



Columbia River Clarion

VOLUME XVII, ISSUE II

COLUMBIA RIVER THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2010

Jim Riggs

coming to the Historic Elsinore Theatre
Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 2pm



For over 30 years, Jim Riggs has been one of the nation's most visible---and most listened to---purveyors of music on the "Mighty Wurlitzer" pipe organ. Having appeared at nearly every major movie palace equipped with one, Riggs has entertained well over one million toe-tapping patrons across the USA and abroad.

After a record twenty year run as House Organist at the fabulous Art-Deco Paramount Theatre in Oakland California, Riggs recently relocated to Wichita, Kansas to serve as Artist In Residence for Wichita Theatre Organ, Inc., custodians of the former New York Times Square Paramount Wurlitzer organ---the Wurlitzer by which all others are measured. He was also recently chosen to present the popular Silent Movie Mondays series at the beautiful Seattle Paramount Theatre.

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Riggs has served as House Organist for the Grand Lake Theatre in Oakland, the Castro Theatre in San Francisco, the Golden State Theatre in Monterey and at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto. In addition to countless performances all across the United States, Riggs has made many international concert tours, frequently visiting the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. His work has been featured frequently on PBS, NPR and BBC TV and radio.

Thank you to the members who took advantage of the discounted renewal rate before January 1, 2010. We're up to about 80% renewal. In addition, we have gained quite a few new members since December. **Please welcome these new members to CRTOS**---Dick & Nancy Backlund, Ron & Irene Callahan, Dale Justice, Loren Klepper, Bernie Lewis, Kurt Krueger and Chris Moon.

If we haven't received your renewal by March 1, your membership will become delinquent and this is the last newsletter you will receive. If you need assistance or need a duplicate renewal form, please contact Shirley Clausen at jsclausen@aol.com or 503-665-6633. We don't want to lose you as a member!

Nominations are now being accepted for the three board positions that will be vacated this March by Bob MacNeur, Randy Rock and Terry Robson. Please contact Secretary, Shirley Clausen, if you'd like to be considered, or for more information. 503-665-6633

Of the handful of touring theatre organists worldwide, Riggs is also one of the very few that specializes in the presentation and live scoring of silent films. He has composed and performed scores for the films of such greats as Douglas Fairbanks, Greta Garbo, Harold Lloyd, Lon Chaney, Buster Keaton, Gloria Swanson, Joan Crawford, Laurel & Hardy and many others. His movie scores are always dramatic and creative, blending seamlessly with the action onscreen without overtaking it.

Riggs's music mostly features Classic American Pop---the music produced between the World Wars. His programs highlight the great tunes of Gershwin, Porter, Berlin, Kern, Arlen, Warren and many more. His musical stylings are always orchestral and often evoke dance orchestras and big swing bands.

Riggs has several recordings, with the latest---"The Perfect Combination"--- released in 2008. This recording is unique in that it combines for the first time ever the piano artistry of vintage Ampico reproducing rolls from the 1920s with the tonal richness and rhythmic punch of the Wurlitzer pipe organ. A number of his "Phantom Duets" have been uploaded onto YouTube.Com and have been viewed nearly 160,000 times.

Jim Riggs lives in Wichita, Kansas with his fiancé, Tina, and spends time cooking, entertaining and collecting vintage fountain pens and pencils, 78 rpm records, vintage autographed



We have had a great response to our recycled stop tab **tie tacks, lapel pins and watch fobs**. They are only \$5, plus \$2.50 S&H, no matter how many you purchase. It's a great value and all of the profits go directly to the organ fund.

This is a clever way to recycle stoptabs with an eye-catching, unique accessory. Contact Ron Deamer to purchase yours today! info@crtos.org or 503-233-1269.

