



METROLINA ORGAN Quarterly

A publication of the Metroline Theatre Organ Society

Welcome to Davidson

MTOS will meet

Sunday, August 30, 1998

at

Davidson United Methodist Church

233 South Main Street, Davidson

8:00 p.m.

"ORGAN TRANSCRIPTIONS & OTHER ODDS & ENDS" will be played by Gil Pirovano, Organist at First Methodist Church in Charlotte, assisted by John-Palmer Smith, Organist and Minister of Music of the Davidson church.

Featured will be the church's new 3/49 pipe organ, Opus 31 by Goulding and Wood of Indianapolis. It was dedicated April 26, 1998. With its impressive (and functioning) copper facade pipes, the organ makes a superb visual and aural addition to the handsome contemporary architecture of the room.

The program will consist of Operatic and Orchestral Transcriptions, an appealing selection of light classics:

Poet and Peasant Overture	Franz von Suppé
The Swan (Carnival of the Animals)	C. Saint-Saëns
Funeral March of a Marionette	C. Gounod
Le Sect	L. Gautier
Barcarolle (Tales of Hoffmann)	J. Offenbach
Carmen Fantasy	G. Bizet
Liebesleid	Fritz Kreisler
Tritsch-Tratsch Polka	J. Strauss, Jr.
Trio: Alles was du bist	arr. Billy Nalle
Ragtime	Charles Callahan

The recital is free; but there will be opportunity for a free-will offering.



Directions to the Church

Take I-77 North from Charlotte to Exit 30; turn right toward Davidson. Go about a quarter of a mile to the first traffic light, and turn right again onto Main Street, which runs through the heart of town. At the second traffic light bear right at the fork. The church is a large presence on the left, beyond a single house. Enter the parking lot beyond the church buildings. If needed, there is additional parking in the municipal lot across the street, a little ways back toward town.



Before the Eight o'clock recital, the **MTOS** meeting will begin at at 6:00 p.m. at *Amici Pizzeria* for a bit of supper. The restaurant is located at 211 Griffith Street, in Sadler Square, Davidson. Sadler Square is a small shopping center between I-77 and Main Street, on the right, before the railroad tracks. A wide range of mostly Italian dishes is available at modest prices.





Convention Report

by John Apple

Michael Johnston and I took the convention as an opportunity to drive to San Francisco and back between June 20 and July 13. We had lunch with ATOS President Harry Heth in his native Houston. While feasting from a large buffet, we discussed theatre organ and the future of ATOS. Afterwards, we visited a large rebuilt Möller church organ that Harry maintains. In Phoenix, we got to see the 5-manual console of the 1925 Midmer-Losh from Atlantic City (N. J.) High School. This was the organ that Emerson Richards designed several years before the Convention Hall organs. After this, we had a brief evening dinner at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, home of the largest theatre organ in a public place in the world (4/75+, about 5,000 pipes). It is a wonderful installation in a large room, augmented by wonderful food! Charlie Balogh gave us a tour after the restaurant closed, and demonstrated the organ for us.

This year's convention was packed with very good to excellent performances for the 850 people who attended. The next issue of *Theatre Organ* will review each of the performances. Some of the highlights for me were 17-year-old Richard Hills, and the Harold Lloyd silent film "Gramma's Boy", accompanied by Chris Elliott.

Richard was the HIT of this year. He was marvelous at 14, when he won the competition. He is even better now!! Playing all from memory, he would have won the competition this year (I should know - I was one of the five judges of the over-

all winner from the winners of the three age categories). I'm sure that he sent the veterans shaking their heads: How does one have that much talent at 17? The film was shown in the Stanford Theater (1925) in Palo Alto, run by the Packard Foundation (Hewlett-Packard). This theatre only shows films from the 20's to the early 50's, and they are successful doing only this!

Chris did a marvelous job in showing how silent film accompaniment is an art the equal of performing concerts. I don't see how any theatre organ buff would not marvel how it all stays together!

During the convention, we shot video with a new digital camera, with stereo sound. It sounds as if you are there. Highlights of this will be shown in our September 13 meeting.



President's Comments

Due to several difficulties this year, our programming has been very sparse. This is only our second meeting in 1998 (including the 1997 Christmas meeting in January).

I continue to be involved as Vice-President of the Carolina Theatre Preservation Society. As many of you know, this is the critical year for this structure. The option to purchase will either be exercised, purchased, given, or returned to the city. The involvement of the Society in its future is not definite at this time. We are continuing to maintain contacts, so as to best help our future involvement. Until the ownership is resolved, restoration cannot happen.

There are meetings involving this that must be attended, and other meetings for promoting the Carolina in this community (there are still people who do not know that it is there).

For **MTOS**, I have decided to take the "bull by the horns", and set up programs about once a month. If I call upon you for your help, please cooperate. This is not a one-man show. If you have ideas, are willing to help, and can offer or know of a place for a program, LET ME KNOW! This is your organization - it is only as good as you make it. This is our ninth season. Please help to make it a good one.



