



# COLUMBIA RIVER CLARION

Columbia River Theatre Organ Society

## First Pipes at The Hollywood Theatre!



When the Hollywood Theatre opened in 1926, it had a Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra to provide live music for the silent films of the day. Following the introduction of “talkies”, that instrument was removed to a skating rink and then a private home. The Columbia River Theatre Organ Society, using a memorial donation from a member, took on the job of returning a similar instrument to the historic venue.

Members designed an instrument that started life using recorded (“sampled”) sounds and which could grow to include actual pipes as time and budget allowed. It began as a “Virtual Theater Pipe Organ” (VTPO) which speaks from the original Hollywood pipe chambers, providing extremely realistic sound.

In January CRTOS member volunteers began installing the first rank of real pipes, a long-awaited step toward bringing back the full 1926 experience. The Beverly Ruth Nelson Memorial Theatre Organ’s first air-powered rank is a set of 18 diaphones on two chests, located on the wall behind the theatre’s screen. Diaphones, which resemble miniature foghorns in design, provide a powerful bass which will leave more headroom for the VTPO’s sound system, leading to even better sound.

Like many of the remaining theatre organs, this one has parts from various places and periods. These diaphones were built by Wurlitzer for installation in the T & D Theatre, Oakland, California in 1916. Stories persist that the T&D instrument was moved to the UA theatre in Berkeley, CA in 1932 at the insistence of Mary Pickford... Pickford starred in the film that opened the UA but would not appear at the opening ceremony if there wasn’t a Wurlitzer organ.

Remaining items before the diaphones can be heard include a blower and supporting wiring and electronics to drive the chest magnets. Some work will require help from contractors. Additional ranks will be installed in the building’s original pipe chambers, which need restoration. Over time, pipes will displace sampled ranks until the instrument is mostly air-powered, like the Hollywood’s original organ.

*First pipes hung behind the screen at the Hollywood on Wednesday 1/14/2015. Present: Rob Kingdom, Bob MacNeur, Gary Nelson, Jonas Nordwall, Lou Paff, Jack Powers*

*Above: Bob MacNeur examines assembled resonators (photo: Lou Paff)*

*Right: Bob and Jonas Nordwall lower resonator on 8-note chest (photo: Gary Nelson)*

*See page 3 for additional photos*



## Directors (Current Term)

### President

Jonas Nordwall (2015)  
president@crtos.org

### Vice-President

Terry Robson (2017)  
vicepresident@crtos.org

### Treasurer

Stuart Hall (2015)  
treasurer@crtos.org

### Secretary

Steve Jarvis (2017)  
secretary@crtos.org

### Directors

Jack Powers (2017)  
Bob MacNeur (2017)  
Ron Deamer (2017)  
Bo Vernier (2015)  
Rob Kingdom (2016)  
Richard Lawson (2016)  
Gary Nelson (2016)

### Activities

Terry Robson

### Communications

Carol Brown  
carolmaxb@frontier.com

### Webmaster

Paul Tichy  
webmaster@crtos.org

### Newsletter

Steve Jarvis  
newsletter@crtos.org

## Monthly Board Meeting 4th Tuesday of the month

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly board meeting. It is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at Izzy's Restaurant located at the Gateway Shopping Center (1307 NE 102nd. Ave, Portland, OR). Meeting begins at 7 pm. No-host dinner at 6:30.

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



## President's Corner

Happy new Year! Now that all of the hectic holidays are behind us its time to dive into activities for the new year. As you see in this issue, things are progressing with the pipe organ installation at the Hollywood Theater. If the Hollywood stays on schedule with plans to repair the roof and organ chambers, we should be able to begin installing the remainder of the pipe organ sometime this summer. For those of you with time on your hands and would like to help with this project, please contact me via email at [jgnordwall@comcast.net](mailto:jgnordwall@comcast.net).

We have planned some additional activities for this Spring. As an educational, non profit organization, CRTOS needs to have some educational events. We are planning a series of three playing workshops for this Spring. The theme is "Looking for new playing ideas". The workshops will be held on Saturday mornings from 10AM until noon and each workshop will be presented on a different brand of organ. Martin Ellis, Donna Parker and I will present the workshops. There is a \$10 nominal charge for each workshop. A no host lunch could be arranged at a restaurant convenient to the workshop locations.

The first workshop will be February 21 at my home, 7221 SW 13th Drive. We live in the neighborhood above the Burlingame Fred Meyer convenient to both I-5 and Barbur Blvd. The instrument is a Rodgers 321- C that was brought in for the ATOS Summer Youth Camp last summer. Its a good example of a three manual analogue organ from the 1970s. Our music room can comfortably accommodate about 20 people, so please email your reservation to me by February 10th.

ATOS president Ken Double will be visiting us during a trip to the Pacific Northwest in late February. Tentative activities in our area include attending our board meeting on Feb. 24 and meeting with members of the Oregon Chapter. He'll also visit other theatre organ venues in our area. next he goes to Seattle to meet with the Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society and the Seattle Theatre Group, operators of the Seattle Paramount Theatre. His few days in the Pacific Northwest will be filled. We were hoping to have him play a mini concert at the Scottish Rite, but that will have to be in the future.

If you have not renewed your membership yet, to quote Larry the Cable Guy, "Get 'er done!"

Don't forget the open console at Cleveland High School on the first Friday of each month. Bring your music and other musical friends to have the unique experience of playing a real theatre pipe organ.

