



METROLINA ORGAN Quarterly

A publication of the Metroline Theatre Organ Society

Holiday Party Time

6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 4, 1997

at the home of

Gwen and Charlie Clayton

306 Riverton Road

Matthews, North Carolina 28105

704.821.9891

HOW TO GET TO CHARLIE'S HOUSE:

Heading east on Monroe Road, go straight through downtown Matthews. Turn right at the stoplight in Stallings, the first light after crossing the Union County line, and go southeast on Potter Road. After about two miles (after passing Robinson Road and Raintree Drive on the right) turn left onto Nelson Road; almost immediately turn left again onto Tree Hill Road. Riverton is the second street to the right. No. 306 is at the end.

If you go out Independence Boulevard, turn right on Ridge Road, about half a mile beyond the intersection where Highway 51 used to cross, before it found the high road. Then keep straight through the light in Stallings, and you will be on Potter Road without having to turn.

Coming out Providence Road, turn left (northeast) on McKee Road (about a mile beyond the Arboretum, at the stoplight just beyond Providence Presbyterian Church). Turn right when it dead ends at Pleasant Plains Road, and right again at the next light which will be Potter Road.

If lost, call 821.9891.

Details within.



Don't forget your covered dish.

Inside This Issue

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at the Carolina Theatre
Greg Owen
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Party Line

For many years Gwen and Charlie Clayton have graciously welcomed us to their warm and spacious home, with grand hospitality and good cheer. Happily they have extended yet another invitation. We are much indebted to the kindness of the Claytons.

For this winter's happening, everyone is asked to bring a salad, vegetable casserole, or dessert. (Please call Gwen at 821.9891) The main course will be provided by **MTOS**.

Charlie has been one of our hardest working members. In recent years he has been particularly effective in promoting the restoration of the Carolina Theatre (see below).

First Night

At press time, plans are still in place to have the grand



open all evening (7:30 - 11:30) on New Year's Eve, at its usual location on North Tryon near Sixth Street.

MTOS has arranged to have a Rodgers Theatre 360 organ in the theatre, courtesy of the Rodgers Instrument Corporation and Hames Music, Inc. of Gaffney and Charlotte. Scott Fopiano will be here to play, and perhaps to accompany a Buster Keaton short and a Max Fleischer cartoon.

Also performing on the program will be the Festival Singers from Charlotte Choral Society and a group of actors from Stage One.

We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the assistance of the Charlotte Jaycees in making this production possible.

Please come out on December 31, to celebrate the coming year, and to show support for the restoration of the theatre as Charlotte's premier gathering place.

Official Duke Power electric service is back on in the theatre, but there is no heat — indoors or out. So dress warmly.

A *First Night* button is required for admission. These are available in advance for \$5.00 from NationsBank branches, Belk stores, Hannaford Food stores, and other locations; or for \$7.00 at Tryon Street booths. For more information call the CCB's Visitor Information Center at 331-2700.

News From the Piedmont Chapter

We have been in touch with our sister chapter the, Piedmont Theatre Organ Society (PTOS). As usual they are busy installing instruments and updating the organs they own.

Piedmont recently installed a Uniflex solid state relay system on the Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer in Bristol, Virginia / Tennessee. This system is capable of playing MIDI tone generators.

In preparation for the Greg Owen concert they added the equivalent of three ranks of pipes to the organ. These included a 16' Violone, 8' Solo String Celeste, 16' Pseudo Post Horn, and a Piano. According to

Chet Rataski, of PTOS, the synthesized stops really blend quite well with the pipes and really sound great.

Chet filled us in on the Greg Owen concert on the Paramount Wurlt:

"Greg did a fine job. He had played for us three years ago and its hard to believe how much he has improved. He has reached that point in his musical career where he is starting to show his own stylings. Musically the program was a total success. Unfortunately we could not say the same for the attendance. Those who did attend were most appreciative and most of them stayed afterwards to talk to Greg and see the organ. We finally had to turn out the lights at 11:30."

