



STOP RAIL

Arizona Chapter of
The American Theatre Organ Society

Since 1976

Volume Thirty Five ♦ Issue Eight ♦ August ♦ Two Thousand Ten

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VOTS/ATOS
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Saturday ice cream social at the First Christian Church!

Diamondbacks organist Bobby Freeman to play! Saturday, August 14th at 2:30.

Great news! Bobby Freeman, the Diamondback's star musician, will be playing!

Tear yourself away and put this on your calendar right now. I will wait right here for you.

Call Hassell Moores at 623-215-2953 or E-Mail me him at hmoores@cox.net and let

him know that you plan to attend this event and how many guests you will be bringing.

Ice cream always brings out the enthusiasm in our group. This is a great way to get out of the heat and enjoy the afternoon in the cool fellowship hall of First Christian Church.

Parking is a breeze and it is a comfortable venue. Meeting is on a Saturday this time,

August 14 at 2:30. Church is at 6750 North 7th Ave Phoenix. It's south of Glendale

Avenue on the west side of the street. Parking is easy.

Bobby Freeman, well-known organist and entertainer throughout the valley, performs ballroom dances in Peoria and the Sun Cities and provides dinner/dance music at the private country clubs and for individuals' private parties. Bobby has also entertained at many of the resort style assisted living communities throughout the northwest valley as well as charity events and fundraisers.

In 1998 Bobby had the honor of being

named the official organist for the Arizona Diamondbacks and provides the music for all home games at Chase Field.

Along with supporting the Diamondbacks during their home games, Bobby works with the Public Affairs Department - appearing throughout Arizona on behalf of Diamondbacks Foundations good will promotions, school and library assemblies.

Bobby was formerly affiliated with the Phoenix Suns for many years, providing the music for their home games at US Airways Center. He is also a guest organist at selected Phoenix Coyotes home games at the arena in Glendale.

Bobby's musical talents are truly enhanced by his engaging personality and ability to thoroughly entertain his audience no matter what the age group.



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Note from President Bill

I hope you are all surviving our Arizona Summer and enjoying some well earned Vacations...

It's time for our Chapter to gear up for our fall season... So I would like to share some concerns with you...

We have a great challenge to again produce our next Silent Saturday's series...

We have startup costs for rental fees and promotion (\$3000.00 to \$4000.00)... I have talked to one sponsor that has promised \$1000.00 again this year... So looking at the Treasure's report (in the Board Meeting Minutes) you can see we are very short of operating funds...

Also, we have incurred a bill from our lawyer for legal services to complete our contract with the Orpheum Theatre (completed by the way) for \$1500.00 with a payment of \$500.00 so far...

The Phoenix College organ is now on a donation basis for funds and we need help there also... Phoenix College is celebrating its 90th Anniversary on September 13th this year and we are working to make sure the organ can be played for their party...

So what does all this mean to you our membership?.. We need your help!..

We need donations, Memberships paid ahead, and even loans if need be...

Please think about what you can do to help now...

Thanks for all you have done in the past and what you can do now to help...

Please call me ((623) 694-1746) or our V.P. Hassell Moores ((623) 696-7538) if you have questions or suggestions... Bill ~

A great 4th event in Sun City report by Johnny Sharp



Event was attended by 60 people in the Fletcher Music showroom. My playlist was upbeat, and featured the patriotic medley, *Tie A Yellow Ribbon*, *Summer Breeze*, *Somewhere Out There*, *Wives & Lovers*, and *Fernando*. plus the token "roller skating" *BOOGIE*. Closing with the "Ray Charles, *AMERICA*" in that blues...y style.

Thanks to all, including the Theater Organ Chapter members who attended!

The Stoprail

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Send name, address & check to VOTS/ATOS PO Box 36151 Phoenix, Arizona 85067-6151

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.

Come to a Board Meeting

All members are welcome to attend the board meetings. Location not decided for August 7th meeting. Call Bill for info - 623-694-1746

Phoenix College Work

If you can work on the organ at Phoenix College, contact Bill Carr at 623-694-1746 or billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net for the August schedule and to let him know you are coming.