*Jonas Nordwall*

### February Workshop with Jonas Nordwall

Location; Nordwall Residence, 7221 SW 13th Drive, Portland OR 97219

Time: 10AM to noon

Cost: \$10 per person per session

Topic: Looking for new playing ideas

Watch the newsletter for upcoming dates and times for the additional workshops in this series; **March Workshop with Donna Parker** and **April Workshop with Martin Ellis**.



*Lou Paff readies to deliver a Diaphone resonator from storage (photo: Jack Powers)*



*10-note chest ready for placement (photo: Gary Nelson)*



*Bob MacNeur checks alignment of chests (photos: Jack Powers)*



*Ghostly view of Rob Kingdom through the theatre's screen (Photo: Jack Powers)*



*18 Diaphones mounted and awaiting wind (Photo: Lou Paff)*

# Upcoming Events

---

---

## Open Console at Cleveland High School

Friday, February 6th - 7:00 pm

Cleveland High School is located at:  
3400 SE 26th Ave. Portland, OR 97202  
corner of 26th Ave. and Powell

Parking available across the street from main entrance next to Burgerville.  
Handicapped and elevator access in rear of building off of Franklin St



---

---

## Open Console Event at Lou Paff's

featuring

**Martin Ellis**

Sunday, March 1st

2:00 pm

Martin Ellis will give a 50 minute demonstration of the various resources of Lou Paff's virtual pipe organ, performing on both some fine classic organs and the Paramount 332 virtual theatre organ. Following that we will have open console.

4235 SW 103rd Court, Beaverton

1. From Canyon Road turn south at the Kaady car wash on SW 102nd Avenue. Drive to the end, turn right and drive one short block to SW 103rd Court. We are on the corner in a gray house with a bushy yard.
2. From Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway turn north at Parker Furniture onto SW 103rd Avenue. Drive two blocks to the 4 way stop. Turn right for one very short block, and then left on SW 103rd Court. We are on the corner in a gray house with a bushy yard.



---

---

## 2015 National ATOS Convention - Wilmington, Delaware

July 3rd 2015 - July 6th 2015

**Registration is now open!**

To register, please visit the 2015 Convention Registration Website hosted at [regonline.com](http://regonline.com). The link address is: <https://www.regonline.com/atos2015> - Note that you must be a member of ATOS in good standing. To join or renew, visit our Online Membership Join/Renew Website.

### **\*\*Concerning "Necessary meals"**

Because of the bus schedules and travel times, it will be necessary to eat 2 of your lunches and 3 of your dinners enroute. The cost of these meals is included in your registration.

### **Hotel Information**

**Doubletree Hotel, 237 S Broad St, Philadelphia PA 19107**

**Phone: +1 215-893-1600**

**ATOS convention rate code is TOG**



# IT'S SOMETHING BIG

## REGISTRATION FORM

**AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL CONVENTION – JULY 2–7, 2015**  
**DICKINSON THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY CHAPTER**  
**WILMINGTON, DELAWARE**

**PLEASE PRINT**

ATOS Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) for Badge(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number with area code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, payable to "ATOS Convention 2015"

Charge my  MasterCard  VISA  AMEX  Discover

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
On back of card

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

ATOS Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Place my chapter name on badge  yes  No

Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Departure \_\_\_\_\_

In case of Emergency, please notify

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

For all meals – do you wish vegetarian?

Yes  No

**Registration Contact information**

Bob Dilworth, Convention Chairman  
 2012 Wildwood Dr, Wilmington, DE 19805-1061  
 Phone 302.995.2603

**Mail Completed Registration Form to:**

Eric Robbins, Convention Registrar  
 13 Timber Creek Lane, Newark, DE 19711-2605  
 Phone 302-738-0254  
 Email: registrar@atosconvention.com

**Cancellations:** A full refund will be made if the request is received before June 1. From June 1 through June 20, a \$25 service charge will apply. After June 20, \$75. Send Email to registrar @ atosconvention.com

**\*\*Concerning "Necessary meals"**

Because of the bus schedules and travel times, it will be necessary to eat 2 of your lunches and 3 of your dinners enroute. The cost of these meals is included in your registration.

**Convention Hotel**

**Doubletree Hotel**, 237 S Broad St,  
 Philadelphia PA 19107

<http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/pennsylvania/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-philadelphia-center-city-PHLBLDT/index.html>

Phone 1-215-893-1600 for reservations  
 ATOS convention rate code is **TOG**

Item	Dates & Price	Totals
<b>Convention Registration before 6/1/15</b>		
Concerts & Transportation	\$284.00	
Necessary meals (see note**)	\$110.00	
<b>Total Registration Fee</b>		___ @\$394.00
Late Registration (add after 6/1/15)		___ @\$ 45.00
<b>Optional Events</b>		
Overture (Longwood organ 7/2/15)		___ @\$ 58.00
<b>Overture is limited to 300 people</b>		
Macy's (Wanamaker organ 7/2/15)		___ @\$ 32.00
<b>Wanamaker concert is limited to 300 people</b>		
Banquet – Sunday, 7/5/15)		___ @\$ 55.00
Circle one Chicken Fish Vegetarian		
Encore (Boardwalk Hall 7/7/15)		___ @\$ 60.00

ATOS Membership is required to attend. Please go to [www.ATOS.org](http://www.ATOS.org) to join on-line

**Special Needs (Handicapped Bus)**

I require wheelchair access

I am walking challenged