



STOPRAIL

Arizona Chapter of
The American Theatre Organ Society

Since 1976
Volume Thirty Three ♦ Issue Six ♦ June ♦ Two Thousand Nine

Silent Film at First Christian Church June 6

Films will be accompanied by Ed Benoit, a favorite of ours.

There will be a sing-a-long too! Free admission, although we will have popcorn and bottled water for a donation, and also our new purple donation box in the shape of an organ pipe.

Show starts at 7:00. First Christian Church is south of Glendale on 7th Avenue on the west side of the street. 6750 N 7th Avenue. Hall is west across the parking lot from the Church. Brings friends & family along for a great time.



Big Business The Boys are door-to-door Christmas tree salesmen who have mastered the art of getting doors slammed in their faces. After pestering Mr. Finlayson once too often and breaking his doorbell, a full-scale war develops. Stan & Ollie find ever-ingenious ways of destroying Finlayson's home and belongings, while Fin sets to work giddily destroying the boys' car. 1928

Call of the Cuckoos Max Davidson and his family are annoyed by the looney antics of their next-door neighbors (Laurel, Hardy, Finlayson and Chase). They move to a new house which immediately starts self-destructing, and find the same neighbors have once again moved next door. 1927

Orpheum Theatre Wurlitzer busy with May Events

From Pete Knobloch

First there was an open house with celebrity tours. Then Don Story performed on Saturday for 1/2 hour before a performance with the Phoenix Childrens Chorus. They have been performing these concerts for the last 25 years. Dons performance was very well recieved by all.

On Tuesday May 19th, Donna Parker provided about 25 minutes of Theatre organ music for the Scottsdale area Association of Realtors performance of "Staar Night". The funny thing was that most of the theatre seats were empty until about 10 minutes before the show started. It seems like the Realtors like to drink and it was impossible to get through all of the people in the lobby trying to finish their drinks before the show started. Things finally got started about 10 minutes late after



most of the 900 people got seated. One surprise for the audience at the end of the night was having the organ rise up from a smoke filled pit and Donna playing the Tocatta in D Minor along with the Phantom. When the pit got to the top of the stage, the Phantom starts singing one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's songs "The Music of the Night" accompanied by the Pipe Organ. Boy can that Phantom sing. The crowd went wild as the organ lowered into the pit with the Phantom on his knees.

From Bill Carr: Our club provided the Wurlitzer at the Orpheum for the prelude to the Phoenix Children's Choir 30th Anniversary Celebration Show on May 16th. Don Story played at no cost to show off our Wurlitzer. Thank you Don. I played and talked about our Wurlitzer for the tours last Tuesday. I also played and talked about the Wurlitzer for the City Wide Open House on Wednesday. This was done as a favor to Luis the Theatre Manager. We also provided a flyer with chamber pictures and a listing of our upcoming events...Thanks to Pete for all his support and help.



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Grand Time was had by all at the Fizzell's!

We had a late start of the meeting . Over 50 people came to the meeting and were not disappointed. We discussed the questionnaire, then went into the program. Tom Connor and Bill Irwin began the program with some Aire's, including one known by all, *Danny Boy*. The Uilleann pipes are an unusual relative of the bagpipe. The wind supply comes from bellows pumped under one arm into an air bag under the other arm. The music comes from the pipes and drones. Of course we know where the wind comes from on the pipe organ. It made an unusual duet. Bill had written a new tune, *Slow Fizz Rag*. He played many old and new favorites,



At Last and *The Chase*, a rapid piece he wrote which we always love. A great day with Bill. He enjoys organ pipes more than anybody who ever played here. We made our own sundaes with chocolate & vanilla ice cream with toppings, strawberries, caramel, chocolate and pineapple. The brownies were a big hit, and they went out the door in handfulls after the party was over. While we stuffed ourself, Johnny Sharp played a couple of pieces. Is Samantha Carr happy in this photo? Another future musician? Johnny put a short video of what he did on his u-tube site. It has a lot of background talking, but it was after the scheduled program that he did it. If you want

to take a look, it is at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSRQhw3DfpY>

From Johnny Sharp - These opportunities are always enjoyable. Especially when visiting a private home with a Theater Organ installation like this one! The Fizzells welcomed ATOS/VOTS members in for a meeting and ice cream social. I had this chance after the planned concert during an open keyboard segment. MOONDANCE is one of my favorite's to see how the organ responds. Background noise not withstanding, here's a nice instrument! The console was originally in the Phoenix Orpheum Theater, ranks from Webster City, Iowa.

