

METROLINA ORGAN NEWS

A publication of Metrolina Theatre Organ Society
www.theatreorgans.com/nc/metrolina
www.carolinatheatre.net

Holiday Party

Featuring the incomparable hospitality of
Gwen and Charlie Clayton

306 Riverton Road, Matthews, N. C. 28105

Friday, December 27, 2002 — 6:30 p.m.

704 . 821 . 9891



Let's gather together for fun, good food, and the election of officers for the coming year. And you will surely appreciate the tallest and best lighted Christmas tree between Rockefeller Center and SouthPark.

Please call Gwen by December 26 to let her know what you will bring for the table, or to get suggestions about what to bring.

Art will be long and business short. Charlie reports that the MTOS organ (Rodgers 340 Theatre Organ) will show improvement following recent maintenance. Everyone is invited to play. Those fortunate enough to have an organ at home will be obliged to play.

Directions

From Charlotte, go east on Monroe Road, through Matthews. At the stoplight in Stallings, turn right onto Potter Road, go about two miles and turn left onto Nelson Road. (Nelson comes just after the Weddington city limits sign.) Almost immediately turn left again onto Tree Hill Road. Riverton is the second street to the right. No 306 is at the end, straight ahead across the cul-de-sac.

From Independence Blvd. east bound, bear right onto Ridge Road (now called Campus Ridge Road) immediately beyond the I-485 interchange. When you reach Monroe Road, jog left, then right at the stoplight. This is Potter Road.

From Providence Road south bound, turn left on McKee Road, about two miles beyond the Arboretum. Turn right at the dead end at Pleasant Plains Road, and right again at the next light (Potter Road).

From I-485 (the outerbelt freeway) take the Monroe Road exit. Go east to the stoplight in Stallings, and turn right onto Potter Road.



At the Paramount in Bristol

National Public Radio brings its acclaimed From The Top to the Paramount Theatre in Bristol, Tennessee, on Friday, January 31, 2003. According to the Paramount's announcement the show is "A national multi-media arts and education project that makes heroes of kids who play classical music, believing that kids who have learned passion, discipline and focus will succeed in whatever they do and that they deserve to be role models and leaders in our schools, communities and society. This nationally broadcast performance will feature young artists from throughout our region."

The show is heard locally on WDAV, 89.9 FM, Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Today's program (December 15) was from Austin, Texas. It is worth a trip to Bristol to hear it in person. The host is the well regarded pianist Christopher O'Riley. He played with the Charlotte Symphony November 1 and 2.

The two Bristols, Tennessee and Virginia, together have a population of about 60,000. The Paramount has done well indeed to bring this prestigious show to the far northeast corner of Tennessee and southwest tip of Virginia. Its home base is the New England Conservatory in Boston.



Lumberton

MTOS member **Terry Jordan** reports that there will be a Christmas program at the Carolina Theatre in Lumberton Saturday, December 21. The annual "Christmas Concert" will be held in the historic Carolina Civic Center (the former Carolina Theatre) located at 4th and Chestnut streets in downtown Lumberton, N. C. The theatre was built in 1927 at a cost of \$500,000, and it has a full balcony and live acoustics for musical performance.

Featured will be the PTOS 2/8 Robert Morton "Wonder" Organ. Terry Jordan, ATOS and CAGO, brings his big band to the theatre for the show. Sounds of the season and big band with organ will be the fare. The group played in August to a packed house. Admission is free and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. Come on down.

In May 2003 Terry will accompany eight evening showings of the classic silent aviation war film *Wings* (circa 1919), using his Conn theatre organ (3-manual Model 651). These performances will be in the Cameo Theatre in downtown Fayetteville. The screenings are under the auspices of "The Festival of Flight," a month long celebration of the Wright Brothers successful powered flight. Check with the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce for a complete schedule of events Fayetteville will be a prominent venue since Pope AFB and Fort Bragg are located next to the city.



Carolina Theatre, Charlotte

The theatre is still locked and unavailable for any use. **The Arts and Sciences Council** has begun another study — Cultural Facilities Needs For The Next 25 Years. The Carolina Theatre Preservation Society has been invited to participate.

The Museum of the New South will present a program about the theatre on Saturday, December 28. Learn about the effort to preserve the theatre from members of CTPS, while enjoying the ambience of the Museum's Newsreel Theatre. Free with paid Museum admission. MTOS and CTPS members can get in for \$3 if they identify themselves.