Piedmont has also been working on installing the Uniflex system on the Lumberton 2/8 Morton. Chet and Mac Abernethy were chased out of Lumberton by Hurricane Fran. They tried again with Buddy Boyd, who has returned from a job in Greece. This crew of three worked November 6 - 10 to complete the basic installation. The organ is now playing from the console. It will be used in the annual Christmas pageant. Chet reports that it will be some time next year before they finally finish the console and get the combination action installed.

PTOS would like to work with us in co-sponsoring a candidate for the Young Organist Competition. If you have any ideas on a candidate, please let us know.

We hope to have a joint meeting with PTOS later this year.



It is possible that we might have it at one of the venues where there is an organ. Stay tuned!



From The American Organist

Hector Olivera in Houston

Several hundred music enthusiasts heard **Hector Olivera** on June 22, 1996, in concert on a new Rodgers Theatre 360 organ, which helped raise money to install the 1926 Metropolitan Theatre WurliTzer organ in the Houston Community College auditorium. The event was underwritten by the Forshey Piano Co., exclusive dealer for Rodgers Instrument Corp.

Obituary for Leon Berry

Leon Berry, 82 years old, August 23, 1996, Chicago. A favorite among the roller-skating enthusiasts in the Chicago area, Mr. Berry played at the Hub rink for many years and was instrumental in the installation of the WurliTzer there. He made many recordings on the Replica and Audio Fidelity labels and recorded on his home organ, known as the "Beast in the Basement." Mr. Berry was also house organist at the Tivoli Ballroom in Chicago and worked for the Hammond Co., as a tonal finisher. He was an honorary lifetime member of the CATOE.

See the current *Theatre Organ*, page 38, for a long article on Leon Berry's career as organist.



From the Organ Net

Virgil Fox versus Grand Dame Claudia Cassidy

Chicago *"Tribune"* music critic Claudia Cassidy died yesterday at the age of 96. During her heyday she was incredibly vitriolic and could not stand Virgil Fox. She couldn't wait to pan any program he played within a hundred miles of her office.

But she didn't know that she had annoyed a formidable wit who had a plan to show her to be a fraud.

Virgil had an advanced printed copy of his program sent to Ms. Cassidy so that she had plenty of time to prepare a great put-down. Then he played a totally different recital. Sure enough, the next morning the expected review appeared, detailing how many missing notes were in the Bach he didn't perform and a lot of other negative boilerplate which was pure meanness. She reflected on how at least one number was played better in the '20s by Schweitzer when on an America tour. Of course the work was a complete invention and the composer never existed. The old witch was so sure of her methodology that she didn't do any homework and invented things as she went along. The details were given in a radio interview with Fox shortly thereafter.



From The Diapason More Obituaries

[MTOS member] **Joseph Wilson Pool, III**, died on October 15 in Nags Head, N. C., of cancer. He was 58 years old. Mr. Pool was a native of Elizabeth City, N. C., and was retired after 30 years service from the Manteo, N. C. High School, where he was Industrial Arts teacher. He was also owner and operator of Nags Head Speed Wash, Dare Vac Repair and Pipe Organ Service. A graduate of N. C. State University, he was a member of Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Manteo, where he presented an electronic organ in 1974 in memory of Rennie G. Williamson, the church's organist for 50 years. He also served as Nags Head town commissioner for eight years. Mr. Pool was a member of AIO, OHS, ATOS and AGO...His first organ job was at Hertford United Methodist Church, where he undertook the rebuilding of the church's Austin organ, following the sudden death of Richard Garrett, who was in the process of rebuilding the organ. In 1979 he purchased a 3/30 Kilgen organ from First Baptist Church in Rocky Mount...and installed it in his residence...By his request, the pipe organ in his home will be donated to Mt. Olivet Church.