2010-11 Calendar of Events

Some events are in the planning stage so the listing is incomplete
Saturday August 7 - 2:20 Board Meeting - Call Bill for info 623-694-1746
Saturday August 14 - 2:30 - Ice Cream Social - FCC
September Phx College celebrates 80 years - Organ Concert
Sunday October 17 - 1:15 pm - Organ Stop Pizza buffet
Saturday October 30 - Silent Saturdays Film at Orpheum
November - Phoenix College - more info to come
Saturday November 20 - Silent Film at Orpheum
Sunday December 11, 2:30 - Xmas Party at Desert Edge - Tim Versluys
Saturday February 26, 2011 - Silent Film at Orpheum
Saturday April 9, 2011 - Silent Film at Orpheum
More information: Hassell Moores 623-215-2953 hmoores@cox.net

Notes about the ATOS Summer Camp - report to come

From Pete Knobloch What was good about the sessions is that the students got to try different organs, all different. The Adrian Phillips and OSP organs being mega organs which can play just about anything. The only problem is finding the right stop with so many to choose from. So many of the kids commented about how well the Fizzell's pipe organ sounded at the house, this being the smallest organ that they played. It was a shame that we couldn't use the First Christian Church Wurlitzer due to a scheduling conflict. Part of the classes there were to show the students what they might find when asked to play an organ that wasn't in tip top playing condition with only two manuals and a combination action that didn't suit their expectations. They didn't get this lesson here in Phoenix did they. At the end of the last day everyone went into the Phillips music room where they set up four organ consoles and the grand piano. Jonas asked the students to wash their hands of any grease from the BBQ dinner and proceeded telling each student to sit at a specific keyboard with up to three students sitting on one bench. Everyone then started playing each section of the music that they were assigned. Don't ask me what they played, I don't remember but it was great. This wasn't a simple task since each student added more to what was being played and all happening at the same time. If the timing wasn't perfect then everything would fall apart. Lynn told us later that they did this for hours. Each time they finished the song, all of the students would shift one chair so each student got to play a new part of the same song. I can see that this type of practicing will help the students to play duets where more than one person is playing together.

From Jonathan Gradin, camp student The ensemble performance Saturday night was an improvisation on the basic 8-bar blues chord progression in the the key of C. I had lost my contact lenses in the pool during the preceding party, so I was given the easy task of hitting the cymbal (allocated to the pedals) on the first and third beats, something which I could do with my eyes closed if I had to!

From Tom Fizzell The young people attending were all quite talented and had a fine experience. Our TPO future is in good hands. Many of them are quite interested in the mechanics of organs as well as playing of them. They had an open console session at my home on Thursday evening and had a great time with the organ and two pianos playing together.

Organ Stop Pizza story on TV channel 10 morning show

They did the story with Donna Parker playing in the background. Check out this link:
http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/morning_show/corys_corner/organ-stop-pizza-07282010
copy this link and paste so you don't have to try to type the whole thing.

Letters to the editor

Your place for opinions, recognition, venting, complaints and compliments.

Send letters to beverlyfz2@cox.net or Beverly Fizzell 2201 East Siesta Drive Phoenix Arizona 85042

From Johnny Sharp

Another blockbuster video...from the LOWREY studios in Sun City, Arizona. Just another fun Saturday afternoon recording! Enjoy.
 Here's the Link to COPACABANA
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiab5_iIDJc

From Johnny Sharp

Thanks to Pete, Bev, & Tom for joining us in Sun City for the Fletcher concert.
 Great to see you all!



VOTS/ATOS Board Meeting Minutes

The VOTS/ATOS board meeting was held Saturday, July 17, 2010 at the Phoenix College Bullpitt Auditorium. Attending were Bill Carr, Hassell Moores, Madeline LiVolsi, Pete Knobloch, Warren Bechhoefer, Don Reasor, Beverly Fizzell, and Tom Fizzell. Absent were Adrian Phillips III and Ed Benoit. The meeting was called to order at 2:15 pm.

The secretary read minutes from the May 1, 2010 board meeting. Warren moved to accept the minutes as read, second by Don. Motion passed.