Walt Strony at the Carolina Theatre (Greensboro)

By Don Macdonald

This year the historic and totally refurbished 1927 Carolina celebrates its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Season, and a major part of the festivities was the dedication of the Robert Morton Theatre Organ. The original 2/6 Robert Morton was installed when the theatre opened, and remained in use until severe water damage in 1985 rendered it unplayable. Since that time the technical crew of Piedmont Chapter, including Mac Abernethy, Buddy Boyd, Ron Biddle and Chet Rataski, have put in many hours restoring the instrument. The current dedication therefore is of the rebuilt and greatly expanded 3/13 organ which now graces the auditorium. The Carolina's Robert Morton is the last remaining theatre pipe organ in the two Carolinas still found in its original home. It is one of only a few Robert Morton instruments shipped to the east coast from the home manufacturing plant in Van Nuys, California. The Robert Morton Theatre Organ Sponsors in Greensboro contributed approximately \$35,000 towards its restoration.

For the dedicatory recitals the organizers invited eminent theatre organist Walter Strony, who, to coin a phrase, needs no introduction to ATOS members. Walt presented two programs, the first, a straight forward recital on Saturday evening, October 19; and the second, which included two Chaplin silents and an audience sing-along, on Sunday afternoon, October 20. Parenthetically, I believe Walt was quite courageous to present a public concert on an instrument which was finally assembled only a few weeks prior to his appearance! Ever the consummate professional, however, Walt remained relaxed and unfazed by the usual opening night snafus, including a balky computer which delayed his opening number (he filled in the time with an impromptu lecture on the history of the theatre organ), a film which started unexpectedly, and a printing error which misstated the time of performance by one hour. At one point I asked Walt how he remained calm in the midst of chaos, and with a shrug he remarked that these things happened to him all the time!

I was privileged to give the organ a trial run two weeks before the dedication, and it was an exciting experience aurally, compared with the smaller previous specification, not to mention the convenience of the third manual. I did notice that to the player there was an appreciable loss of volume at the stage front position of the console, because of its location some distance behind the chamber openings feeding the sound into the auditorium.

The specification of the organ as it now stands is unusual in that heavy reliance has been placed on MIDI voices to enlarge the stop list. The original pipework consists of:

Violin	—	8', 4'
Flute	—	16', 8', 4', 2', 1'
Vox	—	8', 4'
Diapason	—	16', 8', 4'
Tibia	—	8', 4'
Trumpet	—	8', 4'

Added to these ranks are the following MIDI stops: Cello and Tibia 16'; and Quintadena, Solo String, Solo String Celeste, Kinura, Orchestral Oboe, Violin Celeste, Clarinet, Tuba Horn, Marimba, Piano and Chimes. Therefore a certain amount of adjustment will no doubt be necessary to bring everything into proper tonal balance during the next several weeks.

In the course of his two programs Walt let the audience hear the various ranks which are now available to the performer singly and in combination, and his playing was as varied and exciting as we have come to expect of this top rank organist.

Pipe Dreams

WFDD in Winston-Salem still carries Pipe Dreams, 8:00 p.m. Sundays. It is also available on their web site, www.pipedreams.org. This 90 minute program, hosted by Michael Barone (most recently elected president of the Organ Historical Society) has been on public radio for almost 20 years. It has done much to further the cause of classical and theatre organs throughout the world.

North Carolina stations that carry Pipedreams:

Winston-Salem, WFDD-FM, 88.5, Sun 8 p.m. www.wfdd.org
 Atlantic Beach, WBJD-FM, 90.3, Sun, 2:30 p.m.
 Kinston/Goldsboro, WKNS-FM, 90.3, Sun, 2:30 p.m.
 New Bern, WTEB-FM 89.3, Sun 2:30 p.m.
 Wilmington, WHQR-FM 91.3, Sun 8:30 p.m.

South Carolina stations that carry Pipedreams:

Aiken/Augusta, WLJK-FM 89.1, Sun 12:30 p.m.
 Charleston, WSCI-FM 89.3, Sun 1 p.m.
 Columbia, WLTR-FM 91.3, Sun 1:30 p.m.
 Conway/Myrtle Beach, WHMC-FM 90.1, Sun 1:30 p.m.
 Greenville/Spartanburg, WEPR-FM 90.1, Sun 1:30 p.m.

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First Class

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