Terry Robson, Newsletter Editor
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Upcoming CRTOS events *and other area organ activities...*

Board of Directors

President—Terry Robson..(07)
president@crtos.org

Vice-President—Richard Lawson..(08)
vicepresident@crtos.org

Secretary—Shirley Clausen..(08)
secretary@crtos.org

Treasurer—Ron Deamer..(09)
treasurer@crtos.org

Directors—
Ron Briggs..(08)

Gary Nelson..(09)

Bob MacNeur..(07)

Randy Rock..(07)

Bob Shafter..(09)

Membership—Shirley Clausen

Activities—Shirley Clausen

Communications—Carol Brown
carolmaxb@verizon.net

Webmaster—Paul Tichy
Webmaster@crtos.org

Newsletter Ed.—Terry Robson
robson@aol.com

The next CRTOS board meeting will be held Tuesday, **January 16, 2010** at Izzy's Restaurant, Eastport Plaza, 7 pm. No-host dinner, 6:30. All CRTOS members are encouraged to attend. If you are planning to attend, please notify Terry Robson (503) 233-7274, well in advance, so the appropriate table reservation may be made.

Columbia River Theatre Organ Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to the preservation of the theatre organ and its music.

CRTOS

Early March—Open console/Demo of the Hollywood Theatre Virtual Theatre Organ.

March 21—**Jim Riggs** Elsinore Theatre , 2pm. Tickets \$12 for organ club members; \$15 General and Children 18 and under are admitted Free.

Summer BBQ at the home of Gary Nelson

ATOS

First Fridays at Cleveland High School

Feb 12—7-9:30

April 2—7-9:30

May 7—Special Event/TBA

Late June/Early July—National ATOS Convention hosted by Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society. There will be a "Portland Day" that will feature 3 of our area instruments: Cleveland High School, Oak Skating Rink and First United Methodist Church. If you'd like to learn more, click on "Links" on our website: www.crtos.org

Columbia River Theatre Organ Society Board Meeting Notes January 19, 2010

The meeting called to order at 7.00 PM by President Terry Robson. Board members present: Bob Shafter, Dick Lawson, Randy Rock, Ron Deamer, Shirley Clausen. Also present: Robert Kingdom, Steve Jarvis, and Paul Tichy.

The Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

The treasurer's report was given and approved. Ron is checking on the rates for CDs at several banks so that the Organ fund can be invested in CDs with varied due dates that the funds will be available when needed without penalty.

Various items were discussed in regard to the pipe organ installation. We need to gather information necessary for seeking a grant. Bob will send the list to each board member to fill out.

Gary Nelson is working on the old discarded stop tabs, making them useful as decorative pins, or key chain tabs or tie pins to be sold as fund raisers for the organ fund. We also discussed the possibility of selling some old amplifiers, and other electronics left from other organs.

New business: We discussed the possibility of presenting a special Christmas program at the Hollywood Theatre.

A committee was formed to find candidates for the board election. The Annual Membership in March will hopefully be held at the Hollywood with the refurbished console and virtual organ installed and ready to be played.

Phil Tichy gave a report on progress on the club website. He would like to provide a place for blog messages, plus details for buying the stop tab souvenirs, and also a way to buy concert tickets online.

Randy Rock gave a report on the progress on the Hollywood organ. The organ console is still at Mike

Bryant's home. He suggested the things that need to be done before it is moved back to the theatre. Steve Jarvis is working on a new logo for the club, which should be available soon.

A motion was made and approved to put \$9000 of the organ fund into the checking account rather than investing it all in one CD, so that it will be available for immediate use for the organ.

At 8:20 PM the motion was made and approved to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Clausen, Secretary

DIRECTIONS TO THE ELSINORE

170 High St SE,

Salem, Oregon 97301

Directions from the North or South:

Take I-5 to exit 253 (Hwy. 22)

West on Mission St. (Turn right if from the north, left if from the south)

Stay in center lane, continue past 12th St.

Right on Liberty St. (go approx. 8 blocks)

Right on State St.

Right on High St.

The Elsinore Theatre is on your left in this block.