



COLUMBIA RIVER CLARION

Columbia River Theatre Organ Society

Columbia River Clarion | July 2012 | Volume 19 | Issue 7 | www.crtos.org

Annual Summer Party

Saturday, August 11th 12 pm- 4 pm



Allen and Nancy Plunkett are once again hosting the annual summer party at their home in Sherwood on Saturday August 11th. For those of you who have not visited the Plunkett's home before, animals play a big part in their lives—numerous award-winning horses, friendly dogs and cats—and even an occasional honey bee! And of course, this stunning Wurlitzer Style D too! Bring your music. You won't want to miss playing this gem!

Their residence is located at; Blue Moon Walking Horses, 26280 SW Baker Rd., Sherwood, OR 97140. A map can be found at: <http://goo.gl/maps/1Gc5>



A classic revival is coming soon to Portland's historic Hollywood Theatre. No, it's not a silent film or a cult favorite, it's a new marquee! One similar in design to the theatre's original marquee from 1926.

The idea behind the "historic marquee revival" is to honor the Hollywood Theatre's past while setting the stage for the future. The new neon, illuminated sign will be a sequel to other improvements and features that have recently appeared at the Hollywood. New auditorium seats and a new main screen and sound systems were recently installed.

"We've improved the inside and now we want to improve our face to the community as well," says Doug Whyte, Hollywood Theatre Executive Director. "The existing marquee is over 30 years old and it's falling apart. The new marquee really fits our identity well and will be a wonderful addition to the community."

To design, fabricate and install the new marquee, the Theatre has begun a "Historic Marquee Revival" fundraising campaign. The goal is to raise \$136,000 from individuals, foundations and corporate donors. The Meyer Memorial Trust has already pledged \$25,000. Individual donations can be made at <http://goo.gl/8JIVL>

NEWS REEL

IYSFF - Total attendance for this years International Youth Silent Film Festival was up. Thank you to all who participated and promoted this annual event.

ATOS Convention - This year Mark Herman was named Theatre Organist of the Year. To learn more about this fine young artist, visit his web site at <http://www.markhermanproductions.com>. YouTube also provides many samples of his playing skills!

Filmusik - a Portland based group that presents live score and foley to both modern and classic films has teamed up with CRTOS to provide live organ music before some performances. Watch for upcoming announcements. Check out Filmusik at <http://www.filmusik.com>.

Hollywood Theatre - A fundraiser has begun to replace the Hollywood Theatre's Marquee. See article in this issue for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

8/11/12

Summer Party
The Plunkett's

8/15/12

Open Console, 10:15 am - noon
Hollywood Theatre

8/28/12

CRTOS Board Meeting, 7pm
Izzy's at Gateway

Directors (Current Term)

President

Jack Powers (2013)
president@crtos.org

Vice-President

Stuart Hall (2015)
vicepresident@crtos.org

Treasurer

Lou Paff (2014)
treasurer@crtos.org

Secretary

Mike Bryant (2011)
secretary@crtos.org

Directors

Rob Kingdom (2013)
Paul Tichy (2013)
Max Brown (2014)
Bob Hinson (2014)
Jonas Nordwall (2015)
Bo Vernier (2015)

Activities

Terry Robson

Communications

Carol Brown
carolmaxb@comcast.net

Webmaster

Paul Tichy
webmaster@crtos.org

Newsletter Ed.

Steve Jarvis
newsletter@crtos.org

CRTOS Business Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2012

Meeting called to order by President Jack Powers at 7:05 pm.

Those present were: Jack Powers, Lou Paff, Bo Vernier, Rob Kingdom, Mike Bryant, Paul Tichy, Stuart Hall, Max Brown, and Steve Jarvis.

The Treasurer's report was presented and approved.

The minutes of the May 22, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.

There was discussion about the cost and convenience of the storage unit and the possibility of moving to a different unit if it was advantageous to us.

Jack read a report from Terry Robson on the progress of the Silent Film series.

There was discussion on the status of the Hollywood project, both the theatre and the instrument. We discussed what our options might be under several scenarios.

We discussed the troublesome computer that is in the organ in the Hollywood and approved the purchase of a replacement up to \$850.00.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

P.S.

Jack contacted all the board by email on June 27, 2012 about making a \$500.00 donation to the ATOS Summer Youth Camp.

It was unanimously approved.

