping at www.amazon.com.

You may change your selected charity in either of these programs at any time.

DONATIONS: There are two easy methods of donations that we are encouraging people to sign up for: the Kroger Community Rewards Program and the Amazon Smile Program. Both donation methods are simple to sign up for and use, and we are benefitting from those who are using it! Here are the instructions, again:

Kroger Community Rewards

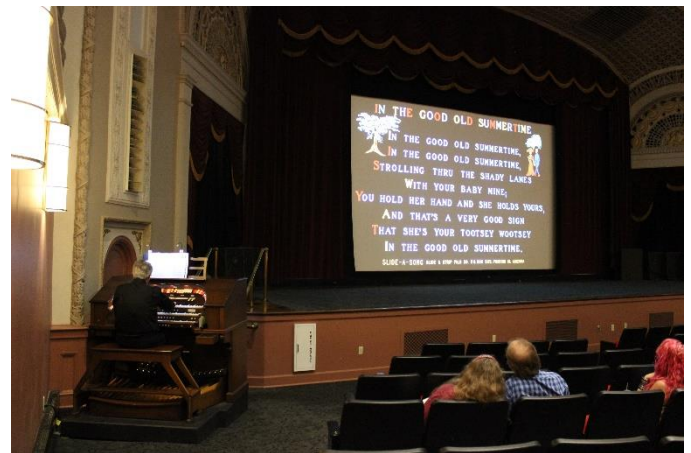
Go to <http://krogercommunityrewards.com>

Link your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card to our charitable organization, Bluegrass Chapter American Theatre Organ Society, organization number 42729. Then, whenever you use your Kroger Plus card, a portion of any purchase you make will be donated to BG ATOS!

Amazon Smile Program

Per Amazon's website, "AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same

HOME ORGAN NOTE: Bill Webber recently had a new digital Toy Counter installed by Sphar Organ Service on his Conn 652 organ.



KY THEATER SILENT FILM GALA

John Baratta on the organ leading the sing-a-long at the Oct 7, 2018 Silent Film Gala. (see story on page 15). Photo by Lindsey Bain

THE POST HORN

Winter – 2018 / 2019

SILENT FILM GALA WAS A BIG SUCCESS

The Bluegrass ATOS chapter and the Lexington AGO presented their first Silent Film Gala on October 7th, 2018 at the Kentucky Theater.

John Baratta of Wantage, NJ was the featured organist. He performed an organ concert featuring a variety of songs including the Root Beer Rag, Fugue al la Gigue, Waltz of the Flowers and the Liberty Bell March.

Following the concert, he helped lead the audience in a sing-a-long of popular and patriotic songs.

The main event was the showing of the classic silent film “College”, starring Buster Keaton, with John providing the organ accompaniment.

The performance was enthusiastically received by the audience and, as mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the Kentucky Theater has asked for this to become an annual event.



Leaders of the sponsoring organizations (BG ATOS and Lexington AGO) at the GALA: Bill Webber (chair concert planning committee and Associate Organist, The Kentucky Theater), Dr. Ted Gentry (historian, Lexington AGO), Carl Black (Mr. Baratta's assistant and a performing theatre organist), Mark DeAlba (AGO member), Timothy Jones (President, Bluegrass Chapter, ATOS), Dr. Schuyler W. Robinson (Professor of Organ, Emeritus, University of Kentucky), James Humlong (Dean, Lexington AGO), John Baratta (organist for the event), Julene Jones (vice president, Bluegrass Chapter, ATOS), Dr. John W. Landon (Bluegrass Chapter ATOS historian and Organist, The Kentucky Theater), Dana Ross (editor of BG ATOS “The Post Horn” and ATOS board member), Garry W. Marsh (Bluegrass ATOS board member), Dr. Larry Sharp (Kentucky State Convener AGO and past dean of Lexington AGO), and Lindsey Bain (Bluegrass ATOS photographer and board member).

Photo by Lindsey Bain

This night would not have been possible without the hard work of many people –

THANKS GO OUT TO:

The Event Concert Planning Committee members are Bill Webber, Garry Marsh, Linda Crawford, Mary Ross, David Pilkinton, and Tim Jones.

Tim Jones for acting as the evening's host and working with Carl Black to run the sing-a-long as well as assisting our guest organist.

Julene Jones, Lindsey Bain, Stephen Weller, and Dana Ross for handing out concert programs, and Lindsey for being the event photographer.