In Adrian's absence, Bill gave the treasurer's report. We currently have \$247.83 in checking, \$1016.25 in savings, and \$1255.74 in the money market account, for a total of \$2519.82 cash on hand. We need to start fund raisers immediately. We have only one sponsor for Silent Saturdays.

Bill stated that we are planning to use Ticketmaster for sales of future Silent Saturdays tickets. We also plan to use the Civic Center Box Office. We would pay the City of Phoenix 6% of our ticket price to use the box office and services. We are also asking for 40% off of the regular non-profit rate of the use of city services.

Regarding Silent Saturdays, Johnny Sharp has asked for a poster and flyers to hand out at Fletchers.

Crew Chief Reports Tom stated that not much is going on at the Orpheum or FCC. The FCC organ will be tuned for the ATOS summer Camp.

Regarding Phoenix College, Bill said that we are not attempting to install anything besides the backrail. He wants to make sure that what we have is working and tuned. The college wants to use the organ in September for its 90th anniversary activities.

Bill wants to put information into the newsletter regarding donations for the Phoenix College organ restoration and Silent Sundays.

Program Hassell presented meeting plans for the remainder of the year: August 14, 2:30 pm, First Christian Church, artist TBA; September, date TBA, may be part of the Phoenix College celebration; October 17, 1:15 pm, Organ Stop Pizza; November, date TBA, general membership meeting, Phoenix College; December 11, Desert Edge RV Park, Tim Versluys. The webmaster needs to update our website with the meeting information.

Old/New Business There was extensive discussion regarding the contract between the chapter and the City of Phoenix concerning the Orpheum organ and the use of the theatre. Bill reported that the contract is done, signed and delivered. The contract does not say exactly what we want it to say, but it says what it needs to say for our immediate use. Amendments can be made in the future, such as the use of Ticketmaster and the request for a lower rental rate.

We received a statement from the attorney that Adrian retained to assist with the contract. We were billed \$1500 for legal fees. We had another lengthy discussion regarding the payment of these fees. A \$500 payment has been made, with a \$1000 balance due. There was some concern, as our chapter treasury is currently very low. Tom made a motion, second by Warren, that we agree to pay the attorney bill balance of \$1000 at a rate of \$100 per month, or more as income allows. The motion passed.

Under new business, Warren asked if we could get walk boards for the chambers for tuning. Bill said yes, that we need them, but we also need money to buy the lumber. He said we need donations for Silent Saturdays, Phoenix College, the general fund, and our legal defense fund.

There was a question as to who was paying for the use of the Orpheum for the ATOS summer camp.

Bill encouraged everyone to call other chapter members about coming to the youth camp pot luck.

The next board meeting will be August 7, location to be announced (the air-conditioning is not on in the college auditorium). Tom moved to adjourn, second by Warren. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm. Respectfully submitted, Madeline LiVolsi

ATOS Seattle National Convention - report by Hassell Moores

Bill Carr and I drove to Seattle, Washington for the 2010 ATOS annual convention [28 June – 4 July 2010]. This was my first time for an ATOS convention and my first visit to the U. S. Northwest. While en-route to Seattle, we enjoyed two Overture Day concerts, on 28 June, that included stops in Spokane and Wenatchee, Washington. Specifically:

First Church of the Nazarene, Spokane 3/24
Wurlitzer – This 3 manual, 24 rank Wurlitzer Theater Organ was originally installed in 1914 in Seattle's famous Liberty Theater. It is generally acknowledged to be the first truly outstanding theater organ built by Wurlitzer. The instrument became famous as a West Coast demonstration installation for prospective buyers. When the theater was razed in 1955, the organ was moved to Pacific Lutheran University. In 1973, the organ was sold and moved to its current home. In 2006, a full renovation was started on this organ and is near completion. Dave Wickerham, a well known theater organist among ATOS members, played an excellent concert. I was truly impressed by Dave's performance of a Scott Joplin ragtime number. Dave did an excellent job showing off this organ's voices [which include but are not limited to Bourdons, Diapasons,

Tuba Horn, Clarinet, strings, post horn, Vox Humana and the 32 foot Diaphonic Diapason]. I like the idea that this instrument performs as a dual function church and theater organ [Harp, Chrysoglott, Xylophone, Glockenspiel, drums, sleigh and Saucer bells, and cymbal to name a few of the percussions].