Comment from his website: Very nice - the organ seems to be immaculately restored and you don't often hear Moondance on the TO. Also great that you give ATOS a plug- they do great work.

The Stoprail

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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.

2009 Calendar of Events

For more information : Fred Watson 602-993-7266 mrfgw@cox.net

Saturday June 6-7:00 pm Silent Film at First Christian Church

Saturday June 13-2:30 pm. Board meeting at Beatitudes campus.

Sunday July 26-2:30 pm Matthew Bason (from England) Orpheum Theatre

July 28-30? May host Youth Camp reception at First Christian Church

Sunday September 21-2:30 pm Phoenix College to be announced

October 24-7:00 pm Fright Night! Phantom of the Opera at Orpheum

Silent Films - October 24 & November 21, 2009. January 9 & March 20, 2010

Phoenix College Organ Work Dates

May dates: 5/23 5/27 5/30

June dates: 6/6, 6/7, 6/8, 6/9, 6/10, 6/13, 6/14, 6/17, 6/20, 6/21,

6/24, 6/27 & 6/28. If you want to work at Phoenix College, call Bill Carr at 623-694-1746 for more information and to let him know you are coming.

Organ Progress Reports



Bill and Madeline hard at work.

There is plenty to do at Phoenix College. First Christian Church is ready for the silent films on June 6. See page 5 for details

Letters to the editor

From Bill Carr

Thanks for the GREAT meeting. The organ sounds wonderful. Bill Carr

From Madeline

Check out this website:

www.seniormagonline.com/downloads/April2009/April2009_pages5-7.pdf

From Phil Iverson

Beverly. Thank you for the fine newsletter — your time and talent are much appreciated. I'm a coward and live in Montana during the summer months so I appreciate keeping in touch. I have just received Volume thirty-three, Issue Five. The 2009 Calendar of Events indicate October 24 Fright Night ! Phantom of the Opera at Orpheum, which I certainly will not miss.. The Silent Film series also indicates a film on October 24. Are these one and the same event ? Phil Iversen, Kalispell, Montana (yes, same event)

From piper - Tom Connor

Hi Beverly & Tom,
Just wanted to thank you for the privilege of playing at the society meeting, and for the pleasure of working with Bill Irwin!
Delightful! -Tom

From Ed Benoit

Thanks for always doing such a fine job with the newsletter. Mr. Ed.

From Randy Charles

Beverly, Sorry we were not able to enjoy the ice cream social with you. Saturday and Sunday I was in the prison in Tucson participating in a Seminar In Christian Discipleship with Follow Up Ministries, Inc.
Randy Charles

From Jim Hamra

Your newsletter is wonderful. Congratulations on the cyber color version. Jim Hamra

From Madeline LiVolsi

Looks really great with the color photos! Madeline

From Fred Watson

Bev.Thanks for the peek at the May stoprail. Weren't you going to put all the suggested names for SS in as a sort of name that tune (name)? Was there not enough room? Is it time for a fourth sheet—page 7 or even 8? With e-mail there would be no cost. I really like all the “newsy” content and wouldn't suggest cutting it back. What do you think? Fred

From Bill Challberg

Thanks to those who called, and cards that were sent were very welcomed. The foot is recovering nicely, just takes time to heal. Note to other Diabetics, if you accidentally cut the toe while cutting your nails, GET to the DR now, don't just put a band aid on it. *From the Phantom, he reminds me that he” Still lives”, and will be at the concert to collect body parts.* Ocb William Challberg

From Joanne Harris

Hi Beverly, GREAT (!) Newsletter (“Stoprail”). Joanne

From Bill Irwin

Dear Bev: The format, graphics, everything, is excellent in the STOP RAIL. Perhaps if you sent THEATRE ORGAN one page of the reduced size 6 pages of the Stop Rail, in color, plus a cover letter explaining how and why this excellent Chapter Newsletter became a reality, stating all the positive things, such as saving postage and paper, producing a color mailing which would be very costly if done by printing, etc....maybe they will give you some space and honor your work with the Chapter. Bill Irwin

letters continued on page 4

More letters to the editor from page 3

Send letters to beverlyfz2@cox.net or Beverly Fizzell
2201 E Siesta Drive Phoenix Arizona 85042 We can
even include photos with your letter!

