

THE STOP RAIL

VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 1

January 2008

JAN 20 MEETING AT PETE'S PLACE - ONE OF OUR FAVORITES!

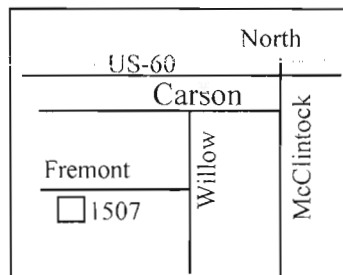


Whoa! Pete has graciously offered to host a meeting January 20th at 2:30 pm. There will be a surprise guest pianist. He has 18 pianos around his home, several playing and some being repaired or restored. His main pipe organ, a seven rank Aeolian Marie Antoinette, is equipped with a playback system that uses a computer. He has a Miditzer that simulates a pipe organ. He acquired a two manual

Wurlitzer console last year, originally from the Minneapolis Arena, and this new console in the dining room, plays the Miditzer and, also plays another organ, a two rank Continuo organ located in the hall. His steinway grand piano has a roll player and there are hundreds of piano rolls in almost every room. Another piano, a Knobe grand, belonged to his father and is in the back room. This is a must see and hear variety of old instruments with new technology.

We can hear Gershwin actually playing his *Rhapsody in Blue* using one of the piano rolls. Don't miss this meeting. Pete Knobloch 480-820-7093. 1507 E Fremont in Tempe.

January Stoprail was mailed later this month to give you one last chance to get your dues in. If this space does not have your 2008 membership card in it, send in your dues ASAP. It is not too late to avoid missing even one great party or meeting or even one issue of the Stoprail. It is the most fun you will have with \$20.00 If you don't send your dues, this is your last Stoprail. See HELP! page 4



JONAS NORDWALL
A CONCERT IN THE
PHILLIPS MUSIC ROOM
More information on
page three

DON'T MISS OUR NEXT SILENT FILM

On Sunday, January 27th, 2:30 pm, we will be showing the silent film *True Heart Susie*, an A. D. W. Griffith classic from 1917. Film will be at the Phoenix College Bulpitt Auditorium again, as we feverishly work on the Wurlitzer. Parking lot is on NE corner of 15th Ave & Thomas Susie May Trueheart (Lillian Gish), a country girl, loves her neighbor William Jenkins (Bobby Harron), but in spite of their good fellowship together, William is as blind to her as a romantic interest. Unbeknownst to William, Susie sells her possessions to secure the wherewithal to send him away to college to study for the ministry and thus fulfill his ambition. After his graduation, William returns, and Susie has the satisfaction of hearing him preach his first sermon. But her hopes are dashed when William is fascinated by and marries a beautiful but frivolous and worthless girl, Bettina Hopkins (Clarine Seymour). Susie swallows her pride and grief to serve as bridesmaid at the wedding, but the marriage is a disaster. Will William ever learn of Susie's devotion and find his true love?

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our December meeting held a big surprise when Donna Parker walked in. She played two pieces before Eric got on the bench. He played just two pieces also, including Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies, and then was headed for the dessert table, but we coaxed him to play a third piece, a Carol Medley. Several members also played. The buffet was a great hit when Mary Jacobson's famous BBQ ribs and Bill McFadden's famous vegetable casserole were served. It was a very cold and windy day and there were about 20 people in attendance. We were well fed and happy.

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DECEMBER CORRECTION

Note from Sam Vause: As much as I would love to play like Bill Swazey even when I'm dressed up as JS Bach, I must profess to be only a mere hint at Bill's skills at the keyboard. One day maybe I will be as good as him! In the meantime, I thought I better not saddle Bill's reputation with the playing I delivered as JS Bach at Charlie's wonderful Organ Bash IV. *Sam Vause*

Sam Vause at the Console



MADELINE LIVOLSI INJURED

Madeline LiVolsi suffered bruises in a T-Bone car accident and is recuperating at a friends home. Her car didn't fare as well.

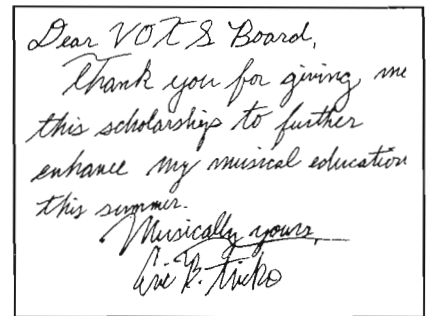


Eric Fricke from Arizona is a 15-year-old theatre organ student of Lew Williams.