Wenatchee Valley Museum, Wenatchee, 2/10
Wurlitzer- the Wenatchee Valley Museum is housed in the old city post office building. The original Wurlitzer was a 2 manual 7 rank organ installed in 1918 in Wenatchee's Liberty Theater. This organ is now installed in the museum's Quadrium Performance Center which has seating for 165 people. Over \$60,000 in public donations were used to rebuild and install this organ in the museum. The original organ ranks included Flute, String, String Celeste, Vox Humana, Tuba, Diapason, and Clarinet. The three ranks added later include Tibia, Kinura, and Trumpet. About ten years ago an automated player system was installed which is used for museum tours. Mark Anderson, another well known organist in ATOS circles, did an excellent job showing off this instrument. Also included in his presentation was a short silent film.

Seattle . . . Where It All Began - National Convention Report by Madeline Livolsi

I was tempted to subtitle this article "Sleepless In Seattle," but I'm sure that's copyrighted and I'd get in trouble for using it. If you went to the ATOS convention in Seattle and attended Overture Day, Encore Day, all of the concerts in-between, all of the meetings and seminars and visited the B3 Draw Bar every night, you didn't get much sleep! But you did have a wonderful time listening to great concerts and meeting friends from all over the USA, the UK and Australia.

I did not attend the Overture Day -- I simply did not want to make the more than four hour bus trip to Spokane (which started at 7 am Monday morning and ended back at the hotel at 11:30 pm!). You'll have to ask Bill Carr and Hassell Moores about concerts given by Dave Wickerham and Mark Anderson.

I also did not participate in the tour of interesting local venues and residence organs in town offered on Tuesday, although I'm sorry that I missed hearing Clark Wilson. Instead, I used the day to visit the record shop, take some photos of the downtown area, and renew old friendships in the hotel.

Tony Fenelon and John Atwell teamed up for a special duo concert at the Paramount Theatre Tuesday night. Over fifty Australians had made the trip to the convention, and Tony greeted them with a hearty "G'Day, Mates!" Several of their numbers featured Tony at the grand piano and John at the 4/20 Wurlitzer. Each artist also played solo pieces at the organ. Highlights included selections from "Chicago," a medley of Gershwin songs, music by Charlie Chaplin, and excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Piano Concert #1.

Returning to the hotel, several people went up to the 28th floor of the hotel to the Rview Lounge, renamed the B3 Draw Bar for the rest of the week. A vintage Hammond B3 had been installed for our enjoyment. Jonas Nordwall was the featured artist Tuesday night.

There were meetings and seminars Wednesday and Friday mornings, which I chose to pass on. Perhaps Bill or Hassell can tell you about these.



Nathan Avakian, the 2009 winner of the young theatre organist competition, played the 3/16 Kimball at the Everett Theatre Wednesday afternoon. Nathan's refreshing mix of music included Disney, Brubeck, E.T. Paul, Mancini and even a 2007 rock piece. Playing the piano, he sang a duet with his sister

Claire. He then accompanied her as she danced to "Love Ballad." His encore was the theme music to Disney's "Fantasmic."

We enjoyed a sit down salmon dinner at the Lakeway Inn in Bellingham before heading to the Mt. Baker Theatre for the Lew William's concert.

Lew's unique talents brought out the best from the 2/14 Wurlitzer. We heard Disney, the Beatles, some Big Band, Ellington, Debussy, Gershwin and more. Lew included "Dreaming," a piece by Rosa Rio. A request from the audience prompted "Bohemian Rhapsody" -- a big sound from a small instrument.

Buses left the hotel by 7:30 am Thursday for the more than three hour drive to Portland. First stop of the day was the Oaks Park Skating Rink, with a 4/18 Wurlitzer. All pipework is mounted on a platform hanging over the skate floor, and the instrument is totally unenclosed. Dean Lemire offered several dance numbers often played to accompany skaters. These included a skating demonstration provided by two couples and a solo female skater. Following the program, we enjoyed a barbecue lunch at the Oaks Park picnic area (and the rain held off!)