From Ed Benoit

I watched, "Singing in the Rain" Tuesday night (I think it was). Did you ever see the two manual Wurlitzer console in the pit of the Chinese Theatre (supposedly)? It even had the console lights turned on the stoprail. What a thrill to see it. I never heard anyone mention that fact. On the Organ Forum every once in a while people will bring up the subject of seeing or hearing an organ in a movie, such as Ethel Smith in Melody Time, etc. Just my wonderings.. Mr. Ed.

From Karl Warner

FYI, on Sunday, April 18th, the travel section of the *Arizona Republic* published an essay I wrote about my January trip to Saudi Arabia. It is nearly impossible to condense such an adventure to 400 words, so I focused the article on Madain Saleh, the abandoned city with 131 spectacular tombs carved into the desert rock formations.

Karl

Submit Silent Film name right away!

I would like to put the list of silent film suggested names submitted in the Newsletter again. Maybe the list will nudge some creativity from the masses. Thanks, Bill Carr ~

- Fabulous Phoenix Flickers" "Reel Showcase Stoppers"
"Reel Flicks" "Return of the Silents"
"Golden Silents" "Saturday Sooper Silents"
"Golden Silent Films" "Reel Silents."
"Movies & Pipes" "Silents at the Orpheum"
"Movies & Organ" "Silents & Organ"
"Magic Silents" "Silent Classics"
"Magic Lamp Series" "Silent Film Classics"
"Magic Lamp Silents" "Silent Golden Films"
"Orpheum Oldies" "Stupendous Silents"
"Orpheum Silents" "Silent Wonders"
"Organized Silents" "Sound of Silents"
"Orpheum Oldies" "The Magic of Silents"
"Phoenix Flickers" "the sounds of Silents"
"Phoenix Golden Silents" "The wonderful world of Silents"
"Phoenix Silent Flickers" "The Silents Are Coming With Pipes"

Steve Worthington"

ATOS Radio

As many of you are aware, for some time "Theatre Organ Replay" has been Unavailable unless you are a VIP Member of live365.com. I made the decision to downgrade after 5 years of paying for a full site! Even with this the station has still been attracting about 1500+ listening hours per month. A little while ago I was approached by ATOS and asked if I'd be interested in a "joint" venture with ATOS building a bigger, better, more sophisticated internet Radio Offering. I'm pleased to forward the following announcement: "ATOS is excited to announce a new Internet radio station: ATOS Theatre Organ Radio. In partnership with Steve Worthington, longtime ATOS member, theatre organ audiophile and pioneering Internet broadcaster, we are pleased to offer a collection of 700+ vintage theatre organ tracks together with a growing number of selections from today's top recording artists."

In the coming months, we will begin to offer a variety of new scheduled programmed content including: interviews with theatre organ personalities, musical, historical and technical educational content along with "live" concert broadcasts. For the moment the station is only available via the ATOS web site via the following link: <http://www.atos.org/radio/> All the old TOR Material is there along with lots of New CD material, and will very shortly have exclusive content, only available through this medium. Because this is a "pro" station a lot of the limitations placed on a "personal broadcaster" are lifted and we can do some exciting things. There is a published schedule of programing.

I'm very excited about this new venture and the opportunities we'll have to bring more Theatre Organ Music to you all. TOR will continue to Broadcast for the time being, but will be removed once the transition to ATOS Radio is complete!

Thanks to every-one for their Support of TOR over the last 5+ years

Steve Worthington

Ten Commandments of Organ Practise

This came from Australia

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Thou shalt practise every day, even if only for a short period.</p> <p>Thou shalt NEVER practise faster than thou canst play perfectly, for it is written: Perfect Practise Makes Perfect.</p> <p>Thou shalt NOT put off working on the hard parts; David did not invite Goliath to come back after tea.</p> <p>Thou shalt work out a usable fingering, inscribe it on thy papyrus and NEVER vary from same, for Fumble Fingers Find Fate Fickle.</p> <p>Thou shalt never apologise for thy playing, nor say "Oops!" when thou makest a mistake, for thou wilt only draw attention to things which otherwise would never be noticed by the thick people.</p> | <p>Thou shalt practise each composition in short segments; that thy fingers may not break off more than thy mind can chew.</p> <p>Thou shalt listen ... and not only to organists, for it is written: What this untidy world needs is fewer organists and more musicians who can play the organ</p> <p>Thou shalt NOT play pedals without shoes ... for thy Odor-Eaters may be spent, and besides, it leads to sloppy playing.</p> <p>Thou shalt begin and end each practise session with something thou canst play readily, that thou mayest not be discouraged.</p> <p>Thou shalt always remember that thy practise is a labour of love and that by persistence (oft proved by thyself in other undertakings) thou canst bring to pass many wonders.</p> |
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- with thanks to the TOSA news of New South Wales, Australia

The May board meeting was canceled at the last minute so no minutes or news to print.