Alma Wilson Baecker of Toms River, N. J., the oldest living organist of the John Wanamaker Grand Court Organ, died on September 8 at the age of 91...Mrs. Baecker is survived by her husband of 65 years, Henry A. Baecker. Mr. Baecker came to American from Bochum, Germany, in June 1927, and by that September was working in the Wanamaker Organ Shop, where he helped build the six-manual console.





First Night Organ Recitals

Sponsored by AGO

During the First Night Celebration, the Charlotte chapter of the American Guild of Organists will sponsor a series of half hour recitals at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, North Tryon at 7th Street. Starting hours are 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30.

The organ is a 1934 Austin 3/38, the largest pre-World War II organ in Charlotte.



Recent MTOS Events

On Friday, July 26, **MTOS** and Calvary Church presented Tom Hazleton and Scott Foppiano in concert, playing Calvary's 5/205 Möller. It was an outstanding performance, and drew an enthusiastic crowd of some 800 people, who were pleased to pay \$5.00 apiece in appreciation of this rare event.

On Tuesday, October 1, **MTOS** members were welcomed to Central Church of God on Sardis Road, to hear their new Allen Digital Theatre Organ ably played by Darrell Stuckey from Fort Lauderdale. Later Ray Lassonde joined in at the grand piano for some memorable duets. Open console, toward the end of the evening, found a number of members enjoying an exploration of the digital delights made available by our host, **MTOS** member Dan White, organist at Central Church. Our thanks to Dan and the members of the hospitable congregation.

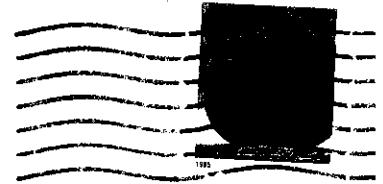


1997 chapter and national dues are now payable:

MTOS	\$15.00
ATOS	<u>25.00</u>

Please make check payable to MTOS for \$40.00, and mail to the return address below.

Metrolina Theatre Organ Society
 c/o John Apple
 4146 Sheridan Drive
 Charlotte, N. C. 28205-5654



First Class

Mr. Michael Johnston
4146 Sheridan Drive
Charlotte, N. C. 28205

			No. of names	55
-----	[Please report any error to Bobby Ray, 334-0366]			
William B. Alexander	330 Euclid Avenue	Statesville, N. C. 28677	(704) 873-9428	
John Apple	4146 Sheridan Drive	Charlotte, N. C. 28205	567-1066	
Monty Bennett	5801 Pineville-Matthews Road	Charlotte, N. C. 28226	543-1200	
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Meade C. Camp	14083 Middlethorpe Lane	Huntersville, N. C. 28078	xxx-xxxx	
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Fred R. Charles	4125 Woodfox Drive	Charlotte, N. C. 28277	542-0686	
Robert H. Clark, Jr.	3219 Plantation Road	Raleigh, N. C. 27609	(919) 832-8204	
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David S. Crouch	Box 546	Newton, N. C. 28658	283-2101	
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Benjamin C. Fenton	5416 Park Road, B-2	Charlotte, N. C. 28209	xxx-xxxx	
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Charles Haymaker	4228 Castleton Road	Charlotte, N. C. 28211	365-6518	
Jay H. Howard	4210 Tangle Drive	Charlotte, N. C. 28211	xxx-xxxx	
Joylynn Huebner	4310 Waterview Circle	North Charleston, S. C. 29408	(803) 552-2424	
Mark F. Huffstetler	2730 Randolph Road	Charlotte, N. C. 28207	xxx-xxxx	
Karen Hite Jacob	2516 East 5th Street	Charlotte, N. C. 28204	334-3468	
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Tony Romano	2908 Winding Trail	Matthews, N. C. 28105	xxx-xxxx
Ann Ross	2634 Arnold Drive	Charlotte, N. C. 28205	xxx-xxxx
Ronald H. Salter	6008 Beech Cove Lane	Charlotte, N. C. 28269	542-0753
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