Atlanta Page

The Atlanta Chapter reports progress on the Page organ being installed at Stephenson High School. The winding process has begun. The motors that control the vertical swell shades have been re-leathered and installed. Manual chests in the Main have been wired and terminated to the driver boards. The driver boards (used with the electronic relay) have all been mounted and arranged on a common wall board for easy access and maintenance. A walkway has been built that fills the gap between the chest bearers and the chamber wall. When the wind lines are completed, a tuning keyboard can be used to plug into the individual rank driver boards to test and play individual ranks.

Newsletter staff

President & Publisher:

D. John Apple

Linotype Operator:

Bobby Ray



September Meeting

Our Next meeting will be

Sunday,
September 13,

at the home of John Apple and Michael Johnston, 4416 Sheridan Drive, Charlotte, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

And it will feature

ATOS Convention Highlights in Sight and Sound,

with digital videography and stereo sound.

Please make a note of this date, for two reasons: It will be a great program; and, since there will not be another newsletter in the meantime, this will be the only notification.

For more information, or if you need directions, please call John at 567.1066.



Upcoming

October/November

Program at St. Gabriel,
Central Church of God
or Fort Mill Church of God

—
George Wright retrospective

December/January

Christmas Party

Other possibilities:

Music & Electronics, Mooresville
(Hammond dealer, new & old);
Visit local home theatre organs:
Greer, Columbia, Lumberton
Burlington, et al.

Jelani Eddington in Bristol

Piedmont Theatre Organ
Soc. has announced a concert
by

Jelani Eddington

on the 3/14 WurliTzer in the magnificently restored Paramount Theatre, Bristol, Tennessee. He will play at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 24.

This combination – theatre, organ and artist – will surely make the trip worthwhile. In last July's newsletter, Don Macdonald, writing about the 1997 ATOS convention, said that the "most electrifying performance without a doubt [was] Jelani Eddington at the Manual High School Auditorium...An astonishing *tour-de-force* by a young fellow I had never heard before."



AGO Progressive Dinner

The Charlotte chapter of the American Guild of Organists is sponsoring a program of short recitals and good food at three local churches on Friday, September 14, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Participating churches are:

Holy Comforter Episcopal
2701 Park Road
St. Mark's Lutheran
1001 Queens Road
St. Patrick Cathedral
1621 Dilworth Road

Cost is \$10, and reservations should be made by September 4. Call Karen Hite Jacob at 334.3468, or C. Richard Morris at 375.9185.

Clarification

Many readers have asked – or, more precisely, one critic has asked – why *Metrolina Organ Quarterly* is set by Linotype. The answer is simple:

The pipe organ and the Linotype are by all odds the most fabulous Rube Goldberg machines ever concocted. The organ of course is much larger, and serves a nobler purpose. But both are immensely complicated mechanisms, with wires and levers, springs and tubes all bolted together and elaborately interconnected, and designed to make strangely wonderful noises. And it's all visible to the naked eye. With the organ, the covers have to be removed; the Linotype has the additional virtue of having no cover. It also has a vat of molten lead which, blended with hot oil on steel, lends a nice olfactory subtext.

So we feel that it is obviously appropriate that these two unlikely contrivances should come into service to each other. Unlikely, that is, that such fantastically complex arrangements of machinery could function at all.

Those who are too young to remember the works of Rube Goldberg are encouraged to consult the Char-Meck Public Library:

Rube Goldberg (1883-1970):
How to Remove the Cotton from a Bottle of Aspirin (95 pages, illustrated)

Peter C. Marzio:
Rube Goldberg: His Life and Works

[*Smithsonian* magazine was set by Linotype until 1997. And that's the truth.]





Remembering George Wright

The George Wright direct-to-disk sessions at the Chicago Theatre required three nights of intense work. There was no greater master of the theatre organ than George Wright, but to play a variety of music straight through the full side of an LP was a great feat. Of course, there were many spoiled disks, and that was expected. From a rare flub by George, to minor organ problems (I think there was but one cipher in the three nights) to the rumble and squeal of elevated trains as they turned the corner of Wabash and Lake, there were many impediments to completing a full side.

By the end of the third night [George] was almost incoherent. The pressure got to all who were

working on the project...Generally the auditorium was off limits to all but yours truly, who was monitoring the organ. The recording equipment was all backstage. It was substantial in size and had to be packed away each morning and set up again at midnight. Since I knew my way around the attic, I hung the main microphones, which remained until the sessions were completed.

It was hard work sitting in the balcony listening to George Wright live for three nights! That was a crown for the considerable work that had gone into preparing the historic instrument for those recordings.

Great memories.
Best to all,

William A. Hansen

[From the Organ List (PIPORG-L)]

Chapter dues: \$15.00 per year
If you have not paid , please send check payable to
MTOS to the return address below.



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Bobby

First Class