We wish you a Happy Birthday!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our March birthday cake eaters, Joyce Ehlers, Susan Fancher, Timothy Kreifels, June Levy, Joan McFadden, John Baker, Madeline LiVolsi, Jelani Eddington, Lew Williams, John Romick, Jim Bell, Ray Ratatzak, Mark Crenshaw, Phyllis Lowe. If we missed yours, let us know. So, blow out those candles and have a blowout of a good time!

Organ Work Update

Phoenix College There is a lot to do. The short term goal is to complete the Console and Relay, return 4 of the 6 ranks to the main chamber and correct the main wind line. This will make a usable organ as we raise the balance of the money needed. There is approximately 500 hours of work or about 15 to 20 work sessions with a good sized crew. Think about helping with the project. Why did we take on such a project? We are chartered as a 501-C3 and are expected to give back to the community. The WurliTzer at P.C. will give many students their first chance to hear a real live Theatre Organ. We will have a great Theatre Organ to use for programs and concerts in addition to the Orpheum Theatre.

Bill Carr, President and Phoenix College Crew Chief

First Christian Church In preparation for the silent films, Adrian Phillips, Juan, Pete Knobloch, Tom Fizzell, touched up the organ. They worked on the the bass drum, snare drum, castinettes, xylophone. They used scaffolding to take them down from the ceiling. It is in good shape for the silent film day.



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)

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FOR SALE

Hammond Reniers – Black & white, chromed 25 pedal board, white tuck-and-roll seat. \$1,000 or best offer.

Conn 652 Theater Organ. Quite possibly the best organ Conn ever made. 32 AGO pedal board. Tuned percussion, automatic rhythms, internal Leslies speaker & transposer. Similar model recently sold by the Organ Stop in San Diego for \$5,500.00. Sacrifice at \$3,000 or best offer.

Eight miscellaneous speakers, from small woofers to huge 3'x3'x4' room corner bass speakers. Call for inventory. All located in Prescott, Arizona. Bill Truman (928) 636-0162

Chime action, no tubes **Xylophone action**, no bars
Sleigh Bell Action, no bells. Tom Fizzell 602-243-9546

Two manual Geneva Console, no combination action, though one is available. Make offer.

Two manual Reisner console, straight rail, roll top, light oak. \$100. Tom Fizzell 602-243-9546



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Fred W. Little

It is with sorrow that I inform the ATOS/VOTS membership of the passing of Fred W. Little, on April 10, 2009 at the age of 88 years, in Prescott, Arizona. Fred was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Frederick and Martha Little. He met his wife, Cora (who predeceased him in 1994), in the 1930's while working at a riding stable in New York. Fred and Cora were married for more than 50 years. On a family outing to New Jersey, Fred was witness to one of the great aeronautical disasters in aviation history. On May 6, 1937, his family decided to drive to Lakehurst, New Jersey, in order to watch the docking of the renowned German airship, the Hindenburg. Recalling the incident, Fred (an avid and talented amateur photographer) noted wryly "it was the one time I didn't remember to take my camera."

During WWII, Fred served stateside in the Brooklyn shipyards. After the end of the War, Fred and Cora moved to Arizona. Fred managed the famous Chipmunk Café and Lodge in Sedona, Arizona during the summer. Fred soon opened Fred's Radio Repair Shop on old Route 66, which

he ran until 1955 before finally settling in Prescott, Arizona in 1968. It was during his time in Phoenix that Fred first actively pursued his love of the organ. As a Thomas organ dealer and authorized repair technician, Fred taught himself to play the instrument.

Moving to Prescott in 1972, Fred and Cora built a house, and then a second, in the Highland Pines area, where the sounds of the organ filtered endlessly amidst the pines. At least some of the VOTS membership will recall the meetings at Fred's house to escape the Phoenix summer heat, and being treated to the likes of Don Story and Virg Howard at Fred's Allen 316, and later, Rodgers 360. Fred worked in Prescott for the Yavapai County Sheriff's office, was a member of the Sheriff's Posse, owned a liquor store and a bail bonds business, before retiring in the late 1980's. He continued to be an active member of ATOS/VOTS for many years. Fred is survived by a grand-niece, Diane Watkins, of LaPorte, Colorado, and his friend, Bill Truman. His humor & love of the organ will be greatly missed. *Submitted by Bill Truman*