Max Brown, Secretary

Wind Supply

2012 Summer Party

Saturday, August 11, 2012
26280 S.W. Baker Road
Sherwood OR 97140

Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/1Gc5>

auditorium door, the organ console is inside near that door. NE 41st Place is a narrow 1-way street which may be entered from Sandy Boulevard, and it often has (2-hour) free parking spaces near the "birdcage" door.

The Plunketts are proud owners of a Style D Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ in their home, very nicely installed. This is your chance to hear and play it! Potluck lunch, details to follow via email. Mark your calendar now!

Open Console

August 15, 2012

The Hollywood Theatre is located at 4122 Northeast Sandy Boulevard in Portland, and is closed to the general public during Open Console periods, which are 10:15 - Noon on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please enter via the "birdcage" side door on the East side of the building (facing NE 41st Place), which will be left slightly ajar. Just pull on the gate and proceed straight ahead through the

Hollywood Marquee

Your Board of Directors voted at its July meeting to support the Hollywood Theatre's campaign to replace its decaying marquee. The new one will make it easier to quickly change messages for their many different events. The Society is donating \$250 to that project, which is the most recent of several improvements that have made the theatre more comfortable and attractive, and a better home for our instrument.

We are also looking at ways to help them repair the building's roof, which would protect the pipework we plan to install.

Monthly CRTOS Board Meeting

4th Tuesday of the month

Izzy's Restaurant at
the Gateway Shopping Center
1307 NE 102nd. Ave., PDX
7 PM (no-host dinner at 6:30)

All members are encouraged to attend.

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



The 2012 OHS Endurance Test

by Stuart Hall



Top photo: a look inside the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, Illinois. Courtesy of Stuart Hall

My wife Terri and I survived the 2012 convention of the Organ Historical Society in Chicago. I say “survived” because an OHS convention can be quite the endurance test. I think I counted 27 recitals comprising 31 instruments, plus open consoles at six or seven churches, a boat cruise, and a little bit of free time for exploring the area. Let’s not forget the joys of a caravan of seven tour buses navigating the streets and traffic of Chicago. There was an abundance of early 20th Century instruments in the schedule, most of which had a distinct symphonic flavor that gave a good representation of what the style of the time was.

For theatre organ fans, we visited the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, Illinois. This is nicely restored theatre with a 3-manual 1924 Wurlitzer (opus 924). David Rhodes presented a fun program then accompanied an early Charlie Chaplain short.



Right photo: The Wurlitzer console in the Tivoli Theatre. Courtesy of Stuart Hall

The highlight of the trip was the “extra” day which concluded with a visit to the Sanfilippo residence in Barrington Hills, Illinois. But to call this organ a home installation would be a gross understatement. After all, how many homes have their own 350 seat theatre? And the theatre only comprises a small portion of the “Place de la Musique” collection. This is like leaving reality behind and visiting another planet. There’s the carousel building which houses the Eden Palais Carousel, a steam train, steam engines, and a very thorough collection of carnival organs, all restored to the nth degree and fully functional. Back at the house there are more mechanical music instruments in the Orchestrion Room, a Tiffany lamp collection, a turn of the century casino with a 24 foot bar, and various penny arcade machines.



It was all too much to see in the short time we were there, because we had to return to the theatre to see Jonathan Ortloff present an amazing concert on the organ. The organ started life as Wurlitzer opus 1571, built in 1927 for the Riviera Theatre in Omaha. It is now expanded to 80 ranks controlled from a 5-manual console which is mounted on the original lift from the Granada theatre. The five chambers are hidden behind a large scrim, but out in the seating area 32' Diaphones line one wall, 32' Bombardes the other, and a set of Deagan Tower Bells add a nice decorative touch. I read somewhere that this is the largest theatre organ in the world. I don't know about that, but it's certainly the *loudest* theatre organ I've ever experienced. But if it was loud on the floor, I felt sorry for the poor bastards up in the balcony. They were in the direct path of the horizontally mounted Trumpet Imperial and Bugle Battaglia ranks.

Suffice to say that if you ever get an opportunity to attend an event or concert at the Sanfilippo "Place de la Musique," you should jump at the chance. Although it's a private residence that is not open to

the public, they do have group tours and allow non-profits to conduct fund-raising events there. Also, for anyone interested in keeping the pipe organ alive, the OHS is a worthwhile cause. Feel free to join and send lots of money.

Top photo: Watching the console rise from the pit at the Sanfilippo residence in Barrington Hills, Illinois. Courtesy of Stuart Hall

Right photo: The magnificent 5 manual console at the Sanfilippo residence. Courtesy of Stuart Hall

