



THE STOP RAIL

VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 4

April 2008

CHARLIE COX WANTS US - APRIL 13TH 2:30 PM MEETING FOLLOWED BY HIS 4:00 ORGAN BASH

The Meeting - We are all invited for an afternoon of fun and good food. **Eric Fricke will play the organ.** Charlie says "Our organ is one of only two of its kind, the largest digital pipe organ in the world, and the only one in existence in a private residence. With its 149 stops, equivalent to 195 pipe ranks, it is certain to permit almost every piece of organ literature to be performed to its fullest extent". April 13th will be our meeting at the Charlie Cox residence, followed by his Organ Bash, with food supplied by our hosts. Meeting starts at 2:30 pm followed by the Bash.

The 5th Semi-Annual "Organ Bash" - A Springtime Flight of Fancy Sunday, April 13, 2008, 4:00 - 9:30 pm. If you're new to the Bash, it's an afternoon & evening of fun, food, drink and great organ music on our Rodgers 5-manual all-digital pipe organ. Organ Bash is our way of sharing this magnificent instrument with other organists and their friends who enjoy organ music. Never a charge of any kind. Come anytime between 4 PM and 9:30 PM. If you are

an organist, don't be shy — join in our 'Open Organ', play anything from Bach (or before) to Beatles. This 5-manual organ has some great Theatre stops, and Party Trumpets & Tubas from 16' to 4'. With 149 stops to select from, you'll find something interesting! And if that's not enough, MIDI provides another 1000+ organ stops, instruments, drums, bagpipes. you name it, we



got it! Featured Organists begin playing promptly at 7 pm.

Lew Williams - Bill Swayze - Eric Fricke

As we usually have up to 100 guests, it helps us greatly in planning meals and drinks if you would kindly respond.

RSVP: email charlie@OrganBash.com

Phone: 480 332-3545

Map & directions on page 2

HOW COULD WE MAKE THIS HAPPEN AT THE ORPHEUM? *Ron Carter - Atlanta Chapter ATOS*

I just got back from the Rylander Theatre in Americus, Georgia to see and hear the production of the King and I by the Sumter County Players. Florida theatre organist Tom Hoehn accompanied the 2 hour and 50 minute performance entirely on the Moller 3/11 Theatre pipe organ that was installed in 1998. Not only were the sets, the cast, the vocies top notch but Tom Hoehn did a masterful job in providing ALL of the musical accompaniment for this show on the Moller. He had obtained the orchestra/conductor's score and followed it meticulously never missing a beat or a cue. From flutes, to strings, to, reeds to percussions, to special sound effects, the Moller sound as close

to an orchestra as I ever heard.

The Rylander has about 600 seats with a sold out house for all four performances through this Sunday. And this is in a county of only 35,000 people! Amplification for the singers was done so tastefully and the acoustics in the auditorium are so good that it was a true delight to hear what soloists and a full chorus of 50 sounded like 80 or so years ago without hearing them through speakers! These folks had to sing OUT and Tom kept the Moller under control never overpowering them.

This is a great accomplishment for the Theatre organ here in Georgia. Thanks to John McCall for suggesting this to the Rylander Management and a BIG THANKS

to Tom Hoehn for giving up a week's vacation to come from Florida and rehearse, rehearse, and rehearse with this group to make it such a professional and entertaining experience. In post-interviews, students found the organ to be the most remarkable thing about the performance. *Ron Carter*

Note from Don Story: Can you imagine the effect on the Orpheum management if we could tie in with a live dance or theatre group? The folks putting on the King & I specifically requested to use the organ for the accompaniment of the show after hearing someone rehearsing on it when they were touring the theatre considering using for their upcoming bookings.

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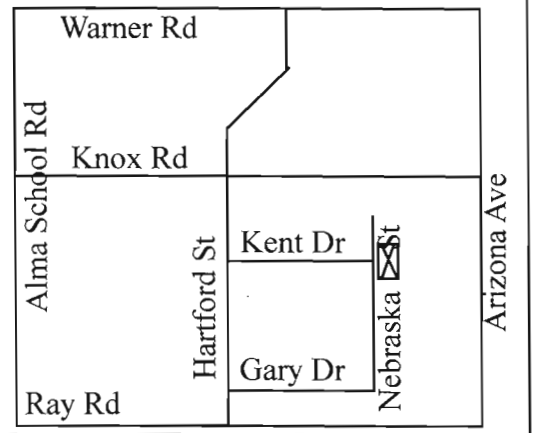
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DIRECTIONS TO CHARLIE'S HOME

Take the 101 and exit on Warner, East to Alma School, South to Knox, East to Hartford, South to Kent, east on Kent to end of street. You will be facing the house when you get on Kent.
1313 North Nebraska St,
Chandler.