ERIC FRICKE CONCERT

Our own Eric Fricke will perform a concert on Sunday, January 6 at 2:00 pm at

the Fair Oaks Community Club-house, 7997 California Avenue. Fair Oaks, California. For more information, contact Eric at 480-607-2970.



THANK YOU NOTE

We received this note from Eric Fricke after we sponsored him at the Spring 2007 music camp adventure.

Happy Birthday To You! Lets party!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our January birthday cake eaters. Lyn Larsen, John Bittner, Arnie Dale, Virg Howard, Katy Johnson, Barb Mignery, Steve Schlesing, Don Stith and Diane Whipple. 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 birthday you will have this year so make it count, baby.

THE STOP RAIL

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www.theatreorgans.com/az/phoenix/

Membership Fees: Local Chapter Dues
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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

Most Chapter Meeting Start at 2:30 pm

January 20 - 2:30 pm - Meeting at Pete Knoblocks home
 January 27 2:30 - Silent Film at Phoenix College Bulpitt Auditorium
 February 23 - 1:00 pm - Concert at Adrian Phillips Jr.'s home
 No date set for Farewell Concert at First Christian Church
 For information contact Nancy Fricke 480-607-2970 Nancyfricke@aol.com

JONAS NORDWALL FEBRUARY CONCERT

The Phillips Music room and The Valley of The Sun Chapter is proud to present Mr. Jonas Nordwall at the Midmer-Losh 5/105 pipe organ on February 23, 2008. The concert will start at 1:00PM. Doors will open at 12:30PM Please note this is a Saturday afternoon event in order to accomodate the Artist's schedule. Due to limited parking, carpooling is strongly suggested. The Phillips will have a parking attendant on duty to guide cars to designated parking areas and to open the main gate into the community. The Phillips Music Room is located at 8901 North 47th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85028. Tickets are now available. \$15.00 per person. To purchase tickets, please contact Adrian Phillips III at 602-538-6697 or adrianphillips@cox.net. Please make checks payable to VOTS. Ticket request's by mail should be sent to: Mr. Adrian Phillips III 4736 East Horseshoe Road Phoenix, AZ 85028-6100 Limited available seating. Tickets will be sold on first come, first served basis. Come support your local organ chapter and enjoy a wonderful event.

REGISTRATION 101 I have made available on my website, a presentation on registration that we presented some time ago at the local Allen dealer "The Beautiful Sound". I produced a web enabled copy, and added notes for each slide. The first half of the slides discuss general advice on playing, and a review of many theatre organ ranks and their uses. The actual registrations start with slide 42 if you want to get right to them. There is an outline on the left side of the presentation, where you can jump directly to any slide. The website is www.springerinfo.com You will see a link for "theatre organ registration class". If you have any suggestions, problems, or criticisms, let me know. I hope you are able to get some useful information from it. *Posted on a mail list by Don Springer*

CHECK OUT DENVER CHAPTER POSTINGS ON U-TUBE.

The Denver (RMCATOS) chapter is now posting a lot of playing segments on Utube of artists and things from their meetings. The Allen GW4 aka George II is now their 'chapter organ' in the ballroom of a mobile home park in Federal Heights. It was previously Dwight Beacham's personal organ. It replaces the GW319 that Lee owned and had at the clubhouse. I think it is shown in one or two of the segments. It was previously owned by Lyn Larsen.

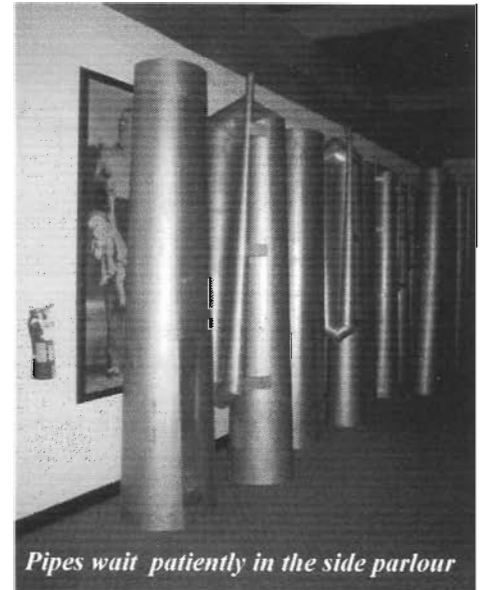
We should consider using Utube to promote VOTS and VOTS events in a similar way. They have been incredibly successful in building their membership. The newsletter I just got showed 15 new members.