Rhonda Marsh, Greg Weller, and Linda Crawford for working at the merchandise table in the outer lobby.

THANKS ALSO GO TO those who worked throughout the SUMMER CLASSIC MOVIE SERIES leading up to this event:

Working at the table in the outer lobby before the movie each Wednesday night included Julene Jones, Linda Crawford, Mary Ross, Rhonda Marsh, Garry Marsh, Lindsey Bain, Jim Fitzpatrick, Ben Gillig, Gretchen Gillig, Bill Johnson, Jane Johnson, Lynn Vera, Greg Weller, and Cathy Hunt.

Tim Jones ran the sing-a-long slides projecting the words on the theater screen each Wednesday.

Garry Marsh worked with Bill Webber on advertising the event.

Wednesday matinee organists were Dr. John Landon and Lindsey Bain.

The organists who played each Wednesday night included Tim Jones, Brian Hunt, Bill Webber, Tom White, Lindsey Bain, Tim Baker, and David Pilkinton.

And **MANY THANKS** to all of our members who sold tickets for this event. It truly takes all of us to make something like this a success.

THANK YOU ALL!!

THE POST HORN

Winter – 2018 / 2019

ATOS National Convention

Western New York State 6/30/19-7/5/19

The 2019 Annual Convention of The American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) will be hosted in western New York state by the Rochester Theatre Organ Society (RTOS). The ATOS 2019 Convention will visit Rochester, Buffalo and Elmira as part of the Convention's agenda. The dates are June 30 to July 5, 2019.

Featured instruments in Rochester include the 4/23 Wurlitzer in the Auditorium Theatre, the 3/12 Wurlitzer in the Eisenhardt Auditorium at the Rochester Science Center and the Hope-Jones 3/11 Opus #2 organ in the First Universalists Church. Also included are visits to theatre organs in the Buffalo area including the 4/28 Wurlitzer organ in Shea's Buffalo Theatre and the Riviera Theatre's 3/15 Wurlitzer organ. There is also a trip to Elmira to see the newly completed rebuild of the Clemens Center's 4/32 Marr & Colton/Wurlitzer hybrid theatre organ.

Sunday 6/30/19 will be the optional Pre-Glow featuring visits to the George Eastman Museum and the Memorial Art Gallery as well as services at St. Paul's Church, Episcopal and Christ Church, Episcopal. The performing artists are Joe Blackburn, David Higgs and Nathan Laube.

The main convention starts Sunday evening with the opening concert featuring David Gray at the Auditorium Theatre (4/23 Wurlitzer).

Each day of the convention will have multiple sessions as well as a variety of concerts.

The convention will conclude with the optional After-Glow concert of Clark Wilson at the Riviera Theatre.

The convention hotel is the Rochester Riverside Hotel in Rochester, NY. The hotel offers a central downtown Rochester location with beautiful views alongside the Genesee River.



Featuring
Donnie Rankin
Dave Wickerham
Jack Moelmann
Mark Gifford
Jack Jenkins
Dave Stephens
Bert Kuntz

St. Louis Theatre Organ Society
The Mid-America Theatre Organ Festival
Party on the Pipes
April 5 - 8, 2019
\$ 375 per person for 4 days of music, fun and food!
Open Console all venues including the Fabulous Fox!
All meals and transportation furnished with
pick up at airport, train or bus station.
Home Base: Hampton Inn, Columbia, Ill.
(618) 281-9000 for hotel reservations
Schedule and Registration
at SLTOS.org or call (618) 476-3233

The POST HORN is an official publication of the BlueGrass Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society. *The POST HORN* is published quarterly to all members. Digital copies are also available free of charge to any interested person. To receive a free digital copy of *The POST HORN*, please send your request and email address to info@LexTheaterPipes.org

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FUNDRAISING: Bill Webber

RESTORATION: Tim Jones

CONCERT PLANNING: Bill Webber

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Dana Ross

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE BLUEGRASS CHAPTER of the AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

1977 - Jim Donovan

1982 – Bill Johnson

2009 – Dean McCleese

1978 - Dr. John W. Landon

1985 – Bill Johnson

2012 – Dean McCleese

1979 – Dr. John Courter

1986 – David A. Bottom

2013 – David Pratt

1981 – Mell W. Crouch

1990 – David A. Bottom

2015 – William A. Webber