WINGS - A SUCCESSFUL SILENT FILM PRESENTATION

There were 215 folks attending the silent film on Sunday, an improvement over the last films. A bus group of 34 was in town from the San Diego chapter to see Wings, Adrian's organ and Organ Stop Pizza. Ron's pre-film concert consisted of pieces from the WWI era. He said that some of the footage used in the film was actually from WWI. Wings was filmed in Texas, an area of similar terrain. We once again used the Fricke's Allen organ, and Ron did a superb job of it. It was a long film, four reels, and we didn't get finished until about 6:00 pm. One of the best promotional things we have for the films is a before the show slide presentation of our workers in action and our other organs in progress.

Note from President Bill Carr: *Hi All. Another Silent Film season is in the recordbooks. Thanks to all that made it possible. Now while the information is fresh, I need a list from everyone of the items that did not go well. I also need a list of what did go well. I am developing a play book with a time line to make sure future seasons are the best they can be. We are half way there when it comes to sponsors. We need to have \$6000.00 to make our season work.*

Thanks again for your hard work. ~ Bill



Nancy Fricke promotes Desert Winds & ticket sales for Wings

Happy Birthday!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our March birthday cake eaters, Wilma Charles, Alice Ehlers, Joanne Harris, Bob Holst, John Kelso, Nancy Fricke, Joan Sonntag and Bill Keller. If we missed yours, let us know. Soooooo, blow out those candles and have a blowout of a good time. Remember, this will be the only birthday you will have this year so make it count!

THE STOP RAIL

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The Valley of the Sun Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is a recognized tax exempt educational and charitable organization under section 501-C-3 of the Internal Revenue Code and is a nonprofit corporation organized in the state of Arizona.

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 13-2:30 pm - Meeting at Charlie Cox's Residence.

May 18-2:30 pm - Orpheum - more information to come

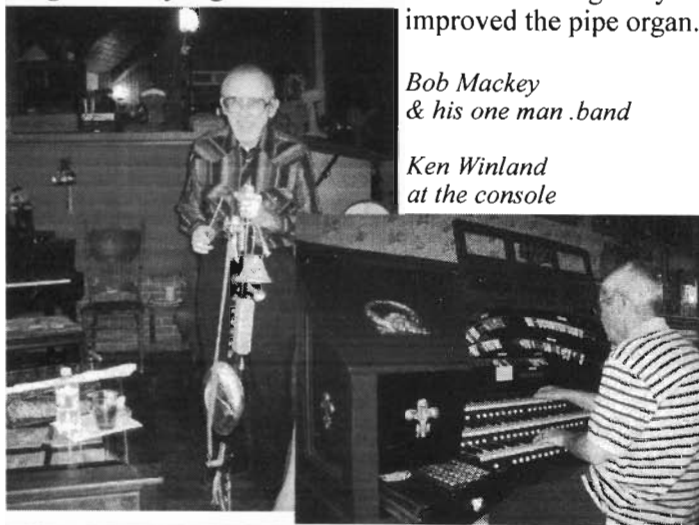
June 8-2:30 pm Orpheum - Don Story to play

For Info: Nancy Fricke 480-607-2970 Nancyfricke@aol.com

MARCH MEETING - Immediately following *Wings* was an informal March meeting. We were shown an important documentary put together by our fearless production man, Fred Watson. Included are interviews plus chamber and theatre shots of the restoration of the Orpheum Wurlitzer, done by the Phoenix TV Channel 11, interviews by Fred of our members who are working on the Phoenix College Wurlitzer, and history of our past restoration efforts. Included is a brief history of both the Orpheum and Phoenix College organs. Ron Mitchell played a short demonstration of the ranks that are in the solo chamber to show how nice they sound with the new higher pressure blower. He did a little tuning and voicing so we could hear it at the meeting. He says it will be a great sounding organ when finished. Ron Mitchell is a highly skilled technician and recently worked on the installation at Adrian Phillips III home.

FIZZELL'S MUSIC SWAP JAM SESSION

In spite of the forecast of a cold drizzle, (which didn't happen), many folks ventured out. When the dust and sheet music settled, there was more music left than we took. So, it will go to meetings in the future. We had nine different skilled musicians, (including Bill Irwin) who tickled the ivories on the two pianos and the pipe organ. Bob Mackey brought his one man band (see photo). Recent tuning & regulation by organ builder Grahame Davis has greatly improved the pipe organ.



Bob Mackey
& his one man .band

Ken Winland
at the console

A MESSAGE FROM THE ATOS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

After much thought & discussion the ATOS Executive Committee has recommended to the full ATOS Board of Directors the establishment of a full-time paid administrator for our organization. The ATOS Board of Directors has voted to create this position. It will start, dependent on adequate funding, on September 1st 2008. This position will be financed through fund raising efforts & will not come from the operating budget of the organization.