Donna Parker performed on the 3/21 Kimball at the Cleveland High School. She played a wide variety of music, which included "Lullaby of Birdland," "Brazilian Sleighbells," and Strauss' "Artist's Life." Also appearing at Donna's program was Micah Bisson, who played "Boomerang Rag" and "Solace" on the grand piano.

Jelani Eddington joined Donna for her encore.

Jonas Norwall was at the helm of the 4/107 combined classical-theatre organ at First United Methodist Church. His program included some of both, such as "Winter Night" and "Hindustan." The final movement of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D Major featured a very talented young violinist, Becky Anderson, a member of the church. Jonas also accompanied vocalist Michael Iverson on the Oregon state song and "Summertime." Ken Double, Jonas, Jelani and Donna took up a collection for ATOS while the computer on the organ played Richard Purvis' "Romanza." Nordwall was joined by Tony Fenelon at the grand piano for some Chopin, and started everyone on their way with "The Stars and Stripes Forever." A boxed meal was provided on the bus for the long ride back to Seattle.

Chris Gorsuch provided a light-hearted program in the St. Columban Church Hall in Yelm Friday afternoon. The organ was 3/16 Robert Morton. His opening number invited us to "Get Happy" and highlights included medleys of Cole Porter and George Gershwin tunes.

Following Chris' concert, we were bussed to Olympia Mall where we had a rather hurried meal at the food court.

Friday evening found us at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts to hear Simon Gledhill at the 3/35 Wurlitzer. Simon played some showtunes we seldom hear, with selections from "Annie" and "Brigadoon." A fun little piano rag was "The Graceful Ghost." Also enjoyed was the music of Jimmy Van Hueson and Burton Lane. During intermission, EMCATOS presented their promo for the 2011 convention.

The Saturday morning program at Calvary Christian Church featured Scott Foppiano at the 3/19 Kimball-Wurlitzer. After opening with "Pietro's Return," much of Scott's program was of a more subtle nature. His "How Great Thou Art", however, was followed by music from "Gypsy." The National Anthem and "America the Beautiful" featured a backdrop of a huge American flag.

Lunch was served cafeteria style at Bastyr University in Kenmore prior to Jelani Eddington's concert in the university chapel. Much of Jelani's program on the Lyn Larsen LL-324Q Allen digital organ was very upbeat. Opening with "If This Isn't Love," he followed with Gershwin, Chopin and Leroy Anderson. We heard a medley of themes from James Bond films, and selections from "Chicago." His closing piece was the Bacchanal from "Sampson and Delilah."

The gala awards banquet was held at the Paramount Theatre Saturday night. Awards presented included Crew Chief Certificate, Russell Shaner; Student of the Year, Justin LaVoie; George Wright Fellowship Award,

Trevor Dodd; Ron Musselman Award, Russ and Joann Evans, and Bob Salisbury; Honorary Members, Jim and Delores Patak; Hall of Fame, Dr. John W. Landon; Organist of the Year, Richard Hills.

The award presentations were followed by Jim Riggs at the 4/20 Wurlitzer. About half of Jim's selections were tunes you'd instantly recognize -- "Personality," "Say It Isn't So," and "Toy Trumpet." Others would fit into the obscurities list -- "Shallow Waters," "Black Coffee," and "Strike Me Pink." Jim's programs are often very nostalgic.

The 4th of July was the optional Encore Day. One group heard Richard Hills at Wurlitzer Manor in Gig Harbor (the building and it's surroundings are as impressive as the instrument), while the other group heard Walt Strony at the Tahoma Studio in Maple Valley. After a quick food court meal at the Auburn Super Mall, we switched places in the afternoon.

Richard opened with a lively "From This Moment On." His nod to the American holiday was a Stephen Foster medley. "Dance of the Ostricized Imp" and "Bravada" were British pieces. The rousing closer had Richard at the grand piano and Simon Gledhill at the 4/48 Wurlitzer for "Jamaican Rumba," "Canyon Caballero," and "Tico Tico."