Go to: www.youtube.com Search on RMCATOS *Submitted by Don Story*

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

There is no featured member this month because Ed Benoit is busy updating the membership list and counting your money

ORGAN STOP INSTALLS REALLY BIG ORGAN PIPES



Pipes wait patiently in the side parlour

Go into the Organ Stop for pizza, then outside to the front windows and check out the new pipes. It is a 32 ft Bombard rank (Tuba). As you can see in the picture, many pipes came in two sections. They are also mitered. The largest pipe is 32 ft long and 23 inches wide. They are made of zinc. To move them into the chamber, they went in through a door behind the console, up some stairs and through another door, then very carefully eased in around the 32 ft Diaphones. Whew! They make a big round full sound, not loud as you might expect. Future additions include a set of tuned doorbells and a set of tuned cowbells. Hmm.

NEW DVD WITH GREAT INFO

Organ Stop has released a new DVD filled with great information about how the organ works, detailed chamber tours, history and description of how the pipes sound and work. There is a wealth of info by Lew Williams, Charlie Balough and Jack Barza. Included are many songs, and you can see the artists play close up. A must have DVD!

VOTS MARKETPLACE

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

(Deadline is the 20th of next month)

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ORPHEUM & PHOENIX COLLEGE ORGAN RESTORATION PHOTOS & INFO WANTED

We need photos, comments and stories for our restoration projects at Phoenix College & the Orpheum organ for a documentary. Your photos will be returned unharmed. Thanks ~ Bill 623-694-1746 billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

CHECK OUT THEATRE ORGANS UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

This is one of the most amazing web sites I have ever come across. It was given to me by a non-musician. Thought you would like to see it. There are hours of pictures & sounds to enjoy.

Mr. Ed.

<http://theatreorgans.com/southerncross/>

HELP...HELP!!

Listen up, everybody, I need your help. Please send your \$20 dues and/or any information you have pertaining to membership to me, which includes but not limited to: complaints, birthday info, new and former member info, address, phone or e-mail changes and any related info pertaining to our members. This will help me to do the job I'm called on to do a whole lot better and quicker. Sending info to anyone else just slows the process down. I really do appreciate your help. Contact me: Ed. Benoit, 30110 W. Latham St. Buckeye, AZ 85326 Tel: 623-327-1437 or E-mail Benoitel@aol.com Remember, have your pet spayed or neutered. Thanks..... Mr. Ed.

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Statutory Agent: Pete Knobloch

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Member at Large: Don Reasor

PHOENIX COLLEGE WURLITZER

Hi All... Come join us at a work part at Phoenix College! Here are the work dates for January. We can work from 9:00 am till 6:00 pm any of these days. If they conflict with a meeting we will not work that day.
Saturday - 1/5 Saturday - 1/12
Saturday - 1/19 Saturday - 1/26

PLAYING ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SHOW?

Hi you all - I thought I would pass on this interesting info in case you didn't happen to read it on the Theatre Organ e-mail List. The 'thread' started out on a somewhat negative note with someone commenting on the rather dim, negative comments and views expressed when an organ in a theatre was played before the show. It seems to be the minority situation as more people are adding their experiences to the topic.

To wit: Larry Davis of the Atlanta chapter stated that last year at one of the Broadway productions at the Fox Atlanta the shows director heard the organ being played before the program the first night as it is before almost every program. He liked it so much that he had Larry Embury play the overture along with the orchestra for the remainder of the run. And in Americus, GA at the Rylander theatre the producer of the live shows there heard the organ and asked if it could be used to accompany live theatre rather than using recorded music. As a result the 3/11 Moller will be used exclusively to play the score to the King and I in a production coming up in the spring.

I think this is worthy of mentioning in the Stoprail, and let the management at the Orpheum know that not all management and show producers share their lack of enthusiasm about utilizing the organ!
Don Story