Your board members believe that, to insure the future of ATOS, the time has come to raise the management of our organization to a more professional level. A central figure, empowered to run the organization's day-to-day operations, is the most efficient means by which to make our organization grow and prosper. We can no longer continue to operate with a fully volunteer slate of officers and board members. The workload is too great. Like many other preservation organizations, ATOS must have a full time person responsible for day-to-day operations with an eye on the "big picture".

The new administrator will be responsible for five major areas:

Fundraising - Our organization must be better funded in order to carry out its mission of the preservation, promotion, and presentation of the theatre pipe organ. ATOS must develop programs to promote young organists as well as generate public interest in our beloved instrument. Both programs and publicity are expensive. Corporate funding and grants could provide the necessary funding along with monetary gifts from our current membership. The administrator would pursue these funding sources along with others that become available.

Marketing and Promotions - This person will be responsible for developing programs and ideas that will broaden the reach and recognition of ATOS as the dominant organization that promotes theatre organ as an art form that includes education, broadcasting, more exposure via the Web, recording, and use of other media and outlets.

Sponsorships - The new administrator will seek sponsorship of various ATOS programs and activities.

Increasing Membership - A full time administrator will devote much time and effort developing workable programs that would make membership in ATOS more attractive to the general public. Through new programs and an extended out-reach program, he or she will "spread the word" about our organization.

Public Relations - A full time administrator would personify & be the face of the American Theatre Organ Society & give both a professional & personal touch to our message. He or she would meet with various groups, organizations, & charitable funds to promote theatre organ and its tangential activities & act as a "clearinghouse" for new ideas that would help publicize our cause.

From Donna Parker - Hello all, I am so excited to pass along this message from your ATOS Executive Committee. Please feel free to share this news with your chapter members. I personally believe this will lead ATOS into a future with a strong foundation where our organization will not only survive, but we will thrive! I welcome your comments and thoughts. Best regards, Donna Parker Liaison-Valley of the Sun Chapter of ATOS

VOTS MARKETPLACE

To place your ad, call Beverly Fizzell at 602-243-9546 or e-mail beverlyfz2@cox.net

(Deadline is the 20th of next month)

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. THEY HELP PAY FOR THE STOPRAIL

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Classified Ads	one issue \$10.00 (free to VOTS members)
Add a photo to your ad	\$5.00

TED REYNOLDS, our contact person at First Christain Church, passed away in February after a battle with cancer. He was a key person at FCC and loved the organ.

CREW CHIEF REPORT

Orpheum — Not much work is going on at the present.

First Christian Church — Nothing is going on there either. No date set yet for removing the organ.

Phoenix College — We have put in a new blower and the new circuit breaker has been installed. The chest work is coming along. The insulated wall in the main chamber is finished and painted. The next big thing is the raised floor in the main chamber, then we re-install the pipes!

PHOENIX COLLEGE WORK

Hi All... Come join us for a work party at Phoenix College in April. For dates and times call Bill Carr 623-694-1746.



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THE THEATRE ORGAN MURDERS - A wickedly delightful new book.

Done in by a Diapason? Frittered by a Flute? Violated by a Vox Humana? Yes, those and more! The Theatre Organ Murders is an intriguing, ghastly, ghostly look at some of the most bizarre murders ever committed. While it is a work of fiction, it was more than inspired by many of the interesting instruments, events, circumstances and characters that have graced the Dallas movie theatre and theatre organ era. This book by Jeanette Howeth Crumpler is one you will never forget. The murders themselves are unique and absolutely riveting, but the book also takes the reader on a journey back in time through the invention of the theatre pipe organ, through the golden silent movie days, the scintillating films of the 1930s, the exciting war time dramas of the 1940s, the meteoric rise of the 1950s movies, the changing entertainment scenes of the 1960s, the fates of the theatre organs, and onward to the present. Most interesting is the nostalgic journey once again down Elm Street in Dallas, Texas, that was so beautifully documented in Jeanettes book Street of Dreams, A History of Dallas Theatre Row. This time there is more telling of the histories, events, stories, myths and legends of those great eras of entertainment and those connected with them. If you enjoyed Street of Dreams, A History of Dallas Theatre Row, you will love The Theatre Organ Murders. A factual list of the downtown Dallas theatres has been expanded and updated, giving the names and locations of many more of the lost theatres that were once along that glorious row and other downtown streets. Also included is the continuing saga of the famous Palace Theatre Publix #1 Theatre Organ, including where its final resting place is located. There is also an updated Theatre Organ Opus list of all of the theatre organs that were in Dallas, where they were located, when they were installed and where they are today. A special section is devoted to delving into the amazing aspects of theatre organ enthusiasts. So come along on this fantastic story of theatres and theatre pipe organs and their mysterious influence and fascination on those who adored, abhorred or were absolutely obsessed by them. If you enjoyed Street of Dreams, A History of Dallas Theatre Row, you will love Theatre Organ Murders.

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