The Tahoma Studio is a plain, large, red barn with a 3/29 Wurlitzer installed in it. Walt began with bits of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and "Green Acres," and mentioned an eight foot tractor that had been over in the corner. Highlights of his program included "Land of the Pharaohs," "Liebesfreud," and selections from "Porgy and Bess." He brought his program to a close with a medley of patriotic songs.

The B3 Draw Bar moved to the 28th floor Visions meeting room on the night of the 4th. It was a final opportunity to spend time with friends, enjoy some food and drink, and listen to some fine organists at the Hammond B3. Some of these were David Johnston, Jerry Nagano, Bob Fountain, Jamie Snell and Bill Schumacher. We even had a good view of Seattle's fireworks display.

The Puget Sound chapter volunteers put a lot of effort into making this a great convention. Three that especially affected my week were transportation head Dave Luttenin, Jack-of-all-trades Jamie Snell, and wheelchair chauffeur Jeff Snyder. Thanks a bunch, guys!

Madeline LiVolsi

Madeline has a new e-mail address:
dznyfn55@yahoo.com

Marketplace

Rates

Have something to sell or buy? To place your ad, call Beverly Fizzell at 602-243-9546 or e-mail information to beverlyfz2@cox.net. She can also help you write your ad. Send by the 20th for next month's Stoprail.

Business Card	one year \$90.00	one month \$10.00
Member Card	one year \$70.00	one month \$6.00
Classified Ads	one issue \$10.00	or free to members
Add a photo to your ad - \$5.00		

Poem by Lew Williams on the newer music The New Organist's Creed

Away with King George, and begone to Lord Jesse
Please, no more glissandos, they just sound so messy
The Past is forgotten, new banners unfurl
We now are at work on a New Organ World

Who wants to hear Porter or dear Eric Coates?
or Gershwin and Kern? They're all just old goats!
Berlin, Arlen, Rodgers, now wrinkled and curled
have surely no place in the New Organ World

I have to get rid of these organ LPs,
the CDs, the journals and those DVDs
of organists young, and some old and forgotten
Who cares anymore? They're all lying there, rotten.

Libraries won't take them, no room in the stacks
St. Vincent's and Goodwill are full on all racks.
I'll put them on eBay, and might make some cash.
No bidders, no interest?....then into the trash!

But onward and upward, there's new music there
to learn and embrace, and there's no time to spare!
Let's start with the Stones and the Beatles, and then
go on to Sir Elton and Led Zeppelin

Pink Floyd and Metallica, Madonna and Queen
all things that John Williams did write for the screen.
All Disney, The Eagles, and each TV theme
and then Lady Gaga for luster & sheen.

I'm well on my way, but have some hesitations
when playing this stuff, how to plan registrations?
The tibias hoot and the tremms make a mess
while the pedals just woof, moo and cause much distress.

But I won't be thwarted, I'll see that it's done
I'll sweat and I'll strain, but the cause will be won.
To play modern music on this old machine
is my Holy Grail.....
<<alarm sounds>>
DAMN! Was that a bad dream!

We wish you a Happy Birthday!



Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our August birthday cake eaters - John Diffendal, Myrra Johnson, Sean DeDanaan, Bill McFadden, Henry Pfizenmayer, Gina Sheak, Nancy Resech, Jinny LaFave, Bill Peck, Delores Sheak and Gerald Blausey. Blow out those candles and have a good time! If we missed your birthday, let us know.

We want to wish you a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** when your special day comes. Let us know the month and day, and we will be tickled to put it in the Stoprail. Let Ed Benoit know at 623-327-1437
e-mail WurliTzer@q.com

16 ft Wurlitzer flute/bourdon best offer. Tom Fizzell 602-243-9546

Two manual Geneva Console, no combination action, though one is available. Tom Fizzell 602-243-9546

Two manual Reisner console, straight rail, roll top, light oak. Best offer. Tom Fizzell 602-243-9546

Donation needed:

Phoenix Rescue Mission needs a portable keyboard. Donate one to them and receive a tax deduction.

Contact Keith Miller at 623-572-1374



Attention! Do you need a band for a party or function? We have access to experienced musicians here in the valley. The size of your group depends on your needs and cost.

Call Warren Bechhoefer at 602-279-0386